

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET
CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: 92345

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 29-Jul-2014

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

Country:	Western Africa	Project ID:	P149969
Project Name:	Volta River Basin Strategic Action Programme Implementation (P149969)		
Task Team Leader:	Shelley McMillan		
Estimated Board Date:	21-May-2015		
Managing Unit:	AFTN2		
GEF Focal Area:	International waters		
Sector(s):	General agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (40%), General public administration sector (20%), General water, sanitation and flood protection sector (40%)		
Theme(s):	Regional integration (20%), Environmental policies and institutions (30%), Water resource management (50%)		
Is this project processed under OP 8.50 (Emergency Recovery) or OP 8.00 (Rapid Response to Crises and Emergencies)?			No
Financing (in USD Million)			
Total Project Cost:	10.20	Total Bank Financing:	0.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
Financing Source			Amount
Borrower			0.00
Global Environment Facility (GEF)			7.20
Cooperation in International Waters in Africa (CIWA)			3.00
Total			10.20
Environmental Category	B – Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		
Is this a Transferred project?	No		

B. Project Development Objective(s)/Global Environmental Objective(s)

1. Project Development Objective(s)

The proposed development objective is to strengthen transboundary water resources management in the Volta River Basin through institutional development and implementation of priority actions of the Strategic Action Programme.

2. Global Environmental Objective(s)

Same as above.

C. Project Description

Description. The project is the first support provided to the VBA by the World Bank. It is expected to be implemented over four years with implementation from October 2014 to September 2018. The project will be financed by a \$7.2 million grant from the GEF and \$3 million grant from CIWA, and will consist of four components: (i) Water Charter development for the Volta River Basin; (ii) Facilitating Dialogue, Monitoring and Project Development; and (iii) Implementation of SAP Actions. A fourth component allocates funding related to the Project Management Cost. A parallel, bank-executed activity will be conducted for an institutional assessment of the VBA, and will be financed by an additional \$0.5 million from CIWA. This activity is bank-executed so as to have an independent assessment.

GEF Incrementality. The Global Environmental Objective of the project is “*to strengthen transboundary water resources management in the Volta River Basin through the VBA, including implementation of priority actions of the Strategic Action Programme.*” The proposed GEF funding will further support the baseline development objective provided above and components being supported by CIWA funding. In addition, it will increase the sustainability of and the resilience of the Volta Basin Authority in the face of multiple challenges to the institutional landscape of the basin and improve environmental management practices in the VRB. The proposed project would, among other things, identify and address environmental measures in line with SAP and TDA findings as well as other related needs identified through the VBA Strategic Plan.

The Project components have been designed to capture both the additionality and incrementality in an integrated and cohesive manner, as described below.

Component 1: Water Charter Development (US\$1,487,000). The aim of this first component is to develop a Water Charter which specifies roles and responsibilities of riparian countries with regard to water resources use, strengthens the underpinning of VBA to promote coordinated and harmonized water policies in the Basin and defines guiding principles for improved water resources development and management for the basin such as better integration of IWRM where transboundary resources are concerned. The Water Charter has the objective to: (i) facilitate dialogue and cooperation between member States in the planning and implementation of programs and projects that affect water resources; (ii) strengthen solidarity and promote sub-regional integration and economic cooperation between Member States; (iii) specify the regulations for utilization of water resources of the basin by determining the modalities of allocation of water resources between the different sectors and associated beneficiaries; (iv) specify the regulations on the preservation and protection of the environment, especially those relating to water quality; (v) strengthen collaboration on flood management and defining the modalities for exchanging hydro-meteorological data and flood information; and (vi) define the modalities for participation of water users in decision making on management of the water resources of the Volta basin.

Activities in the development of the Water Charter would include: a stakeholder assessment, a

legal and diagnostic study, preparation of and consultation on the draft charter and dissemination of the signed document. The communication of the final Water Charter to ensure that all stakeholders are aware of their rights and responsibilities links into the Communication Plan under Component 2.

