



@#&OPS~Doctype~OPS^blank@pidaprcoverpage#doctemplate

Project Information Document (PID)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 21-Jan-2026 | Report No: PIDIA01362



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Project Beneficiary(ies)	Region	Operation ID	Operation Name
Benin, Mauritania	WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	P509153	West Africa Coastal Areas Blue Economy and Resilience Program
Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Approval Date	Practice Area (Lead)
Investment Project Financing (IPF)	26-Jan-2026	17-Mar-2026	Environment, Natural Resources & the Blue Economy
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency		
Islamic Republic of Mauritania, Republic of Benin	Ministry of Environment and Transport (Benin), Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Mauritania)		

Proposed Development Objective(s)

To strengthen coastal management and climate resilience, and improve job access in the blue economy in targeted countries in West Africa

Components

- Component 1: Strengthening Governance and Institutions
- Component 2: Enhancing Coastal Resilience
- Component 3: Facilitating Coastal Economic Development
- Component 4: National Project Management

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

Maximizing Finance for Development

Is this an MFD-Enabling Project (MFD-EP)?	Yes
Is this project Private Capital Enabling (PCE)?	No

SUMMARY

Total Operation Cost	212.00
----------------------	--------

For Official Use Only



Total Financing	212.00
of which IBRD/IDA	207.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS	
World Bank Group Financing	
International Development Association (IDA)	207.00
IDA Credit	207.00
Non-World Bank Group Financing	
Trust Funds	5.00
PROBLUE MDTF	5.00

Environmental And Social Risk Classification

High

Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. **Home to one third of West Africa’s population and generating 56 percent of regional Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the region’s coasts are increasingly threatened by erosion and flooding and lacking opportunities for job creation.** The coastal area hosts over 360 million people, with densely populated cities, dynamic economies, and vital infrastructure such as roads and ports. Yet, coastal erosion is destroying homes, livelihoods, and critical infrastructure, costing Benin, Côte d’Ivoire, Senegal, and Togo around US\$3.80 billion annually—approximately 5 percent of their combined GDP—due to erosion, flooding, and pollution. The region faces 2.2 percent annual population growth and a youthful demographic, with 39 percent under 15 years of age in 2023. Despite a 3 percent average annual growth in coastal economies between 2019 and 2023, poverty reduction and job creation have not kept pace. Job creation is lagging behind demographic expansion, as only 32 percent of 15- to 24-year-olds in Western and Central Africa are employed, and while six million people enter the labor market each year, only half a million formal jobs are created, resulting in 92 percent informal employment and 60 percent of employers—including nearly half of larger firms—operating informally, with women and youth disproportionately affected.



2. **Combined climate and human stressors could displace up to 32 million internally in West Africa by 2050.** Along the West African coastline, rising sea levels and, intensified storm surges are accelerating coastal erosion. Meanwhile, shifting rainfall patterns are causing floods that are both more intense and more frequent. These climate impacts are amplified by human activities such as sand extraction and the construction of poorly planned coastal infrastructure. Countries like Togo and Benin are experiencing some of the fastest erosion rates in the Gulf of Guinea. In Benin, about 65 percent of the coastline is retreating at an average rate of 4 meters per year, leading to the staggering loss of over 400 meters of land in certain locations over the past four decades. In Mauritania, sea-level rise is projected to reach 0.3 meters by 2050. Protecting Nouakchott's coastal dune belt is essential to safeguard the city from sea-surge flooding. Further, these stressors are a regional challenge, as erosion and climate impacts cross national borders and demand strong regional cooperation to address.

3. **The West Africa Coastal Areas Management Program (WACA) has invested in coastal protection and developed platform for integrated coastal zone management (ICZM).** Since its inception in 2016, the World Bank has brought together national, regional, and international partners around a common understanding that coastal erosion remains a persistent challenge due to the need for coordinated regional and cross-border action, the technical complexity of coastal interventions, and the substantial costs associated with effective solutions. WACA's most notable results are summarized in Box 1.

Box 1. Results achieved under WACA (2018 – 2025) (<https://www.wacaprogram.org/>)

Key results achieved to date in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Mauritania, São Tome and Principe, Senegal, and Togo include:

Coastal protection improved:

- 40,800 households with reduced risks from erosion and flooding.
- 130 km of coastline protected against erosion and floods.
- 30,000 hectares of ecosystems protected or restored.

Regional governance and institutions:

- Coordinated coastal development planning
- Enhanced coastal monitoring.
- Africa Center of Excellence and network of experts.

