

**INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET  
APPRAISAL STAGE**

**Report No.: ISDSA1113**

**Date ISDS Prepared/Updated:** 30-Jun-2015

**Date ISDS Approved/Disclosed:** 12-Jul-2015

**I. BASIC INFORMATION**

**1. Basic Project Data**

<b>Country:</b>	Mauritania	<b>Project ID:</b>	P144183
<b>Project Name:</b>	Mauritania Sustainable Landscape Management Project under the SAWAP (P144183)		
<b>Task Team Leader(s):</b>	Dahlia Lotayef		
<b>Estimated Appraisal Date:</b>	22-Jun-2015	<b>Estimated Board Date:</b>	31-Jul-2015
<b>Managing Unit:</b>	GEN01	<b>Lending Instrument:</b>	Investment Project Financing
<b>GEF Focal Area:</b>	Multi-focal area		
<b>Sector(s):</b>	General agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (100%)		
<b>Theme(s):</b>	Water resource management (30%), Land administration and management (30%), Biodiversity (20%), Other environment and natural resources management (20%)		
<b>Is this project processed under OP 8.50 (Emergency Recovery) or OP 8.00 (Rapid Response to Crises and Emergencies)?</b>			No
<b>Financing (In USD Million)</b>			
Total Project Cost:	4.81	Total Bank Financing:	0.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
<b>Financing Source</b>			<b>Amount</b>
Borrower			0.00
Global Environment Facility (GEF)			4.81
Total			4.81
<b>Environmental Category:</b>	B - Partial Assessment		
<b>Is this a Repeater project?</b>	No		

**2. Global Environmental Objective(s)**

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to strengthen sustainable landscape management in targeted productive ecosystems in Mauritania.

### **3. Project Description**

The Project focuses on promoting SLM practices for the recovery of Gum Arabic production and the regeneration of related productive ecosystems. These activities are expected to enhance biodiversity, water and soil conservation and vegetation and soil carbon storage on one hand, and improve the livelihoods resilience of communities involved in the production and sale of Gum Arabic and other sought after natural products (non-timber forest products and fodder), on the other hand. The latter is expected to strengthen the sustainability of supported SLM practices. The Project also aims to enable the development of a sustainable Gum Arabic value chain by enhancing access to commercial markets. The Project will monitor the changes in ecosystem productivity and services as a result of various SLM practices supported by the Project, and disseminate results and lessons learned to other projects under the SAWAP.

The Project will be implemented over five years (2015-2020). Project-financed activities are grouped into the following three components: (i) Component 1: Sustainable Landscape Management Knowledge, Governance and Partnerships; (ii) Component 2: Sustainable Landscape Management Practice; and (iii) Component 3: Project Management.

Component 1: Sustainable Landscape Management Knowledge, Governance and Partnerships (US \$1.31 million)

Expected outcome: Strengthened SLM knowledge base among various stakeholders, an improved governance system and more effective partnerships to support the development of the sector.

Knowledge, governance and partnerships among stakeholders (national and local government agencies, local communities, non-profit organizations and the private sector) involved in SLM in general, and in the Gum Arabic value chain in particular, will be enhanced via the following sub-components:

Sub-component 1.1: Building Sustainable Landscape Management Capacity, Governing Tools and Knowledge Sharing: Institutional and capacity support will be provided to relevant national and local governmental agencies to enhance their ability to mainstream principles of SLM into the valorization and regeneration of degraded ecosystems, with special attention to degraded Gum Arabic ecosystems, and communities involved in Gum Arabic production will receive relevant training. The Project will also support MEDD in formulating a number of governance tools, finance awareness raising activities on social and environmental requirements, support regional exchanges between targeted local SLM associations, workshops and outreach activities, and develop knowledge sharing products to reach a larger audience and make the knowledge accessible.