The Water Charter is one of measures identified under the SAP (Component D). GEF funding to this component will contribute to consultations, legal assessments, stakeholder workshops related to development of the Water Charter and other items necessary to ensuring that the Charter is developed in an inclusive way such that there is sufficient ownership from the relevant stakeholders and that the institutional role of VBA related to management of transboundary waters is sufficiently understood and rendered effective.

Component 2. Facilitating Dialogue, Monitoring and Project Development (US\$1,260,000). In order to effectively carry out its coordination role, the Strategic Plan for the period 2010 -2014 recommends that VBA establish a Basin Management and Regulation Committee that will be responsible, among others, for sharing information on current and planned projects in the Member States and generally, improving coordination and monitoring of projects basin-wide. This activity will ultimately strengthen the sustainable management of water resources of the Volta Basin through: (i) acceleration of dialogue, transfer and sharing of knowledge; (ii) effective dissemination of information on ongoing and planned initiatives in the Volta basin for coordination and monitoring purposes; (iii) identification of future collaborative projects; (iv) promotion of dialogue with stakeholders on emerging water-related issues within the basin and the expected role of VBA; (v) facilitation of information sharing, and (vi) increased dissemination and use of project results by policy and decision makers through joint efforts.

The main activities under this component would include: development and signature of collaboration agreements; support to initial meetings and technical forums, and **development and implementation of a communication plan.** This component aims to bring into reality the clear requirement from the VBA Convention and Statutes that all functions of the Authority have strong communication and knowledge dissemination elements. The ultimate goal is to make more fluid interactions between VBA, riparian countries and the Basin water resources community including water-related ministries civil society, academia, NGOs, and development partners.

Based on the principles of transparency and partnership with stakeholders, adhered to in previous GEF projects, GEF incremental support to this component will ensure that the results of the SAP actions are communicated to relevant stakeholders based on the statutes of the Communications Plan. This component will also include provisions for participation of the VBA and other relevant stakeholders to GEF IW-Learn activities. The TDA states that the VBA's mandate is based on core values, among which is a commitment to gender and social equity. As such, a special focus will be made to include women, often the most vulnerable group.

Component 3: Implementation of SAP Actions (US\$6,898,000). This component represents implementation of SAP measures through priority projects. It will support the development of projects that lead to improvements in water quality, flows and ecosystem services. These projects will be designed based on measures identified in the SAP and in consultation with VBA and the riparians. Criteria for choosing the actions have been established, and an initial list for potential actions tentatively proposed (See Annex 4). The criteria ensure that projects being chosen are transboundary in nature. The tentative list includes actions across the four

components of the SAP, integrating measures that directly address physical stresses, to those related to human capacity and knowledge for maintaining the environment to governance and institutional capacity for its management.

Although the priority action projects have yet to be determined, they will likely include watershed management, alleviation of water pollution in pollution hotspots, increasing and sharing environmental information, wetland restoration efforts, coastal bank restoration and others. Furthermore, according to the TDA, women are unequally affected by reduction in water availability. This is then further exacerbated by the limited recognition of gender aspects in the national governance structures. The project will therefore aim to support women through targeted interventions, such as the development of small fields/gardens using drip irrigation systems. Additional measures will be taken to the extent possible to enhance the overall social impact of the project, namely through the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

Component 4: Project Management (US\$555,000). This component will finance project management costs relating to fiduciary management, monitoring and evaluation, technical reporting and audits as well as any operating costs for project management. **This component will support the establishment and implementation of procedures for internal regulations.** The objective of this component is to strengthen VBA's capacity to effectively assume its mandate through the update and finalization of: (i) Manual of Administrative and Financial Procedures; and (ii) establishment and implementation of VBA Focal Structures in Member States.

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

The first two components of the project will comprise of technical assistance activities for the VBA, to take place at the implementing agency, located in Burkina Faso. The project may also include installation of office and communication equipment such as servers and computers for the VBA to deliver its mandated services.

