

**INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET
APPRAISAL STAGE**

Report No.: ISDSA12892

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 18-Apr-2015

Date ISDS Approved/Disclosed: 19-Apr-2015

I. BASIC INFORMATION

1. Basic Project Data

Country:	Africa	Project ID:	P149969
Project Name:	Volta River Basin Strategic Action Programme Implementation (P149969)		
Task Team Leader(s):	Shelley Mcmillan		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	16-Apr-2015	Estimated Board Date:	21-May-2015
Managing Unit:	GWADR	Lending Instrument:	Investment Project Financing
GEF Focal Area:	International waters		
Sector(s):	General agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (40%), General water, sanitation and flood protection sector (40%), General public administration sector (20%)		
Theme(s):	Water resource management (50%), Environmental policies and institutions (30%), Regional integration (20%)		
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:	10.94	Total Bank Financing:	0.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
Financing Source			Amount
Borrower			0.24
Global Environment Facility (GEF)			7.20
Cooperation in International Waters in Africa			3.50
Total			10.94
Environmental Category:	B - Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		

2. Global Environmental Objective(s)

The proposed global objective is to improve the capacity of the VBA for transboundary water resources management.

3. Project 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 September 2015 to August 2019. The project will be financed by a \$7.2 million grant from the GEF and \$3.5 million grant from CIWA, and will consist of four components: (i) Water Charter Development for the Volta River Basin; (ii) Facilitating Dialogue, Communication and Project Monitoring ; and (iii) Implementation of SAP Priority Actions. A fourth component allocates funding related to the Project Management. 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.

Component 1: Water Charter Development for Volta River Basin (US\$1,992,000). 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 will be developed under the leadership of the legal unit of the VBA, and the process of its development will involve extensive consultations with relevant stakeholders in the member states to ensure ownership of the process and final document. 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; (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.

Component 2: Facilitating Dialogue, Communication and Project Monitoring (US\$1,260,000). In order to effectively carry out its coordination role, the Strategic Plan for the period 2015-2019 recommends that VBA establish communications mechanisms that target different sections of the basin's stakeholders as well as facilitate exchange of information and data on environmental, water resources and monitoring of planned and ongoing projects in the Basin. While some of these efforts are being addressed through the VBA Observatory and other avenues, they are being carried out in ad hoc and non-coordinated manners. As such, this component focuses on the development of a Communications Strategy and Plan which will serve as the guiding document for improving coordination and collaboration among all relevant stakeholders; and on information sharing on current and planned projects in the Basin. A stakeholder assessment will be carried out as part of the development of the Communications Strategy and Plan. The component will also support activities related to participation in the International Water Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW-

Learn).

Component 3: Implementation of SAP Priority Actions (US\$6,898,000). This component represents implementation of SAP measures through priority actions. It supports the development of projects that lead to improvements in water quality, flows and ecosystem services. Initial selection of actions was done based on their transboundary nature, criteria for which was developed through consultation with the VBA; additional consultations with the VBA and its national Focal Points, as well as representatives of local agencies and organizations led to the final choices for priority actions. The list includes actions across Components A and B of the SAP, integrating measures that directly address physical stresses, to those related to human capacity, governance, knowledge and livelihood in maintaining the environment. Priority actions include restoration of flows through river bank rehabilitation, reversal of vegetation degradation through reforestation and enhancing of agricultural practices through water-conserving techniques. Priority actions also include funding for feasibility studies, consultations, capacity building and awareness-raising at the national and local levels and M&E.

Sub-Component 3.1. Reforestation: Being implemented in Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo, this activity builds priority actions based on SAP Actions B.4 and B.7, which highlight the degraded forest ecosystems in these countries. Forest area degradation is attributed to shifting cultivation, transhumance, overgrazing, uncontrolled bush fires used to clear land for agriculture and uncontrolled exploitation of timber and other crops. In Benin and Togo, these challenges are acute along the mountainsides and near river banks of the Pendjari-Oti, whereas in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire these problems occur within the Black Volta sub-basin. All four priority actions will contribute towards conservation of critical ecosystem functions by rehabilitating degraded forest ecosystems in the project sites.

Sub-Component 3.2. River Bank Protection: Being implemented in Burkina Faso, this activity corresponds to SAP Action A.2, which addresses challenges to the water levels of the tributaries of the Mouhoun River, one of the key streams of the Volta, and situated in the northern region of Burkina Faso. These tributaries used to be permanent, but in recent years have been drying due to human impact. Furthermore soil erosion of the river banks is leading to increased sedimentation which is in turn negatively impacting flows.

