



# Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

## Appraisal Stage

### **(ESRS Appraisal Stage)**

Date Prepared/Updated: 11/16/2023 | Report No: ESRSA03145

**I. BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Operation Data**

Operation ID	Product	Operation Acronym	Approval Fiscal Year
P179449	Investment Project Financing (IPF)	Senegal River Valley Dev and Resilience	2024
Operation Name	Senegal River Valley Development and Resilience Project		
Country/Region Code	Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)	Region	Practice Area (Lead)
Western and Central Africa	Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal	WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	Social Sustainability and Inclusion
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Ministry of Budget and Finance, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development, Ministry of Community Development, Social and Territorial Equity	15-Nov-2023	13-Feb-2024
Estimated Decision Review Date	Total Project Cost		
14-Nov-2023	195,000,000.00		

**Proposed Development Objective**

The PDO is to improve access to regionally integrated, climate resilient and inclusive infrastructure and services in targeted border communities of the Senegal River Valley (Mauritania and Senegal).

**B. Is the operation being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?**

No

**C. Summary Description of Proposed Project Activities**

*[Description imported from the PAD Data Sheet in the Portal providing information about the key aspects and components/sub-components of the project]*



The project aims to improve access to cross-border, climate resilient and inclusive infrastructure and services in targeted border communities of the Senegal River Valley (Mauritania and Senegal). The project has four components: (1) Investing in Community Resilience and Inclusion for Social Cohesion, where the project will finance Community Infrastructure Investments for Resilience, as well as Social Cohesion and Youth Engagement activities; (2) Integrated Territorial Investments for Connectivity and Local Economic Development, where the project will support Integrated Territorial Development through connectivity, market and urban infrastructure, and Livelihood and Economic Opportunities for Local Economic Development; (3) Project Management, Institutional Strengthening and Regional Knowledge Management and Dialogue Platform; and (4) Contingent Emergency Response.

## **D. Environmental and Social Overview**

### **D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings**

*[Description of key features relevant to the operation's environmental and social risks and opportunities (e.g., whether the project is nationwide or regional in scope, urban/rural, in an FCV context, presence of Indigenous Peoples or other minorities, involves associated facilities, high-biodiversity settings, etc.) – Max. character limit 10,000]*

The Project will be implemented in Senegal and Mauritania. In Senegal, the project will be implemented in three administrative regions: Saint-Louis, Matam and Tambacounda. The project's intervention area essentially covers six (6) departments: Saint-Louis, Dagana, Podor, Matam, Kanel and Bakel and forty-four (44) target communes. These areas of intervention are both urban and rural areas. Thus, the project operates in the Senegal River Valley, which is one of the country's six eco-geographical zones. This eco-geographical area faces several types of problems:

- Climatically, the valley is in the Sahelian zone, which is characterized by low rainfall. The installation of dams causes a set of ecological problems with the stagnation of waters, the development of certain diseases and the disappearance of certain species at sea and in the forest.

- Socially: the river valley is a major migration region, which leads to a drop in the birth rate. With the construction of dams, there is a problem of water and land management, particularly in terms of pressure on land, generating strong social tensions in the area.

- On the technical level: the installation of dams has advantages but also disadvantages, including the development of certain water-related diseases, an increase in unemployment with agribusiness.

For several years, the countries that share the resources of the Senegal River basin, particularly within the framework of the Organization for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS), have been seeking to reverse the major trends related to these various issues of environmental and social degradation, themselves exacerbated by the effects of climate change, as well as a strong interdependence between the security of water supply, food security and energy security.

In Mauritania, the project will operate in four wilayas: Trarza, Brakna, Gorgol and Guidimagha, eleven Moughataa and seventeen communes. At the intervention areas, there are protected areas and classified forests. Diawling Park, which is part of these protected areas, is a single ecological entity covering more than 200,000 ha. This entity is included in a large transboundary estuarine area called the Senegal River Delta Transboundary Biosphere Reserve (SBBT). To the north, this park adjoins another Ramsar wetland called Chat-Tboul, with which it forms, together with the depression of the Aftout Es Saheli, a single ecological unit. The Gambar basin is in the Diama reservoir and is therefore permanently underwater. We also have Lake R'kiz, which is a natural depression with two basins (western and eastern), 34 km long, 4 to 6 km wide. It has an area of 150 km<sup>2</sup>. It is the subject of various hydraulic and hydro-agricultural developments: development of controlled flood recession cultivation and modern irrigation on hundreds of hectares. Today, the lake is also invaded by proliferating aquatic plants, Typha in particular.



