

# INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET

## CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: ISDSC15426

**Date ISDS Prepared/Updated:** 16-Dec-2015

**Date ISDS Approved/Disclosed:** 23-Feb-2016

### I. BASIC INFORMATION

#### A. Basic Project Data

<b>Country:</b>	Western Africa	<b>Project ID:</b>	P154482
<b>Project Name:</b>	Sahel Irrigation Initiative Support Project (P154482)		
<b>Task Team Leader(s):</b>	Francois Onimus, Elisee Ouedraogo		
<b>Estimated Appraisal Date:</b>	15-Jun-2016	<b>Estimated Board Date:</b>	04-Oct-2016
<b>Managing Unit:</b>	GWA07	<b>Lending Instrument:</b>	Investment Project Financing
<b>Sector(s):</b>	Irrigation and drainage (70%), Agro-industry, marketing, and trade (10%), Vocational training (10%), General water, sanitation and flood protection sector (10%)		
<b>Theme(s):</b>	Rural services and infrastructure (40%), Water resource management (30%), Regional integration (10%), Climate change (10%), Land administration and management (10%)		
<b>Financing (In USD Million)</b>			
Total Project Cost:	173.00	Total Bank Financing:	173.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
<b>Financing Source</b>			<b>Amount</b>
BORROWER/RECIPIENT			0.00
International Development Association (IDA)			173.00
Total			173.00
<b>Environmental Category:</b>	B - Partial Assessment		
<b>Is this a Repeater project?</b>	No		

#### B. Project Objectives

26. The Project Development Objective is to improve stakeholders' planning, investment and management capacity for irrigation service and increase irrigated areas in selected areas in the six countries across the Sahel.

27. Project beneficiaries will include smallholder producers who will benefit directly from selected investments funded under the project and indirectly from the increased capacity of public and private providers to deliver enhanced irrigation service. Other beneficiaries include line ministries and their decentralized services, training and research institutes and their students, public and private operators involved in irrigation development and management, consultancy and construction firms, agribusiness investors, irrigation equipment suppliers and retailers, and producers' organizations. The number of beneficiaries under each category will be determined during preparation. Specific attention will be given to gender balance in all project activities.

### **C. Project Description**

30. The proposed project will be implemented over a period of six year and will have the following three interrelated components.

31. Component A: Modernizing the institutional framework (US\$19 million). This component will help improve the enabling environment for irrigation development and management through the following interventions. It will provide the "foundations" on which the countries can build their broader investment program.

a. Strengthen the ministerial department or agency in charge of irrigation in each country in its planning and oversight role. Multi-country technical assistance will be provided by the regional level to strengthen the national planning processes through (i) sectoral public expenditure review and fiscal impact analysis with a view to enhance the dialogue with the ministries of finance, (ii) stakeholders consultative process to inform the public investment planning process, (iii) harmonization of implementation policies and procedures using guidelines and technical manuals, and (iv) identification of new investments and innovative lines of business to be incorporated in the investment plans. This TA will be complemented with specific studies aiming at filling gaps identified in regulatory frameworks on land and irrigation management. The planning and harmonization activities will take into account the regional dimension of the agenda e.g. market access and shared water resources.

b. Strengthen the relationships between the Government, the implementing entities (public agencies for large scale irrigation and various operators for small scale irrigation) and the water user organizations (WUOs). Regional technical assistance will be provided to design a series of performance-based agreements linking, for each type of irrigation, the three parties involved in irrigation development and management and to facilitate the adoption of this approach. These agreements will clarify the roles and responsibilities of each parties and specify how public funds would be disbursed based on certain performance indicators related to governance, asset management, cost recovery, and service delivery. A specific emphasis will be given at maintenance and renewal financing to ensure the long term viability of the irrigation systems. For the public agencies managing large scale schemes this will build on already existing agreements (lettre de mission for Senegal's SAED, contrat plan for Mali's Office du Niger etc.).