Small scale community support with potential to go to scale:

- 20,000 households with increased incomes.
- 11,800 jobs created

Sectoral and Institutional Context

Coastal Protection

4. **The WACA effectively protected more than 40,000 households and more than 130 kilometers of shoreline from erosion and floods through a combination of grey and green infrastructure and has generated important lessons learned to apply to the remaining erosion hotspots.** The WACA Resilience Investment Project (ResIP1) (P162337) intervened in Benin, Mauritania, São Tome and Principe and is ongoing in Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Togo. The WACA ResIP2 (P175525) is active in Ghana, Gambia, and Guinea Bissau. Experience from WACA ResIP highlights that effective coastal protection infrastructure requires: (i) a clear institutional mandate; (ii) strong technical capacity for design, modelling, and cost estimation; and (iii) minimal delays, as coastlines evolve rapidly with erosion and sediment dynamics. While national coastal development plans have clarified institutional roles, overlapping mandates and slow decision-making continue to cause design delays in some contexts. Accurate costing is critical to avoid financing gaps and interruptions and maintenance budgets are needed for lasting coastal protection results.



5. **The conservation of marine and coastal ecosystems improved under the WACA, but remains dependent on external support.** Healthy ecosystems such as mangroves and wetlands help stabilize shorelines, capture carbon, contribute to coastal communities' livelihoods, and provide critical nursery grounds for fisheries. However, uncontrolled coastal development, and pollution are eroding biodiversity and diminishing these vital ecosystem services, with direct consequences for productivity and for the livelihoods that depend on them. The WACA has enhanced the management of selected coastal protected areas, supported national efforts to expand the network of critical protected areas, while strengthening community's role as stewardship of conservation. Efforts must continue to improve the management of protected areas and enhance financial autonomy as many face challenges such as over-dependence on external financing to sustain their operations.

Regional Governance and Institutions

6. **Governance and institutions for integrated coastal zone management (ICZM) established by WACA need further consolidation.** WACA's most notable institutional improvements include:

- **Coordinated coastal development planning established and partly operational.** WACA supported the preparation of the regional West Africa Regional Coastal Master Plan (SDLAO, *Schéma Directeur du Littoral de l'Afrique de l'Ouest*) – now the regional reference for assessing coastal risks, aligning policies, and guiding investments across the region. Building on the SDLAO, national coastal development plans were developed in Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo. These plans should continue to be updated and be integrated into sectoral strategy and local development plans for effective implementation. The Program also accelerated the ratification of regional regulations on coastal pollution into national legislation, with the support of the Abidjan Convention (ABC).¹
- **Enhanced coastal monitoring.** The West Africa Regional Coastal Observatory (ORLOA, *Observatoire Régional du Littoral de l'Afrique de l'Ouest*), hosted by the Ecological Monitoring Center (CSE, *Centre de Suivi Écologique*), was established and developed a common set of indicators to track key threats – including erosion, shoreline change, and pollution. At the national level, WACA helped operationalize new institutions such as Benin's National Coastal Protection and Management Unit (CNPGL, *Cellule Nationale de Protection et de Gestion du Littoral*) and Mauritania's National Observatory for the Environment and the Coastline (ONEL, *Observatoire National de l'Environnement et du Littoral*) to strengthen country-level monitoring and analysis.
- **Africa Center of Excellence and network of experts.** The Africa Center of Excellence in Coastal Resilience (ACECoR) delivers M.Sc. and Ph.D. courses in coastal science. The WACA-Vulnerability Adaptation and Resilience (WACA-VAR) initiative, hosted by leading universities in Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal, offers scientific data and monitoring tools for coastal management. The Sustainable Ports Partnership (SPP), coordinated by the Port Management Association of West and Central Africa, further strengthens technical capacity. These platforms were launched with support from partners in France, Japan, the Netherlands, and others.
- **Regional political leadership.** The West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) has built political momentum for improved coastal management, working closely with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to promote a coherent, region-wide approach.

¹ The Abidjan Convention is a regional treaty for protecting the marine and coastal environment of the West and Central African region. It provides a legal framework for cooperation among member states to combat coastal pollution and promote sustainable management of natural resources.