Sub-component 1.2: Strengthening Monitoring of Ecosystem Services: The MEDD, in specific the Department of Planning, Intersectoral Coordination and Data, and local partners will receive support that would allow them monitor changes in production of Gum Arabic and other non-timber forest products and fodder, and changes in biodiversity conservation, water and soil conservation, and vegetation and soil carbon storage capacity using a participatory approach. To achieve this, a monitoring system will be put in place to enable the evaluation of the impact of the various SLM practices supported by sub-component 2.1. The results of the SLM impact evaluation will guide further project-funded SLM investments, and will be disseminated by MEDD to communi ties

involved in SLM practices. This sub-component will also support a more in-depth assessment of the geographic distribution of Gum Arabic producing ecosystems and the potential for future up-scaling of regeneration practices in terms of water availability.

Sub-component 1.3: Enabling Development of a Sustainable Gum Arabic Value Chain: This sub-component initiates the development of a sustainable Gum Arabic value chain by evaluating the current situation and making policy and regulatory recommendations for improvement, which will subsequently be submitted to the GOM for validation.

Component 2: Sustainable Landscape Management Practice (US\$3.26 million)

Expected outcome: Strengthened management of Gum Arabic producing landscapes, and enhanced integration of SLM considerations in local development planning in the regions of Trarza, Brakna and Gorgol.

Component 2 supports investments in SLM practices in degraded Gum Arabic producing ecosystems and their integration into local development planning, for mutual reinforcement. The objective is to promote and evaluate various SLM practices which aim to recover degraded Gum Arabic ecosystems. By increasing the productivity of Gum Arabic through regeneration and conservation, and exploitation control activities as well as enrichment of other dwindling and sought after woody and herbaceous species that produce non-timber forest products and fodder, the component is expected to result in enhanced biodiversity, soil and water conservation, and vegetation and soil carbon storage. Within the regions of Trarza, Brakna and Gorgol, 116 sites of strong regeneration potential have been pre-identified for SLM interventions; this list will be further narrowed to 60 sites of around 50 hectares each through consultation with local governments and communities. Special awareness and promotional material targeting women will be developed to create demand and increase the number of women benefiting from the investment activities. Activities will be implemented in accordance with the following sub components:

Sub-component 2.1: Investing in Sustainable Landscape Management: This sub-component finances SLM investments in the selected 60 sites along two categories: (i) Participatory SLM investments which support the regeneration of degraded Gum Arabic producing ecosystems; and (ii) Investments which respond to immediate local support and enhance sound environmental management; activities under this category will only be funded in conjunction with the first category investments and not as stand-alone. There will be special focus on inclusion of women, youth and pastoralists in both categories' investments.

Sub-component 2.2: Integrating Sustainable Landscape Management Practices in Local Development Planning: This sub-component supports the integration of project objectives and activities into local communal plans for mutual reinforcement, in collaboration with the LGDP and the upcoming Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project (PRAPS). Up to 6 sub-regional local development plans integrating SLM, each one concerning a number of communes in one of the regions Trarza, Brakna and Gorgol, will be developed while building on previous efforts where possible.

Types of SLM investments supported by the Project

Category 1: Participatory SLM investments

Exploitation control:

- Fencing and/or guarding of plots

Regeneration of Gum Arabic producing tree species:

- Establishment of Gum Arabic tree nurseries
- Planting of juvenile Gum Arabic trees in plots

Enrichment/revegetation with other indigenous woody species for non-timber products:

- Establishment of tree nurseries with e.g., *Adansonia digitata*, *Ziziphus Mauritania*, *Ziziphus Mauritanica*, *Commiphora Africana*, *Sclerocarya birrea*

Enrichment/revegetation with indigenous herbaceous species for fodder production: *Panicum turgidum*, *Aristida pungens*

Soil and water conservation practices:

- Stone bunds, half-moon structures, traditional mini-water catchment practices (Zai), sand dune fixation, gully stabilizing measures (reshaping, filling, revegetation), riverbank repair (structural support, revegetation).