32. Component B: Financing irrigation investment solutions (US\$117 million). This component will be a key element in the overall capacity building strategy by allowing direct application of the knowledge and institutional strengthening supported under the Components A and C. Component B will also directly contribute to the expansion of irrigated areas through targeted financing for irrigation systems with high potential for scaling up but not yet widely disseminated. Investments will be selected with a view to demonstrate the relevance of the proposed solution i.e. a combination of services, technology and infrastructure, and financing mechanism. The component will produce the "bricks" that will be used by the countries to build their irrigation investment portfolio and to improve the performance of existing systems. All investment financed under this component shall be of regional interest in terms of their development potential and will contribute to building the knowledge base and "know-how" at regional level. This component will include the following

interventions.

a. Updating existing studies and financing new studies for irrigation systems development covering about 50,000 hectares. The studies will be selected based on their strategic relevance in supporting the implementation of the various lines of business following the irrigation typology. Studies would include Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments (SESA), where relevant, i.e. when there are environmental and social risks associated with scaling up irrigation development. Groundwater potential maps will also be produced for areas where unsustainable use is a risk.

b. Modernizing existing, functional irrigation systems by e.g. using flow measurement devices, replacing open canals with low pressure pipe systems, developing solar pumping etc. and by providing improved services for operation and maintenance of the schemes. These services may also include agriculture support to beneficiaries of irrigation infrastructure to improve agricultural and commercialization practices as well as water resources management. Modernization solutions will contribute to improve water efficiency and energy efficiency. Implementation will be phased within each country according to institutional readiness and progress made under Component A.

c. Financing development of new small to medium scale irrigation systems with proven scale up potential using harmonized approaches allowing replicability for widespread dissemination. The subprojects to be financed would cover the range of small to medium scale AWM systems including (i) improved rainwater harvesting in lowland areas; (ii) individual smallholder irrigation using adapted technologies; (iii) small- and medium-size irrigation managed by producers' groups and communities. Countries will have the flexibility to adjust their investment plans to their specific context (strengths and weaknesses) and in line with the Component A outputs. It is expected that 20 to 30,000 hectares could be developed in total providing benefits to 10 to 15,000 farmers. Exact numbers will result from the investment choices to be made by the countries during project preparation. The project aims at implementing improved solutions at a scale sufficient to demonstrate their competitiveness and their expansion potential but remaining within limits set to avoid any substantial environmental impacts. The scale shall however allow to establish a wide enough client base to ensure the viability of various professional services (for maintenance etc.) that will be established and strengthened to operate the schemes. These considerations will be incorporated in the local development planning process to be implemented prior to any investment.

33. Component C: Training, knowledge management and coordination (US\$37 million). This component will provide training and knowledge management services specifically related to the tools and approaches developed under Component A and applied to the solutions implemented under Component B for the development and management of irrigation systems. It will also cover the project coordination and communication needs and monitoring and evaluation systems as described below. The regional tools and services supporting the activities described in this component will be designed with a view to ensure their sustainability post-project through appropriate financing mechanisms.

a. Technical assistance for the identification of training needs of various categories of stakeholders, and working with selected institutes with appropriate capacities to develop the required training sessions. The training program will be related to the specific skills and services that will be necessary to deliver the irrigation investment solutions under Component B. Close coordination with on-going education projects in the target countries will be sought to establish complementarity.

b. Financing stakeholders' capacity enhancement needs using a demand driven approach. Operators, investors and producers involved in agricultural water management will be incentivized and enabled to improve their skills in order to meet minimum quality standards in key functions to guarantee irrigation performance. These standards will be established at regional level and cross-fertilization between countries will be sought in the implementation of this training program i.e. stakeholders from one country would be trained in another country on a specific solution that the latter country has developed.

c. Establishment of a regional Knowledge Management (KM) platform including ICT tools, discussion forums, regional workshops, benchmarking activities, and resources for capitalization and dissemination of good practices and for research to development linkages. The use of innovative ICT tools will help ensure a trickle-down effect towards end beneficiaries. Selected research dissemination activities would also be financed following regional call for proposals. A specific focus will be given to improving the performance of public irrigation authorities managing large-scale schemes in the six countries through benchmarking activities.

d. Provision of quality enhancement services to support the above interventions and ensure quality of design and sustainability. This would be done using roster of experts, quality review panels, peer review system and specific tools like water resources mapping and hydrological databases.

e. Improve the commercial environment for the delivery of adapted and competitive irrigation technologies and associated services (including financial services like leasing for example) for producers and field operators through a mix of market information systems, technology standards and quality assurance, and market development support. These activities will be driven at regional level to obtain economies of scale.