The project also includes implementation of priority action projects based on Strategic Action Programme measures, details and locations of which will be determined during appraisal. The measures will take place within the six countries of the Volta (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo). The measures will target areas with environmental and water resources concerns as defined in the SAP such as concentrated coastal erosion, flood inundation impact areas, degraded ecosystems and watershed, areas where there is proliferation of invasive creatures, tributaries with increased sedimentation, and areas in which climate adaptation techniques are impactful.

E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

The VBA has not yet been involved in any World Bank-financed operations to date and thus has limited familiarity with the World Bank's safeguard policies. However, an assessment of the capacity for handling environmental and social safeguards will be undertaken during pre-appraisal and adequate measures will be put in place to ensure full safeguards compliance.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Environmental safeguards specialist: Abdoulaye Gadiere (AFTN1)

Social safeguards specialist: Salamata Bal (AFTCS)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
OP/BP 4.01:Environmental Assessment	Yes	Among all the components, only component 3 is likely to have potential environmental adverse impacts because it contains activities developed from the SAP priority actions. These activities comprise watershed management, alleviation of water pollution in pollution hotspots, wetland restoration efforts, coastal bank restoration and others. However, the exact locations where these actions will be implemented are not yet known. Consequently, the relevant safeguard instrument to be prepared is an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). This safeguard document will be reviewed, consulted upon and disclosed within the six riparian countries and at InfoShop prior to appraisal.
OP/BP 4.04:Natural Habitats	Yes	OP4.04 is triggered because it is anticipated that some of the SAP actions may overlap with natural habitats. The ESMF will cover the actions needed to ensure compliance with the policy.
OP/BP 4.36:Forests	Yes	One of the environmental measures of the SAP is to restore the vegetative cover of two forested areas within the Volta basin (Samory and Segue forests). If a SAP project is selected in line with this measure, then measures will be taken to ensure effective forest management planning. In addition, the triggering of the policy would pay particular attention on forest resources during the project preparation and its implementation. These aspects will be covered by the ESMF.
OP 4.09:Pest Management	Yes	This policy is triggered for SAP actions which may involve agricultural activities.

		A Pest Management Plan (PMP) will therefore be prepared. Furthermore since water pollution due to the growing use of pesticides was identified in SAP as one of the main challenges in the basin, this Plan will also serve as a step for VBA to address larger issues beyond the purposes of this project. As the ESMF, this safeguard instrument will also be reviewed, consulted upon and disclosed publicly within the six concerned countries prior to appraisal.
OP/BP 4.11:Physical Cultural Resources	No	It is not anticipated that the project will impact any physical cultural resources in the Volta River Basin.
OP/BP 4.10:Indigenous Peoples	No	There are no Indigenous Peoples in the project area.
OP/BP 4.12:Involuntary Resettlement	Yes	The areas for implementation of the SAP Actions have not yet been identified. It is not anticipated that sites involving resettlement will be selected. Nevertheless, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will be prepared to ensure that preventive measures are in place, should any resettlement take place. This RPF will also be reviewed, consulted upon, disclosed in the six riparian countries which host the project and at InfoShop before appraisal.
OP/BP 4.37:Safety of Dams	No	The project will not partake in any part of dam project preparation, rehabilitation or construction. As such, this policy will not be triggered. The SAP priority actions will not have any relation to any dams.
OP/BP 7.50:Projects on International Waterways	Yes	While OP 7.50 is triggered by the project, it is expected since the VBA will be implementing the project on behalf of the 6 riparian countries, notifications will not be required. However VBA will officially inform the Bank in this regard.
OP/BP 7.60:Projects in Disputed Areas	No	There are no disputed areas in the Volta basin.

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS:

It is anticipated that the PAD stage ISDS will be completed by June 12, 2014.

B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS.

It is anticipated that the ESMF, PMP and RPF will be completed by May 16, 2014

IV. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader:	Name: Shelley Mcmillan	
<i>Approved By:</i>		
Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Name: Alexandra Bezeredi	Date: July 29, 2014
Sector Manager:	Name: Jonathan Kamkwala	Date: April 11, 2014

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