Bush-fire control/prevention measures (par feux)

Category 2: Immediate local support investments

Enhancement of vegetable gardening:

- Establishment of vegetable gardens
- Improving planting practices

Improvement of watering facilities:

- Repair of existing water pumps
- Small-scale irrigation measures (new shallow water wells)

Provision of improved fuel stoves and/or gas burners and solar energy equipment

Establishment of local community boutiques to sell natural products

Support income generating activities (dairy, fish farming, beekeeping, etc.)

Component 3: Project Management (US\$0.24 million)

Expected outcome: Effective project management and M&E.

This component provides project management support to the MEDD by financing: (i) a project management and administration training workshop, including procurement; (ii) a project launch workshop; (iii) the hiring of an M&E consultant and a technical advisor for a limited period of time for capacity enhancement within the ME DD; (iv) hiring of an external auditing firm to carry out annual external audits; (v) hiring of a full-time agro-forestry specialist and three full time local administrative assistants; and (vi) operating costs associated with project management at the central and local levels (preparation of annual work plans, procurement plans and budgets, coordination of activities, preparation of progress and financial reports, procurement and financial management).

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

The Project target zones are the Traza, Brakna and Gorgol districts, in the southern Mauritania. Sixty sites of intervention have been pre-selected within the three districts. Being in the transition area between the Sahara and the Sahel zone, the landscapes of these regions are being more degraded because of drought and inadequate agricultural practices.

#### **5. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists**

Medou Lo (GEN07)

Salamata Bal (GSURR)

<b>6. Safeguard Policies</b>	<b>Triggered?</b>	<b>Explanation (Optional)</b>
------------------------------	-------------------	-------------------------------

Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	<p>No activity funded under the project is expected to have a significant negative environmental or social impact. Only some initiatives under component 2 have the potential for minimal adverse social and environmental impacts which are easily identified, minimized and mitigated by simple intervention. Therefore, the Project is classified as an EA Category B project, requiring partial assessment.</p> <p>An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been prepared, since the specific sites and scale of subprojects are unknown at this stage. The ESMF describes the standard mitigation activities for the types of project interventions possible, and formulates standard methods and procedures along with institutional arrangements for screening, review, approval, implementation and monitoring of subprojects' specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs).</p> <p>The ESMF includes a budget for mitigation activities, and describes training that will be provided from the national to the local level to adequately implement and monitor safeguard activities.</p> <p>The ESMF has been developed in consultation with potentially affected communities and other stakeholders, and disclosed in-country and at the InfoShop on June 9, 2015</p>
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	The project will not lead to degradation of any natural habitat. Instead, project activities will bolster natural habitats in the three regions of Mauritania.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	Project activities are expected to improve the management and status of forests in the three project areas.
Pest Management OP 4.09	Yes	<p>The Project may invest in agroforestry activities that may require the use of pest control methods and pesticides management on the part of local producers.</p> <p>The Pest Management Plan (PMP) prepared for the Agriculture Development and Food Price Response Project (Additional Financing, P128994) and disclosed in Mauritania and at the InfoShop in September 2012, has been updated and re-disclosed in-country and at the InfoShop on June 4, 2015</p>
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	Yes	The Project will not support any activities that would adversely impact any known physical cultural resources as defined in OP 4.11. However, the project may finance activities involving excavation; therefore, the ESMF comprises standard measures to be included in the

		companies' contracts, in case any chance finds occurs.
Indigenous Peoples OP/ BP 4.10	No	There are no Indigenous Peoples, as defined by OP 4.10, present in the Project areas.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	This policy is triggered despite the fact that the planned types of activities are not expected to lead to land acquisition or significant restriction of access to sources of livelihood. A Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) has been prepared and will be used as a guide to prepare specific Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) as and when needed. The RPF was disclosed in-country and at the InfoShop on June 4, 2015.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	The project does not involve any construction or rehabilitation of dams.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	This project will not take place on any international waterways, and will not support activities that will impact international waterways.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	This project will not take place in any disputed areas as defined under OP 7.60, and will nor support any activities that will impact disputed areas.