Blue Economy Jobs and Private Sector Development

7. **Whereas the WACA provided small scale community support, increasing incomes for 20,000 households, there are considerable jobs opportunities in the blue economy.** By 2030, Africa's blue-economy sectors are expected to support 57 million jobs with tourism, fisheries, aquaculture, port operations and maritime trade providing the greatest number of jobs. Fish is an essential source of protein, accounting for up to two-thirds of animal protein consumed in many West African countries. In 2018, **coastal tourism** contributed 3.4 percent to Africa's total GDP and supported around 24 million jobs across the continent. In West Africa specifically, thanks to its rich cultural and natural heritage, coastal tourism accounted for 4.8 percent of GDP, above the continental average. By 2030, coastal tourism is expected to contribute an estimated US\$100 billion to Africa's total GDP up from US\$80 billion in 2018. In Benin alone, tourism accounted for 6 percent of GDP in 2024 and provided 370,000 jobs representing 7.7 percent of total employment. **Fisheries** are supporting around 9 million livelihoods in the ECOWAS region. In Mauritania alone, fisheries contributed 2.8 percent of GDP, sustained roughly 66,000 direct and 300,000 indirect jobs, and generated 20 percent of total export receipts. The country is Africa's second-largest producer and exporter of fish products. **Aquaculture** in Africa provides jobs for about 1.2 million people and has averaged 10 percent growth between 2016 and 2018. Aquaculture represents an emerging growth area with a multiplier job potential by creating a wide range of indirect employment opportunities across the value chain – such as in feed production, processing, distribution and export markets. **Port operations and maritime trade** provide critical services for industries such as oil and gas, agriculture, and manufacturing. Over 90 percent of the region's trade by volume is handled by West African ports.

8. **Despite countries' coastal economy prospects, several systemic barriers hinder sustainable development and job creation potential.** In the **tourism sector**, inadequate infrastructure, limited local training, and insufficient capacity to manage sustainable tourism practices pose significant barriers to growth, especially for eco-tourism. In **fisheries**, the processing sector faces persistent issues such as inadequate sanitary conditions, noncompliance with international standards, including traceability, and limited access to finance. Mauritania's post-harvest fisheries sector remains under-leveraged, contributing only 0.7 percent to GDP. There is potential to further develop and create a whole-of-value chain approach with a focus on added-value for fish products to create new jobs. Similarly, **aquaculture** struggles with a lack of financing, access to quality and affordable feed, technical capacity, and poor market access, especially for small-scale producers. Meanwhile, **port operations** are hindered by outdated infrastructure, insufficient dredging limiting access to port infrastructure, and inefficiencies in logistical operations, which contribute to higher transaction costs and reduced competitiveness. In Mauritania, essential port infrastructures are silting up, leading to loss of job growth opportunities.

9. **Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) are central to blue-economy employment but struggle to grow.** MSMEs lead activity in fisheries and tourism—particularly in coastal and island states—and Mauritania alone hosts around 5,000 along the fisheries value chain. However, they face insufficient technical capacity and skills gaps including to modernize production and improve product quality, and difficulties meeting standards needed to access new markets. Financing remains a persistent challenge, as the financial sector is small and underdeveloped, with high collateral requirements and risk aversion among banks. In Mauritania and Benin, only 12 percent of MSMEs access credit for investment, and most lack collateral or credit history. Microfinance institutions also cannot meet demand. Policies, complex business regulations, weak enforcement of coastal management laws, and limited inter-agency coordination further deter investment.

10. **Women in West Africa are highly active in fisheries and blue economy sectors but have less access to productive assets, financial services, and market opportunities, which results in informal, low-wage jobs that are more vulnerable to climate shocks.** Women in Benin's coastal areas are primarily engaged in fish processing and informal trade, yet face major economic barriers: 94 percent of women are self-employed, earn up to 50 percent less than men, and just 29 percent have a financial account versus 49 percent of men. Women in Mauritania's coastal areas account for over 30 percent of fisheries jobs, mainly in processing, but only 16 percent have a bank account versus 26 percent of men.



11. **Building on the progress made under WACA, the West Africa Coastal Areas Blue Economy and Resilience Multi-Phased Program (WACA+) will maintain a focus on strengthening coastal governance and improving coastal protection, while expanding its scope to foster economic opportunities for a growing coastal population.** Despite WACA's achievements, countries continue to face an urgent need to stabilize and restore vulnerable coastlines, protect existing infrastructure, and prevent the economic and social hardship caused by the loss of roads, homes, shops, and access to beaches and marine resources. Although governance frameworks for coastal resource management have been strengthened under WACA, the institutions responsible for enforcing these regulations still require sustained support. WACA+ will provide this continued assistance by helping countries work together more effectively, promoting knowledge exchange, and reinforcing the national and regional bodies responsible for coastal management. Protecting coastlines through targeted investments and nature-based solutions (NBS), and safeguarding the gains already made, will remain central. In addition, WACA+ will place stronger emphasis on economic development by helping coastal communities and MSMEs diversify their livelihoods and create new job opportunities in key sectors such as fisheries, aquaculture, and tourism. This will include support for small businesses, through better access to finance and selected business-enabling programs. WACA+ will build on the ongoing WACA's established partnerships and leverages a Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA) to promote coordinated, long-term management of coastal resources.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Development Objective(s) (From PAD)

