

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET

CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: ISDSC8244

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 17-Nov-2014

Date ISDS Approved/Disclosed: 29-Jun-2015

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

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

B. Project Objectives

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to expand sustainable land, forest and water management practices in targeted productive ecosystems in Mauritania using a value chain approach.

C. Project Description

1) The Project will support targeted interventions and community level investments aiming at integrating biodiversity conservation into sustainable land, water and forest management of a select number of productive ecosystems, following two complementary approaches: (i) an integrated value chain approach; and (ii) integrated landscape management approach. The Project will more specifically focus on the conservation and increase of gum arabic producing tree populations, i.e., *Acacia senegal* and *Acacia seyal*. This will provide an opportunity for rural communities involved in gum arabic production in the targeted zones to generate additional income and increase the resilience of their livelihoods through better integration into agro-biodiversity value chains, and commercial markets. Mauritania has been historically known to be the second exporter of gum arabic in the world with an average annual production of 5,700 tons between 1968 and 1972. At present, Mauritania is facing severe degradation of its timber and non-timber forest resources, and this production has decreased to around 300 tons/year, despite a modest regeneration favored by a recent improvement in rainfall.

- 2) The project will be implemented over five years, and includes three components:
- Component 1: Sustainable Landscape Management (SLM) Knowledge, Governance and Partnerships
 - Component 2: Investment in SLM
 - Component 3: Project Management

Component 1: SLM Knowledge, Governance and Partnerships (?US\$ 954,000)

3) This component consists of three sub-components which jointly will strengthen the knowledge, governance and partnerships within and among the many stakeholders (national and local government agencies, local communities, non-profit organizations and the private sector) involved in SLM in general and in particular relating to gum producing natural landscapes and the Gum Arabic value chain.

Sub-component 1.1: Building SLM Capacity, Governing Tools and Knowledge Sharing (US\$.1/3.)

4) This sub-component supports training of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD) and relevant partners in mainstreaming principles of SLM into the valorization and regeneration of degraded natural ecosystems. Special attention will be given to the preservation and regeneration of Gum Arabic producing landscapes, targeting both sylvo- pastoral and agro-sylvo- pastoral areas. This also includes the practice of enrichment of such landscape with other dwindling woody (e.g. *Adansonia digitana* (Baobab), *Sclerocarya birrea*, *Commiphora africana* and *Ziziphus mauritiana* and *Ziziphus mauritica*) and herbaceous species (mostly fodder grasses), as well as the practice of various compatible soil and water conservation methodologies (e.g. stone or earth bunds or lines, 'demi-lune', zai and other planting pit technologies used in (semi-) arid ecosystems). In addition, training will be given to Gum Arabic producing communities/associations, as to improve the production of Gum Arabic as related to selection and conservation of tree seeds and the harvesting and storage of Gum Arabic. All training sessions will be based on available modules developed by APEFE, the completed WB Community-based Watershed Management project, the MDG project and PROLPRAF.

5) This sub-component will also support the MEDD in the development of sectoral governing tools, namely the formulation of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) guidelines, Environmental and Social Safeguards requirements and best practices relating to forest preservation/regeneration initiatives. Subsequently, relevant associations will receive training in how to comply to such EIA and safeguards requirements.

6) This sub-component will also i) organize regional cross-site exchanges between targeted local SLM associations; ii) hold workshops and outreach activities involving national and international stakeholders networks and iii) develop knowledge sharing products to reach a larger audience and make the knowledge accessible for an indefinite time period (e.g. project flyer, web portal ?) Assistance will be provided by the BRICKS Regional Knowledge Hub Project.

Sub-component 1.2: Strengthening Monitoring of Environmental Services (US \$...1/3...)

7) This sub-component aims to support the MEDD – more precisely the Department of Planification - and the targeted local partners, in the monitoring of changes in environmental services of landscapes. To this goal, a participative monitoring systems will be installed which evaluates the impact and cost-effectiveness of the varying supported SLM practices (Component 2.2.) on enhancing maintenance of biodiversity, water and soil conservation, and biomass carbon storage. This system will be aligned and feeding into the existing governmental national environmental data management systems, currently supported by REPSAHEL/OSS. The monitoring activities will cover the needs of the three GEF M&E Tracking Tools pertaining to this project, relating to Biodiversity, Land Degradation and Sustainable Forest Management. Relevant training sessions will be held on national and local levels. This approach intends to support the sustainability of the monitoring activities beyond the Project's lifespan. The lessons learned from the results of these monitoring activities will guide project activities during its lifetime (see 2.1) and could be used by the the MEDD in relation to awareness raising and extension services. OSS, as mediated by BRICKS Regional Knowledge Hub Project and the TerrAfrica Platform for SLM, will provide technical assistance to this activity.