## II. Key Safeguard Policy Issues and Their Management

### A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

#### 1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

The project has been assigned the Environmental Category B because no activity funded under the project is expected to have a significant negative environmental or social impact. The potential environmental and social negative impacts of the proposed project are associated with the implementation of Component 2, which is designed to support various activities in land, water and forest management, and biodiversity conservation, in conjunction with investments to respond to immediate locale interest. These activities may have some social and environmental impacts which are likely to be minimal, site-specific and manageable. These impacts include: loss of vegetation due to land clearing, soil erosion and degradation due to activities involving excavation, poor construction-related waste management, nuisance due to dust and noise from construction activities, risks of increased prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other STDs due to foreign workers on construction sites, environmental and health risks associated with use of pesticides.

The Project triggers OP/BP 4.01 on Environmental Assessment (EA); OP/BP 4.04 on Natural Habitats; OP 4.09 on Pest Management; OP/BP 4.11 on Physical Cultural Resources; OP/BP 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement; and OP 4.36 on Forests. In conformity with the World Bank' requirements and the Government's Environmental Impact Assessment legislation, an ESMF was prepared, consulted upon and disclosed prior to appraisal, along with a RPF, and a PMP.

OP/BP 4.04 on Natural Habitats is triggered due to project activities to bolster natural habitats in the targeted areas; OP 4.36 on Forests is triggered due to forest management activities funded by the Project, which are expected to improve the management and status of forests in the three project areas; OP/BP 4.09 on Pest Management is triggered because investments in agroforestry

<p>activities may require the use of pest control methods and pesticides management on the part of local producers; and OP/BP 4.11 on Physical Cultural Resources is triggered to reflect the possibility that artifacts could be revealed during field work.</p> <p>No large-scale or irreversible adverse impact has been identified during the participatory ESMF and RPF analysis conducted and approved by stakeholders.</p>
<p><b>2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:</b></p>
<p>No adverse long term impact has been identified during the EA process. Instead, the project is expected to deliver significant environmental and social benefits by enhancing the capacity of the MEDD and the main actors at the local level in mainstreaming principles of sustainable land, water and forest management as well as biodiversity conservation and valorization into local development. The dissemination of sustainable land, water (including watersheds) and forest management practices are expected to improve the productivity of agroforestry activities and to reduce the negative trends in land degradation. However, project activities in agroforestry could potentially induce indirect, but manageable impacts associated with increased use of agrochemicals, such as pesticides. These issues are addressed in the Pest Management Plan.</p>
<p><b>3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.</b></p>
<p>N/A</p>
<p><b>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.</b></p>
<p>The ESMF and the RPF include sound institutional arrangements, outlining the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders involved, for screening, review and approval of sub-projects, as well as implementation and monitoring of their mitigation measures. The ESMF guaranties sustainability through mitigation measures. All sub-projects will be subject to environmental and social screening to minimize the potential negative impacts of these activities. And where applicable, a simplified Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA, including an ESMP) and/or a RAP will be carried out, approved by the Directorate of Environmental Control (DCE, attached to the MEDD) and the World Bank before on the ground activities commence. All bidding documents for works contracts will have environmental and social clauses incorporated, in order to enable contractors to follow up on environmental and social due diligence and to mitigate the anticipated negative impacts.</p> <p>Given the potential project activities in agroforestry that may require the use of agrochemicals, such as pesticides, the Pest Management Plan specifies mitigation measures such as promotion of best practices of pesticide management and non-chemical pest control techniques, mitigation of negative impacts on biophysics and human environment.</p> <p>Compliance with the implementation of environmental and social measures will be monitored by the project environmental specialist in connection with the DCE.</p> <p>The project will be implemented by the MEDD, through its Directorate of Nature Protection (DNP), which has limited capacity in implementing safeguards policy requirement for the World Bank projects. The Project Coordination Unit will comprise an environmental and social safeguard specialist. The ESMF outlines capacity building/strengthening needed at the national, regional and community level to adequately implement the safeguard instruments. In addition, the Local</p>