12. **The PDO statement of WACA+ Phase 1** is to strengthen coastal management and climate resilience, and improve job access in the blue economy in targeted countries in West Africa.

Key Results

13. **The proposed PDO-level indicators** will measure impact on restored and protected ecosystems, more and better-paid jobs, and improved climate resilience:

- Seascapes under enhanced conservation and/or sustainable management (coastal zones and oceans) (Ha) (CSI)
- More and better-paid jobs (Number) (CSI, TBD)
- People benefitting from enhanced resilience of terrestrial and aquatic systems (Number) (CSI)

D. Project Description

Component 1: Strengthening Governance and Institutions (Total IDA US\$11.01 million: Benin, US\$6.20 million; Mauritania, IDA US\$4.81 million)

14. This component strengthens long-term coastal zone management by improving operational and technical capacities of national observatories (i.e., CNPGL and ONEL), and protected area agencies, i.e., National Center for Wildlife Reserves Management (CENAGREF, *Centre National de Gestion des Réserves de Faune*) in Benin and Diawling National Park (PND) in Mauritania, as well as knowledge exchange, and transboundary coordination.

15. **Sub-component 1.1 – Strengthening Governance and Institutions at the Regional Level (US\$0 million):** For WACA+ Phase 1 and 2, this sub-component will rely on WACA ResIP2 and WAEMU's Regional Management Unit (RMU) and Regional Implementation Support Unit (RISU). The Program will (i) prepare of transboundary joint action plans for the management of shared Mauritania-Senegal and Togo–Benin ecosystems; (ii) expand and improve the number and quality of coastal health indicators monitored; (iii) finalize WAEMU's Regional Blue Economy Strategy for coastal protection and blue economy development; (iv) facilitate training of regional and national financial institutions with WBG Sustainable Finance Knowledge Center (SFKC).



16. **Sub-component 1.2 – Strengthening Governance and Institutions at the National Level (Benin, IDA US\$6.20 million; Mauritania, IDA US\$4.81 million)**² will strengthen whole-of-government coordination and capacity to implement approved coastal development plans, namely the Coastal Development Master Plan of Benin (SDAL *Schéma Directeur d'Aménagement du Littoral*) and the Master Plan for the Development of the Mauritanian Coastline (PDALM, *Plan d'Aménagement du Littoral Mauritanien*). The project will (i) provide training of the inter-sectoral committee responsible for implementing the approved coastal development plans, support the updating of these plans with specialized expertise, and training local authorities in Benin to integrate coastal management directives into local development planning; (ii) reinforce the operational performance of CNPGL and ONEL by financing equipment and training for monitoring, mapping and reporting on coastal health indicators, preparing national state of the coast reports and policy briefs in Mauritania, supporting surveillance and maintenance of coastal protection infrastructure, and facilitating outreach to communities and civil society for participatory monitoring; (iii) strengthen marine and coastal protected area management of the coastal Biosphere Reserves in Benin and PND in Mauritania by updating and preparing their management plans, providing specialized training and equipment for biodiversity monitoring, conducting baseline assessments of environmental and biodiversity conditions, and delivering technical assistance (TA) for transboundary cooperation (Mauritania-Senegal); (iv) support access to sustainable and innovative financing by providing TA and training to enhance countries' ability to mobilize climate finance, including for mangrove restoration; and (v) improve ecotourism governance in Benin by developing national ecotourism standards, designing a revenue-sharing mechanism among stakeholders, and establishing a consultation framework to engage national and international partners and anchor investors in ecotourism development.

Component 2: Enhancing Coastal Resilience (Total IDA US\$128.1 million: Benin, IDA US\$110.00 million; Mauritania, IDA US\$18.10 million)

18. This component aims to protect people, assets and livelihoods in priority coastal and marine areas from erosion, flooding, and climate impacts through a combination of coastal protection works, ecosystem restoration, and targeted TA and community engagement.