Sub-Component 3.3. Development of Market Gardens: This component corresponds to Action A.3 and will be implemented in Mali. Small market gardens will be developed using water conserving techniques showcasing alternate forms of irrigation applicable for the Sahel.

Component 4: Project Management (US\$790,000). The component will finance activities related to the management and strengthening of internal processes related to strengthening the capacity of the VBA. This component will also provide support to the PCU to implement the project. It will thus finance costs relating to fiduciary management, monitoring and evaluation of the project's results, technical reporting and audits, additional consultants for the PCU as well as any operating costs such as meetings, workshops, travel expenses and training to assure project implementation according to standards acceptable to IDA

4. 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).

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists

Abdoulaye Gadiere (GENDR)

Salamata Bal (GSURR)

6. Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	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, 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 has been reviewed, consulted upon and disclosed within the six riparian countries on April 7, 2015 and at the InfoShop on April 7, 2015.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	OP4.04 is triggered because it is anticipated that some of the SAP actions may overlap with natural habitats. The ESMF includes guidance on avoiding natural habitats and mitigating impacts, where it is unavoidable.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	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 are addressed in the ESMF.
Pest Management OP 4.09	Yes	This policy is triggered for SAP actions which may involve agricultural activities. An Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) has therefore been prepared, consulted upon and disclosed as part of the ESMF process. 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. The IPMP has been disclosed publicly within the six concerned countries on April 7, 2015 and at the InfoShop on April 7, 2015.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	No	It is not anticipated that the project will impact any physical cultural resources in the Volta River Basin.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	There are no Indigenous Peoples in the project area.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	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) has been prepared to ensure that preventive measures are in place, should any economic or physical displacement take place that is related to land acquisition. This RPF has also been reviewed, consulted upon, disclosed in the six riparian countries which host the project on April 17, 2015 and at InfoShop on April 17, 2015.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	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.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	Yes	The OP 7.50 is triggered by the project. To be in compliance with OP7.50, Projects on International Waterways, the VBA sent a letter for endorsement to all six Volta Basin riparian countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo) on February 20, 2014. In return, the VBA received responses from all the six countries confirming their agreement for this ongoing project.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	There are no disputed areas in the Volta basin.

II. Key Safeguard Policy Issues and Their Management

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

<p>1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:</p> <p>No significant environmental impacts are expected from this project as its intention is to promote sound water resources management and improve natural resources biodiversity. However it is recognized that despite this the project's relatively modest environmental impacts, it is necessary to follow a structured assessment process to ensure that no activities will have unintended consequences on the environment. Based on these aspects, the project is classified as being EA category B and triggers six safeguards policies. There are OP/PB 4.01; OP4.04; OP4.36; OP4.09; OP 4.12 and OP/PB 7.50. The project may take place in or near natural habitats and forests, and so the ESMF includes measures to avoid such areas or mitigate such impacts; it also includes measures for undertaking some reforestation activities. The project will involve pest management, and the focus of the IPMP is to use chemicals as minimally as possible. The project could include</p>
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<p>land acquisition leading to involuntary resettlement and restrictions of access to resources and livelihoods -- most likely some minor land take. Therefore, an RPF has been prepared. To be in compliance with these policies the following safeguard instruments (ESMF, IPMP and RPF) have been prepared reviewed, consulted upon and disclosed in VBA member countries on April 17,2015 and at the infoshop on April 17, 2015. Based on the triggering of OP/PB7.50, a letter for endorsement has been sent to all six Volta Basin riparian countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali and Togo) on February 20, 2014. In return, the VBA received responses from all the six countries mentioning their agreement for this ongoing project.</p> <p>During the whole phase of the project, the ESMF, the IPMP and the RPF will be implemented as guidance/guidelines for any activity that will have to be financed under the project. ESIA's and/or ESMPs and/or RAPs will be prepared as and when necessary.</p>
<p>2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:</p>
<p>No long-term impact due to project activities is foreseen.</p>
<p>3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.</p>
<p>N/A</p>
<p>4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.</p>
<p>The ESMF prepared by the borrower contains: (a) a systematic environmental and social impact assessment for all activities before selection and implementation; (b) procedures for conducting activity-specific Environmental and Social Impacts Assessments (ESIAs) or Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP); (c) capacity strengthening and awareness raising campaigns targeted at relevant stakeholder groups for better implementation and monitoring of project safeguard measures; and (d) establishment and implementation of a consultation framework for the environmental control and monitoring.</p> <p>Similar to the ESMF, the RPF also outlines the principles, organizational arrangements, and design criteria to be applied to investments to be prepared during project implementation. An investment specific Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) will be prepared in line with the RPF and submitted to the bank, as required, for approval after specific design information becomes available.</p> <p>Lastly, the IPMP seeks to provide guidance in how to protect environment, biodiversity and people in case pesticides are used during the project implementation.</p>
<p>5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.</p>
<p>The safeguard documents (ESMF, IPMP and RPF) mentioned above have been consulted upon and disclosed before the Appraisal scheduled for April 17, 2015.</p> <p>While the project aims to ensure a better management of the Volta Basin water resources, the key stakeholders comprising community members living around the main Volta river tributaries, farmers, and breeders in the targeted project sites of the project have been consulted. At these different occasions, they have given their comments, concerns and viewpoints for a better implementation of this ongoing operation. Moreover from February 26-27, 2015 a regional workshop held in Ouagadougou and gathered stakeholders coming from all the six countries with</p>

the goal to review and validate the three safeguard instruments.
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B. Disclosure Requirements

Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other	
Date of receipt by the Bank	13-Mar-2015
Date of submission to InfoShop	07-Apr-2015
For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors	00000000
"In country" Disclosure	
Burkina Faso	07-Apr-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
Benin	07-Apr-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
Cote d'Ivoire	07-Apr-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
Ghana	07-Apr-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
Mali	07-Apr-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
Togo	07-Apr-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Policy Process	
Date of receipt by the Bank	16-Apr-2015
Date of submission to InfoShop	17-Apr-2015
"In country" Disclosure	
Burkina Faso	17-Apr-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
Benin	17-Apr-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
Cote d'Ivoire	17-Apr-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
Ghana	17-Apr-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
Mali	17-Apr-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
Togo	17-Apr-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
Pest Management Plan	
Was the document disclosed prior to appraisal?	Yes
Date of receipt by the Bank	13-Mar-2015

Date of submission to InfoShop	07-Apr-2015
"In country" Disclosure	
Burkina Faso	07-Apr-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
Benin	07-Apr-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
Cote d'Ivoire	07-Apr-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
Ghana	07-Apr-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
Mali	07-Apr-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
Togo	07-Apr-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
If the project triggers the Pest Management and/or Physical Cultural Resources policies, the respective issues are to be addressed and disclosed as part of the Environmental Assessment/Audit/or EMP.	
If in-country disclosure of any of the above documents is not expected, please explain why:	

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level

OP/BP/GP 4.01 - Environment Assessment	
Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?	Yes [<input type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]
OP/BP 4.04 - Natural Habitats	
Would the project result in any significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats?	Yes [<input type="checkbox"/>] No [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
If the project would result in significant conversion or degradation of other (non-critical) natural habitats, does the project include mitigation measures acceptable to the Bank?	Yes [<input type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]
OP 4.09 - Pest Management	
Does the EA adequately address the pest management issues?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Is a separate PMP required?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
If yes, has the PMP been reviewed and approved by a safeguards specialist or PM? Are PMP requirements included in project design? If yes, does the project team include a Pest Management Specialist?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
OP/BP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement	
Has a resettlement plan/abbreviated plan/policy framework/process framework (as appropriate) been prepared?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]

OP/BP 4.36 - Forests		
Has the sector-wide analysis of policy and institutional issues and constraints been carried out?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Does the project design include satisfactory measures to overcome these constraints?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Does the project finance commercial harvesting, and if so, does it include provisions for certification system?	Yes [<input type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
OP 7.50 - Projects on International Waterways		
Have the other riparians been notified of the project?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
If the project falls under one of the exceptions to the notification requirement, has this been cleared with the Legal Department, and the memo to the RVP prepared and sent?	Yes [<input type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]
Has the RVP approved such an exception?	Yes [<input type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]
The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information		
Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank's Infoshop?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
All Safeguard Policies		
Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]

III. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader(s):	Name: Shelley Mcmillan	
<i>Approved By</i>		
Safeguards Advisor:	Name: Alexandra C. Bezeredi (SA)	Date: 18-Apr-2015
Practice Manager/ Manager:	Name: Alexander E. Bakalian (PMGR)	Date: 19-Apr-2015