The SRV provides most of the irrigated land in Mauritania (90%) and Senegal (80%), communities on both sides of the river remains largely poor and increasingly vulnerable - many of whom engage in sedentary agriculture (as subsistence or smallholder farmers), pastoral activities or fishing along the Senegal River. Most of the cities are also underequipped on both sides of the river.. Importantly, the growth of the commercial agriculture sector has not been accompanied by sufficient improvements in local infrastructure and access to basic services, leading to frustration among local communities. The project area (SRV) is home to multiple ethnic groups and has seen land conflicts relating to land management. Till today, the SRV continues to experience latent tensions and conflicts over cultivated lands. Local authorities also continue to be confronted with land conflicts between local communities and land developers. This tension over land is aggravated by the massive influx of agro-business promoters who wish to establish themselves in this area. Access to land and the precariousness of land rights remain a major concern for many populations. These different sources of conflict over land, coupled with the broader regional dynamics of fragility, conflict and violence (FCV), may increase the risk of conflict escalation in the SRV. Inadequate inclusive development planning and decision-making processes at the local level limit opportunities for consensual handling of tensions and conflicts within communities. Regional insecurity aggravated by climate change-related fragilities can also affect communities in the SRV.

Other drivers of risks in the context include the prevalence of GBV, child marriage, general social acceptability of GBV and insufficient enforcement of legislation on domestic violence and sexual harassment. In Senegal, DHS (2019) data reveals that, in rural areas, 27.8% of women aged between 15 and 49 have experienced physical violence since the age of 15., with higher rates in Tambacouda (35,5%) and Matam (29,1%). Ziguinchor, Sédhiou and Kolda are among the six regions with the highest prevalence of gender-based violence in Senegal. In Mauritania, recent data collected by the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS 2019-2021) reveals that 9.6% of women have reported being victims of violence since the age of 15, 4.5% of them recurrently. 3.9% of women reported having been victims of sexual violence in the last 12 months. This rate rises to 5.2% in rural areas, compared with 2.5% in urban areas.

## **D.2 Overview of Borrower's Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts**

*[Description of Borrower's capacity (i.e., prior performance under the Safeguard Policies or ESF, experience applying E&S policies of IFIs, Environmental and social unit/staff already in place) and willingness to manage risks and impacts and of provisions planned or required to have capabilities in place, along with the needs for enhanced support to the Borrower – Max. character limit 10,000]*

The project will be implemented by the Ministry of the Economy and Sustainable Development (Ministère de l'Economie et du Développement Durable) in Mauritania and the Ministry of Community Development, Social and Territorial Equity of Senegal (Ministère du Développement Communautaire, de l'Equité Sociale et Territoriale, MDCEST) in Senegal. A National Steering Committee will be formed in each country, with representation from the relevant national ministries, to provide the strategic direction of the project implementation for the country.

For Mauritania, the main implementing ministry will be the Ministry of the Economy and Sustainable Development (Ministère de l'Economie et du Développement Durable) which has the convening power to mobilize the technical ministries and would benefit from having prior experience in implementing several Bank projects including the active Decentralization and Intermediate Cities Project (Moudon, P169332) and the recently closed Mauritania Public Sector Governance Project Additional Financing (P165501). For Senegal, the lead implementing agency will be the Ministry of Community Development, Social and Territorial Equity of Senegal (Ministere du Développement Communautaire, de l'Equité Sociale et Territoriale, MDCEST), which has a clear coordinating role and mission to design and implement



policies for social inclusion and cohesion. Created in 2019, it is a relatively new ministry whose implementation capacity will require further strengthening; the ministry is accumulating experience through the ongoing implementation of World Bank financed projects like the Adaptive Safety Net project (P176544) and the Government's Emergency Program for the Modernization of Border Areas and Territories (Programme d'Urgence de Modernisation des Axes et Territoires Frontaliers, PUMA). MDCEST will establish a Project Management Unit (PMU) that will be responsible for managing the project at the national level, including environmental and social risks and impacts management, in line with World Bank guidelines and procedures.

At regional level, a Committee for Regional Coordination (CRC), composed of representatives of the two countries (Mauritania and Senegal), to provide strategic decision-making and coordination of the overall project activities. The CRC will help drive the regional dialogue, collaboration and knowledge sharing, including with other regional organizations operating in the SRV (like OMVS). The two countries will take turns to chair the CRC.

The ESF implementation experiences are uneven among agencies. The Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development in Mauritania has some experience in ESF/safeguards through the implementation of the Decentralization and Intermediate Cities Project (Moudon, P169332) and the recently closed Mauritania Public Sector Governance Project Additional Financing (P165501). As part of its due diligence, the Bank team will conduct further assessment on E&S capacity (staffing, system, resources) during project preparation. to meet the ESF requirements, E&S capacity action plan will be discussed with each Borrower and reflected in the ESCP. For each country, the staffing planned is an environmental safeguard specialist, a social safeguard specialist with expertise in GBV/SEA/SH with qualifications and experience and terms of reference acceptable to the Association. A short term GBV/SEA/SH consultant might be mobilized depending on the need and project performance. This commitment must be met in accordance with the ESCP timeline.

## II. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

### A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

#### A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

*[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating, in accordance with the ES Directive and the Technical Note on Screening and Risk Classification under the ESF – Max. character limit 4,000]*

The environmental risk rating remains Substantial due to the civil works activities planned under Components 1&2 (rehabilitation, upgrading, re-purposing or equipping of small community socio-economic infrastructure, rehabilitation of some rural roads, Small irrigation canals, flood control structures, emergency shelters, wells and boreholes, vaccination pens, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, Market infrastructure, electricity network extension, water network extension...). Potential environmental risks and adverse impacts associated with project activities are mainly linked to water, soil, and air pollution. These may include: (i) alteration of air quality by dust flights during rehabilitation works, construction of WASH facilities; (ii) noise and vibration from moving of construction vehicles and machinery; (iii) contamination of surface water by residues of hydrocarbons, lubricants, oils and suspended solids; (iv) labor and working conditions including traffic safety. There are also risks associated with hazardous wastes and the use of pesticides for pest control. Some of these impacts will be site specific and will be



managed through in a systematic manner throughout the project cycle with solid mitigation measures proportionate to the nature and scale of the project.

## **A.2 Social Risk Rating**

Substantial

*[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating, in accordance with the ES Directive and the Technical Note on Screening and Risk Classification under the ESF – Max. character limit 4,000]*

The social risk rating remains Substantial. The project involves civil works (rehabilitation, upgrading, re-purposing or equipping of small community socio-economic infrastructure), integrated territorial development (connectivity, market and small urban infrastructures) and rehabilitation of some rural roads. These activities could generate specific, localized negative social impacts. The most obvious negative social impacts include: (i) loss of land and livelihoods for the construction of infrastructures in components 1a and 2a; (ii) risks related to working conditions for workers mobilized by the project, especially community workers; (iii) criteria for selecting beneficiaries may limit vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, elders, women and youth from benefiting from the project; and (iv) large project areas (including border regions) and multi-sectoral activities will cause consultation and stakeholder engagement difficulties. The contextual risk in the project area would be significant. The SRV is home to multiple ethnic groups and has seen land conflicts relating to land management. It continues to experience latent tensions and conflicts over cultivated lands between local communities and land developers, aggravating by the massive influx of agro-business promoters. If inappropriately managed, the project activities could potentially increase competition over land ownership/tenure. The social risk rating will be revisited during project preparation, when more information is available, especially the size/scale of the project-financed infrastructures and its associated potential impacts on land acquisition, community livelihoods and community health and safety. The results of the Vulnerability Assessment might also provide more information on the current social tensions and help determine the final risk rating.

*[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating. This attribute is only for the internal version of the download document and not a part of the disclosable version – Max. character limit 8,000]*

## **B. Environment and Social Standards (ESS) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered**

### **B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards**

**ESS1 - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts**

Relevant

*[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]*

ESS1 is relevant. The infrastructure works in the proposed project will undoubtedly bring many positive benefits to communities in the SRV through job creation, improved livelihoods, improved accessibility to infrastructure (connectivity, urban, market, WASH, NRM), and enhanced social inclusion in both countries. However, the implementation of activities (rehabilitation, upgrading, re-purposing or equipping of small community socio-economic infrastructure) and operation of facilities will have negative environmental impacts and Nuisances and risk for populations living near the intervention area. The risks associated with these activities during the construction and operation phase are mainly linked to occupational health and safety (OHS), community health and safety, and water, soil, and air pollution, potential risk linked to use of pesticides for pest control, risks of spreading sexually transmitted diseases such as STIs/HIV/AIDS as well as COVID-19 contamination with the arrival of foreign workers; risks of social



conflicts; Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) / sexual harassment (SH) that may arise from power relationships (hierarchy, positioning, economic benefits, etc.); loss of land and livelihoods; (ii) risks related to working conditions; exclusion of vulnerable groups; difficulties in stakeholder engagement. In addition, The SRV is home to multiple ethnic groups and has seen land conflicts relating to land management. The sites for the rehabilitation/reconstruction, upgrading, re-purposing or equipping of small community socio-economic infrastructure are not known by appraisal. They will be identified by PIUs in collaboration with local governments and communities and, as needed, firms, NGOs, CSOs, and consultants. Each participating country has prepared an ESMF to define the screening mechanisms and provide guidelines for the environmental and social assessment of specific sub-projects during project implementation. In addition to the ESMF, each country has also prepared a Pest Management Plan, a LMP a SEP and an RPF. Site specific E&S will be prepared as per the result of the screening process. The ESMFs have been reviewed and approved by the Bank and disclosed prior to project Appraisal. In addition, each Borrower has prepared an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). Regarding the management of the use of pesticides, each country has already developed a Pesticides Management Plan (PMP) with appropriate measures et guidances. These documents will be finalized and disclosed prior to project Appraisal. The ESCPs include a timeline and a commitment to prepare relevant instruments and set out the substantive measures and actions that will be taken by the Borrower to meet environmental and social and health and safety requirements. Other instruments may include Labor Management Procedures (LMP), Resettlement Policy Frameworks (RPFs), Resettlement Action Plans. The finalized E&S instruments mentioned above will be reviewed, cleared, and disclosed per the ESF requirements.

#### ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

*[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]*

The main identified stakeholders are the Ministry of Community Development, Social and Territorial Equity (MDCEST – for Senegal), the Ministry of the Economy and Sustainable Development (for Mauritania). Other stakeholders identified in both countries include project management units, CRC, contractors, and workers working for the project, affected communities/individuals and those directly benefited from the project activities. NGOs, local committees in the project areas, including local representatives, citizens, members of the civil society, religious leaders, and youth and women representatives, the local authorities are the others interested stakeholders. Consultation activities have been organized with different stakeholders in Senegal (January-May 2023) and Mauritania (June and July 2023), in which they contributed to project design, social and environmental impact assessment, and E&S document preparation. The Borrowers have each prepared a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), setting out planning to engage relevant stakeholders into effective implementation of the activities as proposed under the project. The main goals of the stakeholder engagement program are to ensure that the project’s potential stakeholders: a) have timely access to key project information such as project’s goal, activities, potential project impact, potential stakeholders, including key consultation milestones; b) know when and where consultation opportunities are available for them to participate; and c) participate in consultation and provide meaningful feedback to inform the project design and implementation process. The SEP also include a grievance mechanism (GM) to address all complaints that could likely arise because of project activities. The GM will be cognizant of and follow required levels of discretion, and appropriateness, especially when dealing with cases of sexual harassment and GBV. The GM will be accessible to all stakeholders, especially poor and vulnerable people. These SEPs will be reviewed by the Bank and disclosed as early as possible and prior to Appraisal.





## ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

*[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]*

ESS2 is relevant. The project will involve direct workers (employees of PIUs, CRC), contracted workers (employees of contractor or subcontractor organizations), and community workers (to be hired especially for works under component 1a). Labor related risks include (i) occupational health and safety issues in construction sites (including community workers), (ii) traffic and road safety issues, (iii) inadequate terms and conditions of employment. Two Labor Management Procedures (LMP) have been prepared, covering provisions and regulations of each country and ESS2 requirements. The LMPs address key issues relating to working conditions and the management of workers' relationships, protecting the workforce, respect of the minimum age for work, measures to prevent forced labor and occupational health and safety requirements, nondiscrimination, and equality of work opportunity, workers' organizations for better work conditions as well as relevant guidance for the employment of youth through the project's job placement activities. The LMPs also include measures to ensure that labor is provided on a voluntary basis and will further ensure that the health and safety of workers, including prevention of sexual exploitation and Abuse (SEA)/ sexual harassment (SH) risks among workers. It also provide details about grievance mechanisms for workers and the roles and responsibilities of contractors, PIUs, CRC in labor management. The LMPs will be reviewed, cleared and disclosed by each Borrower and the World Bank prior to the project's effectiveness date. A grievance mechanism (GM) to register and address project labor and work condition issues must be established and functional before project-related works begin.

## ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Relevant

*[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]*

ESS3 is relevant. Air emissions: During construction and rehabilitation activities of infrastructures, the expected air emissions are the exhaust gases of vehicles and machinery, and the dust generated by construction activities. The specific ESIA as well as C-ESMP will include mitigation measures, such as runway watering and vehicle maintenance, to minimize the impact of air emissions. Waste management: waste is mainly expected from construction and rehabilitation facilities (civil works). Waste can be solid, liquid (wastewater), non-hazardous and hazardous, such as hydrocarbon oils from construction machinery and vehicles. During the operational phase of WASH facilities (the latrines will also generate sewage sludge, wastewater, etc. which the ESIA will consider appropriate measures. The site specific ESMPs will determine the source, type and risks associated with the wastes likely to be generated by the project and, if such wastes cannot be avoided, appropriate measures will be proposed to minimize, reduce and, where this is not possible, mitigate the risks associated with the waste. C-ESMP should include a plan for the management of all types of waste. Raw Materials: The required rehabilitation/construction material will potentially include stones, sand, concrete blocks, and wood. These materials are expected to be obtained from sources localized to project areas, such as quarries in the implementation zones, or in clear agreement with owners. ESIA will recommend appropriate measures for improving the efficient use of raw materials. Soil erosion and runoff: road rehabilitation activities may entail vegetation and soil loss which could result in erosion and runoff. The scope of vegetation loss will be assessed as part of each ESIA. Mitigation measures would also be expected to be proposed in the ESMP to avoid, reduce, or mitigate runoff from project sites during construction activities. Noise: During the construction phase, noise is likely to be generated from the use of construction machinery and vehicle movements. The specific ESIA will identify and assess impacts to nearest sensitive receptors and propose mitigation measures to minimize and manage the noise levels such





by applying standard restrictions to hours of site work. The implementation of certain project activities will entail the use of pesticides for pest control. However the use of certain products for the improvement of production will be managed with appropriate measures to avoid any form of pollution. Risks related to water pollution with inadequate use of agrochemicals will be managed by Pest management Plan measures which has already been prepared and approved by the Bank for both countries. The C-ESMPs to be developed by the contractors will include a plan to manage all these risks.

#### **ESS4 - Community Health and Safety**

Relevant

*[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]*

ESS4 is relevant. The project is community driven and will involve many local communities. The members of these communities will benefit greatly from the project interventions particularly the rehabilitation/construction of rural roads, water reservoirs, handdug wells, and some small facilities such as bridges. These could increase community exposure to health and safety issues (risks of accident, security, traffic and road safety risks, increased air emissions and noise as well as SEA/SH and OHS risks). During the construction phase, the Borrower will ensure that E&S plans are in place to mitigate the risks associated with construction activities to direct beneficiaries and neighbors. Relevant ESMPs will include measures to mitigate against adverse impacts due to labor influx. These mitigation measures will be clearly spelled out in the contractor's ESMP (C-ESMP) for civil works and based on the project's ESMP, and the contractor will be fully responsible for its implementation. An SEA/SH risk assessment will be carried out as the contextual risks for SEA/SH and the high prevalence of different forms of gender based violence could increase the likelihood of SEA/SH. A Code of Conduct, including measures to protect against SEA/SH to ensure community health and safety, will be prepared and included in all bidding documents. All employees will sign Codes of Conduct that include SEA/SH provisions to prevent and protect local communities. All mitigation measures will be included in the GBV action plans. The Borrower will assess security risks and implement measures to manage Project security risks, including risks associated with the hiring of security staff to protect Project workers, sites, assets, and activities, as required, as set out in the ESMF, in accordance with the principles of proportionality, Good International Industrial Practices (GIIP), ESS 4 and applicable law, with respect to the hiring, codes of conduct, training, equipment, and monitoring of such staff. All high-level requirements will be included in the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP).

#### **ESS5 - Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement**

Relevant

*[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]*

ESS5 is relevant. The project may require land acquisition due to the construction of infrastructures in components 1a and 2a. Since the location and impact magnitude are unknown at this stage, the Borrowers have each prepared a Resettlement Framework (RF) to guide the RAPs preparation. The resettlement frameworks clarify resettlement principles, organizational arrangements, and design criteria to be applied to subproject or project components to be prepared during project preparation and implementation. The RF include measures to ensure that affected people are: (i) informed about the options regarding resettlement; (ii) consulted and offered alternative resettlement choices; and (iii) provided with effective compensation and livelihood restoration. The RFs also include guidance on screening and the implications of applying to standard for potentially linked activities. They also set out eligibility criteria for affected persons, procedures and standards for compensation, and arrangements for consultations, budgets and



monitoring, including how a project-level grievance mechanism will address involuntary resettlement-related grievances. The RFs will be reviewed, cleared and disclosed per the Bank's requirements.

**ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources**

Not Currently Relevant

*[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]*

ESS6 is relevant. Data collected in the ESMFs already approved show that project activities are likely to have an impact on biodiversity or natural habitats. In Senegal, project activities are likely to have an impact on biodiversity or natural habitats. The project area is characterized by a high concentration of protected areas of various natures (47 Classified Forests, 6 Silvopastoral Reserves and the Special Reserve (Geumbeul). In Mauritania, the project area includes several protected areas, including the Diawling National Park, the Chat Tboul Reserve and Lac R'kiz. There are also several classified forests with a total area of 21,177.21 hectares. These forests have largely been converted to hydro-agricultural installations. The sub-project-specific environmental assessments will propose appropriate measures as needed to manage potential negative risks to biodiversity and biological natural resources.

**ESS7 - Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities**

Not Currently Relevant

*[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]*

This standard is not considered relevant as there are no Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities currently identified in the potential project areas. Should the presence of indigenous communities be confirmed through further screening during implementation, the necessary assessments, consultations and instruments will be undertaken per the requirements of this standard.

**ESS8 - Cultural Heritage**

Relevant

*[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]*

The environmental and social assessment of the construction activities will determine the presence of any cultural heritage. The national diagnosis of cultural heritage carried out in 2022 by the Bank shows that the Senegal River valley encompasses 264 archaeological sites on the Senegalese side (Saint Louis and Matam regions) and 5,000 prehistoric archaeological sites on the Mauritanian side.. The approved ESMF contains a Chance finds procedure which will be included in all project contracts relating to construction, including excavations, demolitions, earthworks, etc. The first mitigation measure will be to avoid known cultural heritage.

**ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries**

Not Currently Relevant

*[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]*

This standard is not considered relevant. This project will not be implemented through Financial Intermediaries.

**B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply**



**OP 7.50 Operations on International Waterways**

Yes

**OP 7.60 Operations in Disputed Areas**

No

**B.3 Other Salient Features**

**Use of Borrower Framework**

No

*[Explanation including areas where “Use of Borrower Framework” is being considered - Max. character limit 10,000]*

This project will not consider the use of Borrowers’ Framework. However, it will comply with all relevant national environmental and social legal requirements.

**Use of Common Approach**

No

*[Explanation including list of possible financing partners – Max. character limit 4,000]*

No

**B.4 Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts**

*[Description provided will not be disclosed but will flow as a one time flow to the Appraisal Stage PID and PAD – Max. character limit 10,000]*

The environmental and social (E&S) risks are rated Substantial. The project will undoubtedly bring many positive benefits to communities in the Valley through job creation, improved livelihoods, improved accessibility to infrastructure (connectivity, urban, market, WASH, NRM), and enhanced social inclusion. The project involves some civil works (rehabilitation, upgrading, re-purposing or equipping of small community socio-economic infrastructure) and rehabilitation of some rural roads, and the history of social tension/conflict in the SRV, amongst others. These activities could generate specific, localized negative E&S impacts and moderate risks. These include nuisances such as dust, noise, poor management of construction waste and probably a slight loss of vegetation. The most obvious negative social impacts include: (i) loss of land and livelihoods for the construction of infrastructures in components 1a and 2a; (ii) risks related to working conditions for workers mobilized by the project, especially community workers; (iii) criteria for selecting beneficiaries may limit vulnerable groups (women, etc) from benefiting from the project; and (iv) large project areas (including border regions) and multi-sectoral activities will cause consultation and stakeholder engagement difficulties. In addition, the project area is home to multiple ethnic groups and has a history of conflict and resentment, particularly regarding land management. The project area's political, cultural, and social factors may hinder the application and compliance with E&S regulations.

**C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities**

**C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required by implementation?**

*[Description of expectations in terms of documents to be prepared to assess and manage the project’s environmental and social risks and by when (i.e., prior to Effectiveness, or during implementation), highlighted features of ESA documents, other project documents where environmental and social measures are to be included, and the related due diligence*



*process planned to be carried out by the World Bank, including sources of information for the due diligence - Max. character limit 10,000]*

ESMF, RPF, SEP, PMP, LMP, ESCP

### III. CONTACT POINT

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