19. **Sub-component 2.1 – Physical Investments for Shoreline Stabilization (Benin, IDA US\$88.90 million; and Mauritania IDA US\$14.80 million).** This sub-component will finance coastal infrastructure to stabilize vulnerable shorelines and protect communities, infrastructure, and local economies. Activities include the planning, design, and construction of priority coastal protection works, supported by supervision, environmental and social safeguards, and operations and maintenance tools. In Benin, investments will stabilize the Mono River mouth and prepare a pre-feasibility study for stabilization of the east bank of the Mono River in Athiémé. In Mauritania, works will rehabilitate the dune belt that shields Nouakchott and adjacent southern communities from coastal flooding and sea surges.

20. **Sub-component 2.2 – Restoration of Critical Ecosystems (Benin, IDA US\$21.10 million; Mauritania, IDA US\$3.30 million).** The sub-component will strengthen and expand ecosystem and biodiversity management through: (i) restoration of coastal and marine ecosystems using NBS, including rehabilitation of biodiversity hotspots with ecotourism potential in partnership with local communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and associations; and (ii) enhanced community stewardship of protected areas in Benin through small infrastructure, equipment, and capacity building for monitoring and maintenance in collaboration with local and national authorities.

Component 3: Facilitating Coastal Economic Development (Total IDA US\$56.17 million: Benin, IDA US\$24.5 million; Mauritania, IDA US\$31.67 million; PROBLUE US\$5 million for Mauritania)

21. This component consolidates livelihood support, MSME acceleration, access to finance and investments under an integrated model that accompanies beneficiaries based on their level of development, performance and needs from

² Activities apply to both countries, Benin and Mauritania, unless otherwise stated.



household-level activities to bankable, growth-oriented firms thus preparing future IFC investments. It will also improve fishing port operations and modernize export-related public services in Mauritania.

22. **Sub-component 3.1 – Income-Generating Activities for Coastal Communities (Benin, IDA US\$5.45 million; Mauritania, IDA US\$2.63 million).** To reinforce ecosystem conservation, this sub-component will finance Income-Generating Activities (IGAs) and small infrastructure for households, associations and cooperatives, in particular those with limited access to natural resources due to their proximity to protected areas. Activities include: (i) training in technical, entrepreneurial, and financial management skills; (ii) grants to individuals and local cooperatives or associations for IGAs such as oyster and shellfish farming, ecotourism services, or efficient fish-smoking technologies that reduce pressure on mangroves; and (iii) small infrastructure in Mauritania chosen by the community such as a market place or boreholes. WACA resilience Investment Project's (ResIP) modalities for IGAs on eligibility, selection rules, fiduciary and environmental and social framework (ESF) arrangements will be continued.

23. **Sub-component 3.2 – Acceleration of Blue-Economy (Benin, IDA US\$19.05 million; Mauritania, IDA US\$10.19 million and PROBLUE multi-donor trust fund US\$5 million).** The subcomponent will provide demand-driven, customized support to help firms grow, increase productivity, and create jobs. It targets MSMEs, and well performing and organized cooperatives and associations including those with financing needs exceeding US\$20,000 cap set in the IGAs scheme. Support will include: (i) tailored coaching and technical support for professionalization, management and process improvements; (ii) a competitively allocated, results-based matching grant scheme, with a 25-75 percent matching, for business expansion in high-potential value chains, including coastal aquaculture and ecotourism (Benin) and fisheries (Mauritania); and (iii) coordination with IFC advisory platform for sustainable finance and agribusiness.

24. **Sub-component 3.3 – Partial Portfolio Credit Guarantee (PPCG) (Mauritania, IDA US\$9.10 million).** This sub-component will set up a fisheries-PPCG scheme managed by the public-private Guarantee Fund of Mauritania (FGM).³ The aim is to improve the fisheries sector's access to credit from lending institutions by mitigating their credit risk. Activities will include: (i) a capital endowment for a dedicated fisheries PPCG window; and (ii) the provision of TA to the FGM/PPCG and participating financial institutions (PFI) to analyze and manage loans and market new products tailored to the targeted sector. The PPCG capital endowment will be disbursed in three phases based on results.

25. **Sub-component 3.4 – Infrastructure and Public Services to Enable Private Investment (Mauritania, IDA US\$9.74 million).** This sub-component will reduce siltation in fishing ports and modernize export-enabling public services to safeguard the fisheries sector and support export growth. Activities include: (i) a pre-feasibility study for the rehabilitation of the Nouadhibou artisanal fishing port to improve working conditions, landing efficiency, climate resilience to sea level rise and storms, and environmental performance; (ii) establishing a predictable dredging and maintenance regime, starting with Tanit Port; and (iii) upgrading trade-critical public services by harmonizing protocols and traceability to meet European Union (EU) and regional standards, modernizing export procedures, and digitizing licensing, reporting, and payment systems to accelerate government service delivery.