Government Development Project (approved in May 2013) is expected to strengthen the role of the Department of Environmental Control in overseeing project safeguard compliance.
<b>5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.</b>
The key stakeholders identified are the Government through the MEDD, decentralized services, local authorities, affected communities and civil society. Throughout the entire process of project preparation, consultations with stakeholders were held, and they will remain engaged during the implementation stage of the project. The key concerns raised by the local stakeholders are related to land degradation issues that affect their livelihood, mainly the reduction of arable lands due to water erosion and silting of lowlands, and the decrease in traditional fishing activities (drying out of ponds). They have been incorporated in the project design: in addition to the SLM activities of the project, the Sub-component 2.1 will support investments to respond to immediate local interest.
As part of the ESMF and the RPF, public consultation meetings were held to share the results of the studies, mainstream ownership and seek input in order to improve quality and soundness of these safeguards instruments. Final safeguards reports (ESMF, RPF and PMP) were disclosed in-country and at the InfoShop on June 9, 2015, June 4, 2015 and June 4, 2015, respectively. The ESMF describes a comprehensive consultation mechanism and disclosure during sub-projects preparation.

### **B. Disclosure Requirements**

<b>Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other</b>	
Date of receipt by the Bank	04-Jun-2015
Date of submission to InfoShop	09-Jun-2015
For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors	////
"In country" Disclosure	
Mauritania	09-Jun-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
<b>Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Policy Process</b>	
Date of receipt by the Bank	04-Jun-2015
Date of submission to InfoShop	04-Jun-2015
"In country" Disclosure	
Mauritania	04-Jun-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
<b>Pest Management Plan</b>	
Was the document disclosed prior to appraisal?	Yes
Date of receipt by the Bank	04-Jun-2015
Date of submission to InfoShop	04-Jun-2015
"In country" Disclosure	
Mauritania	04-Jun-2015
<i>Comments:</i>	
<b>If the project triggers the Pest Management and/or Physical Cultural Resources policies, the</b>	



<b>respective issues are to be addressed and disclosed as part of the Environmental Assessment/Audit/or EMP.</b>
<b>If in-country disclosure of any of the above documents is not expected, please explain why:</b>

### ***C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level***

<b>OP/BP/GP 4.01 - Environment Assessment</b>			
Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?	Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ]	No [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]	NA [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]
If yes, then did the Regional Environment Unit or Practice Manager (PM) review and approve the EA report?	Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ]	No [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]	NA [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]
Are the cost and the accountabilities for the EMP incorporated in the credit/loan?	Yes [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ]	No [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]	NA [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]
<b>OP/BP 4.04 - Natural Habitats</b>			
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"/> ]
<b>OP 4.09 - Pest Management</b>			
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"/> ]
<b>OP/BP 4.11 - Physical Cultural Resources</b>			
Does the EA include adequate measures related to cultural property?	Yes [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]	No [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]	NA [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]
Does the credit/loan incorporate mechanisms to mitigate the potential adverse impacts on cultural property?	Yes [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]	No [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]	NA [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]
<b>OP/BP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement</b>			
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"/> ]
<b>OP/BP 4.36 - Forests</b>			
Has the sector-wide analysis of policy and institutional issues and constraints been carried out?	Yes [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]	No [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]	NA [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ]
Does the project design include satisfactory measures to overcome these constraints?	Yes [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]	No [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]	NA [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ]
Does the project finance commercial harvesting, and if so, does it include provisions for certification system?	Yes [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]	No [ <input type="checkbox"/> ]	NA [ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ]

<b>The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information</b>	
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"/> ]
<b>All Safeguard Policies</b>	
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: Dahlia Lotayef	
<b><i>Approved By</i></b>		
Safeguards Advisor:	Name:	Date:
Practice Manager/ Manager:	Name:	Date: