



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 03/31/2023 | Report No: ESRSC03436



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Western and Central Africa	WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	P179449	
Project Name	Senegal River Valley Development and Resilience Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Social Sustainability and Inclusion	Investment Project Financing	9/5/2023	10/31/2023
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Ministry of Budget and Finance, Ministry of Economy and Finance			

Proposed Development Objective

The PDO is to improve regional collaboration and the socioeconomic and climate resilience of targeted communities in the Senegal River Valley (Mauritania and Senegal).

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	195.00

B. Is the project 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 [including overview of Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to CPF]

The project aims to improve regional collaboration and the socioeconomic and climate resilience of targeted communities in the Senegal River Valley (Mauritania and Senegal).

The project has five components: (1) Investing in Community Resiliency and Inclusion for Social Cohesion, where the project will finance Community Infrastructure Investments for Resilience , as well as Social Cohesion Activities and Engagement; (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) Institutional Strengthening and Regional Knowledge Management Platform; (4) Project Management ; and (5) Contingent Emergency Response.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1. Detailed project location(s) and salient physical characteristics relevant to the E&S assessment [geographic, environmental, social]

At this stage the cities that are targeted for the implementation of the project are: Louga, Matam, Saint-Louis and Tambacounda regions in Senegal and the Assaba, Brakna, Gorgol, Guidimaka and Trarza regions in Mauritania. The project targeting will be supported through the use of scientific data and objective criteria to ensure resources are channeled to the most vulnerable areas where the needs are the greatest. A vulnerability assessment will be conducted based on a combination of publicly available and government data related to climate change and conflict exposures, sensitivities, and adaptive capacities.

These regions targeted by the project are located on both sides of the Senegal River Valley (SRV) which is an alluvial plain framed by semi-desert regions and much of length of the Senegal River marks the border between Mauritania and Senegal. 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. In both Mauritania and Senegal, the investments already undertaken have generated new economic opportunities, particularly in the agricultural sector, as the areas of irrigated agriculture have been considerably expanded. But these investments have also been disruptive and have increased pressure and competition for land. 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. Both countries are also experiencing rapid urbanization, which is straining the ability of municipalities to effectively provide basic urban services. In addition, we have the effects of climate change, the SRV exhibits some of the most extreme climate variability in the world. Rising temperatures, increasingly erratic rainfall, droughts, floods, sea level rise, salinization of soils and waters, encroaching desertification as well as degradation of arable land in the SRV are disrupting the economy centered on traditional agriculture and livestock production, also contributing to drive migrations to the closest urban areas. Fishing has also been disrupted by the changes in hydrology of the river since the building of the Diama and Manantali dams in the mid-1980s (as a response to dry spells in the Valley since the 1970s). Climate change and natural hazards in the Valley has significant impacts on not only rural employment, but also broader food security in these countries. It has also resulted in malnutrition, epidemics, environmental shocks and forced displacement that continue to weaken 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.

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity



The project will be implemented by Ministry of Economic Affairs and Promotion of Productive Sectors (Ministère des Affaires Economiques et de la Promotion des Secteurs Productifs) in Mauritania and 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 Senegal, the lead implementing agency will be the Ministry of Community Development, Social and Territorial Equity of Senegal (Ministère 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. While it is a relatively newly established ministry (i.e. created in 2019) 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). The PIUs will be responsible for managing the project at the national level, including safeguard management as well as monitoring and evaluation 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 Economic Affairs and Promotion of Productive Sectors in Mauritania has certain level of exposure to ESF/safeguards through implementing the Decentralization and Intermediate Cities Project (Moudon, P169332) and the recently closed Mauritania Public Sector Governance Project Additional Financing (P165501). MDCEST, a relatively new ministry created in 2019, started implementing a World Bank Projects funded project Adaptive Safety Net (P176544). As part of due diligence process, the Bank 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 discuss each Borrower and reflected in the ESCP.

II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

The environmental risk rating is estimated to be 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. 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.

Social Risk Rating

Substantial

The social risk is rated Substantial at the concept stage. 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. Therefore, 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 be used to provide more information on the current social tensions and help determine the final risk rating.

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1. General Assessment

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

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, 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..

Since the sites for the rehabilitation/reconstruction, upgrading, re-purposing or equipping of small community socio-economic infrastructure will be identified by PIUs in collaboration with local governments and communities, and if



needed, engage firms, NGOs, CSOs, and consultants, the Borrowers will each prepare an ESMF to define the screening mechanisms and provide guidelines to be followed during project implementation for the preparation of an environmental and social assessment specific to the sub-projects. The ESMF is expected to be finalized and disclosed prior to project Appraisal.

In addition, each Borrower will prepare an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) and a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). These documents are expected to be finalized and disclosed prior to project Appraisal. The ESCPs will 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 will be reviewed, cleared, and disclosed per the ESF requirements.

Areas where “Use of Borrower Framework” is being considered:

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

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

At this early concept stage, there is only limited information on the stakeholders. However, the identified Stakeholders are the MDCEST (Ministry of Community Development, Social and Territorial Equity), the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Promotion of Productive Sectors, 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. The Borrowers will each prepare and implement an inclusive Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEPs) proportional to the nature and scale of the project and associated risks and impacts. The SEPs will set 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 will 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. A draft of the SEP will be prepared and disclosed as early as possible and prior to Appraisal.

B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts

A brief description of the potential environmental and social risks and impacts relevant to the Project.

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions



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.

Each Borrower will prepare Labor Management Procedures (LMP) consistent with the national provisions and regulations of each country concerned by the project and ESS2 requirements. The LMPs will 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 will 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 will also provide details about grievance mechanisms for workers and the roles and responsibilities of contractors, PIUs, CRC in labor management.

The LMPs will be developed, 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

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's 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's 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.

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's 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 be generated from the use of construction machinery and vehicle movements. The specifics ESIA's 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.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

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 under Components 1 et 2. The rehabilitation/construction of rural roads, water reservoirs, handdug wells, and some small facilities such as bridges could increase community exposure to health and safety issues (risks of accident, 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 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 for civil works will be clearly spelled out in the contractor's ESMP (C-ESMP), 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.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

ESS5 is relevant. The project may cause land acquisition impacts due to the construction of infrastructures in components 1a and 2a. Since the location and impact magnitude are unknown at this stage, the Borrowers will each prepare a Resettlement Framework (RF) to guide the RAPs preparation. The resettlement frameworks will 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 will 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 will also include guidance on screening and the implications of applying to standard for potentially linked activities. They will 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.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

At this stage there are no direct impacts to protected areas and/or critical habitats to occur as a result of the project. The ESMF will therefore include a risk assessment on critical habitats and propose mitigation measures if needed. The ESMF will contain a screening mechanism to avoid any sensitive areas and provide guidance to sub-project ESMPs.

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



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

The environmental and social assessment of the construction activities will determine the presence of any cultural heritage; this will also be determined during the consultation process. The first mitigation measure will be to avoid known cultural heritage. Chance finds procedure will also be developed to address any cultural heritage encountered during the works.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

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

B.3 Other Relevant Project Risks

No

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways	Yes
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OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas	No
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III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered?	No
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Financing Partners

No

B. Proposed Measures, Actions and Timing (Borrower's commitments)

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

- Preparation, consultation, and disclosure of the Environmental and Social Commitment Plans (ESCPs). ESCPs will be prepared, reviewed, validated, and disclosed before Appraisal.
- Preparation, consultation, and disclosure of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEPs). SEPs will be prepared, reviewed, validated, and disclosed before Appraisal.



- Preparation, consultation, and disclosure of the Labor Management Procedures (LMPs). LMPs will be prepared, reviewed, validated, and disclosed before Appraisal.
- Preparation, consultation, and disclosure of the Resettlement Frameworks (RFs). RFs will be prepared, reviewed, validated, and disclosed before Appraisal.
- Preparation, consultation, and disclosure of the Environmental and Social Management Frameworks (ESMFs). ESMFs will be prepared, reviewed, validated, and disclosed before Appraisal.

Possible issues to be addressed in the Borrower Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP):

- The ESCPs will include the preparation and implementation of Site-Specific ESMP and ESIA under the ESMF for public works; and the application of labor management procedures (including Occupational Health and Safety measures and an SES/H action plan), and implementation of a resettlement framework preparation and implementation site specific resettlement action plans when needed
- Recruitment of E&S staff
- Include a capacity build plan with a strong focus on application/ implementation of mitigation measures defined in the relevant instruments
- Time frame for the development of a detailed GBV/SEA Action Plan based on appropriate assessment and review.
- Indicate the reporting intervals for the E&S performance throughout project cycle, including incident reports requirements (ESIRT)

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS

11-Aug-2023

IV. CONTACT POINTS

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: Ministry of Budget and Finance

Borrower: Ministry of Economy and Finance



Implementing Agency(ies)

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

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Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Maria Sarraf Recommended on 21-Mar-2023 at 16:01:48 EDT
Safeguards Advisor ESSA	Nathalie S. Munzberg (SAESSA) Cleared on 31-Mar-2023 at 15:35:7 EDT