Component 4: National Project Management (Total IDA US\$11.72 million: Benin, IDA US\$6.30 million; Mauritania IDA US\$5.42million)

26. **This component will support the Project Implementation Units (PIUs) in each beneficiary country to ensure effective management, coordination, and timely execution of activities.** Financing will cover project oversight, procurement, fiduciary management (including audits and accounting), quality assurance, environmental and social risk management, and stakeholder engagement. It also covers short-term training, travel, workshops, communications and

³ The PPCG is a de-risking instrument to mobilize private sector capital.



other operational needs. A robust monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system will be established to track physical and financial progress and assess results.

Legal Operational Policies	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	Yes
Projects in Disputed Area OP 7.60	No

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

27. ESS1 is relevant to the project, as the Environmental and Social (E&S) Risk for Phase 1 activities is rated as High due to potential environmental and social risks resulting from infrastructure that is in or close to sensitive areas, the potential for mangrove or natural habitats disruption during construction, the risks that activities may exacerbate coastal flooding and erosion, contributing to changes in coastal hydrodynamic conditions and loss of habitats and marine species, impacts associated to land acquisition, economic and physical resettlement and land use, occupational health and community health and safety risks, poor labor conditions including the potential use of child or forced labor as well as SEA/SH risks. For phase 1 activities, each client country will set out in the ESCP the substantive measures and actions that will be taken to meet the environmental and social requirements and prepare the relevant ESF instruments (ESIAs/ESMPs, LMP, RAPs, E&S audits, where relevant). The Task Team will share with clients relevant examples and experience to facilitate the preparation. Impacts from activities conducted through Financial Intermediaries are also expected and thus the project will require them to prepare Environmental and Social Management Systems (ESMS). Impacts from TA activities will be managed in accordance with the World Bank ESF and OESRC's Advisory Note. The SEP, the LMP the ESCP from the Phase 1 countries, as well as the advanced drafts of the ESIAs for the first-movers activities when technical designs are readily available will be required prior to appraisal. No ESF instruments will be required at this stage for Phase 2-4 countries given that the subprojects have not yet been identified.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

28. In all participating countries, the PIUs and Steering Committees established under WACA will be expanded for WACA+ to include sector-specific experts and representatives from relevant ministries, improving cross-sector coordination and technical depth.

29. **In Benin**, the Ministry of Living Environment and Transport (MCVT, *Ministère du Cadre de Vie et des Transports en charge du Développement Durable*) will oversee project implementation, with technical support from other key ministries such as Economy and Finance, Agriculture, and Development. The integrated PIU, experienced in managing *WACA ResIP1 and the Gazetted Forests Management I and II Projects (P167678, P508182)*, will coordinate project activities.

30. **In Mauritania**, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD, *Ministère de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable*) will oversee project implementation, with the NSC remaining under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development. The existing WACA ResIP PIU under MEDD will work closely with key ministries the Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Port Infrastructures (MPIMP, *Ministère des Pêches et des Infrastructures Maritimes Portuaires*) and national stakeholders involved in the PDALM.



31. **At the regional level**, WACA+ will initially draw on WAEMU's Department of Agriculture, Water Resources, and Environment and its Regional Management Unit (RMU) operating under the ongoing WACA ResIP2, allowing the Program to benefit from existing systems, partnerships, and institutional capacity. Under WACA ResIP2, WAEMU leads collaboration with key regional institutions to advance integration and coordinates a Regional Implementation Support Unit (RISU) that provides technical expertise and facilitates regional knowledge exchange.

CONTACT POINT

World Bank

Berengere P. C. Prince
Lead Natural Resources Management Specialist

Veruschka Schmidt
Senior Environmental Specialist

Jana Malinska
Senior Private Sector Specialist

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Islamic Republic of Mauritania

Republic of Benin

Implementing Agencies

Ministry of Environment and Transport (Benin)

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (Mauritania)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 473-1000
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):

Berengere P. C. Prince, Veruschka Schmidt, Jana Malinska



Approved By

Practice Manager/Manager:	Ellysar Baroudy	08-Dec-2025
Country Director:	Marina Wes	21-Jan-2026

For Official Use Only