f. Monitoring and Evaluation at regional and national level. An integrated M&E system will be developed linking the national systems to the regional one. This system will also be linked to the KM platform in order to benefit from the qualitative information generated through the latter. Remote sensing will be used for the monitoring of irrigated areas.

g. Project coordination and communication at regional and national level, including fiduciary matters, communication, planning, and the monitoring of safeguards mitigation measures. In addition, it will include fund raising activities for the irrigation sector and steer the policy dialogue and advocacy work for improved enabling environment at regional level. Finally, the regional coordination will manage the partnerships with regional and international partners to gather continued support to and alignment with the Sahel Irrigation Initiative. This will require a strong communication effort.

34. All activities under the project shall be of regional interest. This means that they shall (i) address an irrigation-related issue that is common to several countries; and/or (ii) contribute - within and beyond the boundaries of the project – to enhance investment programs and projects of more than one country; and/or (iii) contribute to enabling the environment and/or enhancing capacity in more than one country. Therefore, all activities will be implemented following regionally harmonized approaches framing their implementation with a view to increase their impact and to ensure their replicability from one country to another. These harmonized approaches will also aim at ensuring sustainability of the tools, methodologies, institutions or investments that will be used to implement the project.

35. All three components will be implemented in parallel. However the design of the project will remain flexible so that the first outputs of the component B can inform the planning and institutional improvement processes under Component A and help establish the training priorities under Component C. The investment program under Component B will be established during project preparation for the first 18 months of the project.

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

The Project will be implemented in six countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. Detailed locations of project activities are not yet known. Investment projects under Component B will be identified following a demand driven approach during project implementation; in consultation with the partners involved and other relevant programs and projects so as to develop synergy and build to the extent possible on work already done or planned in these areas.

The areas of intervention are limited to rural areas, and are presumably some of the world's regions most seriously affected by climate change, with major impacts on water availability.

The countries are also sharing four basins:

- 1) The Senegal river basin, shared by four countries: Guinea, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal
- 2) The Niger River basin which spreads over ten countries, including Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Niger
- 3) The Volta River Basin shared by six countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Benin and Togo
- 4) The "conventional" Lake Chad Basin spreading over four countries: Chad, Niger, Nigeria and Cameroon

### **E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies**

The borrower's institutional capacity for safeguard policies varies tremendously from one country to another of the six countries participating in the project. Some of the countries have relatively mature environmental ministries and agencies, sufficient staffing and an adequate regulatory framework, while other countries institutions are relatively young, understaffed and the legal framework missing important elements (annexes, executive regulations, etc.).

The regional structure of the project does however envisage that the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS) will have an overall operational management responsibility from a technical view point. The Committee has the necessary technical knowledge and expertise in environmental and social issues in the region and as such has the technical capacity to identify and flag any safeguards related concerns to the implementation of the safeguards instruments for national-level investments, should any arise during project implementation. The Project also envisages regional training activities to be coordinated and supported by CILSS and other competent bodies, and training Safeguard Policies will be among those activities

Each country will be requested to nominate a Safeguards Focal Point at the early stage of preparation, who will be working in close collaboration with the Project's safeguards specialists. The Safeguards Focal Points will oversee the preparation of the safeguard documents, liaise with local consultants, provide the necessary inputs, and coordinate the organization of the necessary consultations with key concerned stakeholders and the in-country disclosure of the safeguards instruments.

### **F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team**

Dahlia Lotayef (GEN07)

Salamata Bal (GSU01)

## **II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY**

<b>Safeguard Policies</b>	<b>Triggered?</b>	<b>Explanation (Optional)</b>
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	The Project is proposed to be classified as a Category B project due to the fact that potential environmental and social impacts of the irrigation investments to modernize existing functional irrigation systems or to develop new small to medium scale ones are

		<p>expected to be local, site-specific, and easily manageable.</p> <p>A regional Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), with country specific annexes, will be prepared, consulted upon and disclosed before appraisal.</p> <p>Strategic and/or sectoral impact assessments will be developed during implementation in conjunction with the update of existing studies and the preparation of new ones for irrigation systems development. Studies would include Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments (SESA), where relevant, i.e. when there are environmental and social risks associated with scaling up irrigation development. Groundwater potential maps will also be produced for areas where unsustainable use is a risk.</p> <p>The terms of reference for these assessments will be developed during preparation, and prior to appraisal.</p>
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	<p>Although the project is not expected to intervene in any critically important natural habitat, the exact sites of the proposed investments are not yet known. The impacts of severe climate conditions, insecurity and conflicts situations may lead to expanding activities in areas requiring specific management considerations.</p> <p>The team will also confirm during preparation whether any potential sites for project implementation are located within RAMSAR sites, especially in the Niger Inner Delta. If this is the case, appropriate mitigation measures will be identified and integrated in the safeguards documents.</p>
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	
Pest Management OP 4.09	Yes	<p>The project does not intend to finance specific agriculture activities, but the fact that it deals with irrigation schemes for agriculture purposes implies the possibility of handling and using pesticides within the areas of intervention or the areas of influence of the project. Country specific Pest Management Plans will be prepared and annexed to the regional ESMF.</p>
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	Yes	<p>The eligibility criteria for investment projects will</p>

		ensure that no investments are selected in areas with a cultural heritage potential, but given that the exact locations of these activities have not yet been determined, chance-find procedures will be included in work contracts.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	There are no Indigenous Peoples in the project areas, as defined by OP/BP 4.10.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/ BP 4.12	Yes	<p>No physical displacement is anticipated due to the nature of the project. However the intended investments and rehabilitation of small to medium scale irrigation systems to be carried out under the various subprojects, might create a need to compensate for the loss of crops or property caused by the rehabilitation of the irrigation schemes. OP/ BP 4.12 might be potentially triggered as a consequence of these potential losses.</p> <p>As the specific subprojects are not yet clearly defined and the exact sites of the proposed investments are not yet known, it is not yet certain that the RAPs will be carried out at the time being. A regional Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) with country specific annexes, will be prepared, consulted upon and disclosed before appraisal.</p>
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	<p>The scale and the size of the irrigation investments is not likely to have any impacts on existing dam structures, or be affected by these structures. The proposed screening mechanism of sub-projects and related impact assessment process will however include specific instructions to consider the potential impacts, if any, on existing dams within the area of influence of the sub-project, as well as the potential cumulative impacts of sub-projects.</p> <p>New catchment and storage systems to be considered for financing by the project will be limited to small earth dams, for which the project would follow either the FAO guidelines for siting, design and construction of such dams (published in 2010) or other equivalent country specific guidelines which are acceptable to the World Bank.</p>
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	Yes	<p>This irrigation project spans over four basins (see details in Section D on Project location), which calls for the triggering of this policy.</p> <p>Most of the irrigation withdrawals that would be</p>

		<p>financed under the project (some 3500 to 5000 ha for each of the 6 countries on average) would however be scattered, ranging from very small to medium scale and using groundwater or water stored in small earth reservoirs that capture rainwater. Pumping water from international rivers may be considered for some of these small irrigation schemes, and the team will attempt during the early stages of preparation to evaluate the quantitative and geographic impact of these activities onto international rivers and/or aquifers, based on likely assumptions of what the project will finance.</p> <p>Given that: (i) the proposed investments aim at modernizing existing, functional irrigation systems and/or the development of new small to medium scale irrigation systems, and (ii) the project will update existing studies or finance new ones for irrigation systems development, but not including any detailed engineering studies, an exception from the notification requirement will be sought. No additions or alterations are expected at this stage where the investments are mainly to demonstrate irrigation systems with high scaling up potential, without actually doing this scaling up.</p>
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/ BP 7.60	No	

### III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

**A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS:** 01-Jun-2016

**B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing<sup>1</sup> should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS:**

Preparation missions: October 2015 and April 2016

Launch of safeguard related studies: January 2016

Consultations and validation of safeguards instruments: May 2016

### IV. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader(s):	Name: Francois Onimus, Elisee Ouedraogo	
<b>Approved By:</b>		
Safeguards Advisor:	Name: Johanna van Tilburg (SA)	Date: 18-Feb-2016
Practice Manager/ Manager:	Name: Alexander E. Bakalian (PMGR)	Date: 23-Feb-2016

<sup>1</sup> 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.