Sub-component 1.3: Enabling Development of a Sustainable Gum Arabic Value Chain (US\$..1/3..)

8) This sub-component supports development of a sustainable Gum Arabic value chain by evaluating the current situation while identifying development opportunities, such as to make recommendations for improvement available. Activities involved are : i) analyzing the socio-economic situation of the Gum Arabic value chain covering a cost-benefit analyses both within the value chain itself and its weight in the national economy , such as its contribution to GDP; ii) inventory and mapping of the geographic distribution of Gum Arabic producing trees and evaluating potential for further development (e.g. as related to hydrology) ; iii) reviewing policy, legislative, regulatory and financial frameworks to identify opportunities for reform (e.g. such as related to the code forestier 2007 which describes the gum producing Acacia Senegal as a protected species and constraints related to land tenure) ; iv) organizing two times, earlier and later in project life time, an national discussion platform event representing the various Gum Arabic value chain stakeholders (growers, harvesters, traders, financiers and government and civil organizations) and v) training of local stakeholders in best practices, project management and development of relevant entrepreneurial associations.

Component 2: Investment in Sustainable Landscape Management (?US\$ 3,250,000)

9) This component supports the implementation of SLM practices within productive ecosystems with high potential for preservation and regeneration of Gum Arabic producing trees within the capital district of Trarza and the regional districts of Brakna and Gorgol.

Component 2.1: Development of Regional Sustainable Landscape Management Plans (? US..1/10)

10) This sub-component supports the participatory development of SLM plans for the three targeted regions with the objective to guide the expansion and nature of the various SLM practices over the lifespan of the Project. For the Gorgol region, the SLM plan will build on the available Beylougue Watershed Management plan with help of the previous established watershed management association. For the other two regions, new plans will be developed and where possible integrated in the local community plans being established by the on-going PNIDDLE (Projet National Intégré Pour la Décentralisation de Développement Local et L'Emploi des Jeunes).

11) During project preparation about 60 sites (of which 80 % sylvo-pastoral and 20% agro-sylvo-pastoral) were pre-selected within the three regions, as of interest to be targeted for SLM practices, over the Project's life time.

12) SLM practices of the the sylvo-pastoral land parcels entails the preservation and regeneration of the GumArabic producing natural ecosystems, while enriching the existing vegetation with other dwindling and sought for indigenous woody (e.g. *Adansonia digitana* (Baobab), *Sclerocarya birrea*, *Commiphora Africana* and *Ziziphus mauritiana* and *Ziziphus mauritiaca*) and herbaceous species. Management of the much sparser agro-sylvo-pastoral land parcels in such ecosystems, will entail the preservation and/or introduction of Gum Arabic producing tree species and/or other sought for indigenous tree species within cultivated areas. On both type of land parcels such activities will be accompanied by compatible soil and water conserving practices (e.g stone or earth bunds or lines, 'demi-lune', zai and other planting pit technologies used in (semi-) arid ecosystems) The exact nature of the SLM practices will be determined by the outcome of an IUCN study on best practices to preserve and regenerate Gum Arabic producing natural landscapes and the input from local communities.

13) The SLM plans will yearly be updated as influenced by actual progress, preliminary result of the monitoring of environmental services as linked SLM practices (Component 1.2) and input from pertinent community land management fora.

Component 2.2: Practicing Sustainable Landscape Management (US\$.9/10)

14) Once agreed on the selected plots and SLM activities to be implemented during the first project year, the participatory monitoring of changes of environmental services will be started within and outside the selected plots. Then, once the respective communities have received relevant SLM training in each of the three regions, the SLM practices will start to be implemented and expanded according to the five year SLM plans.

15) To strengthen the trust and incentives of the communities to continue to support the SLM practices, part of the budget, about 10 to 20% per site/village, may be allocated to other activities which will support the local economy as related to sound environmental management. Examples are support given to improve vegetable gardens, to improve watering facilities, to restore river banks (needed in Gorgol watershed), to deliver improved fuel stoves, gaz burners, and establishment of local boutiques to sell product such as Gum Arabic, fodder etc.)

Component 3: Project Management (?<US\$ 585,000)

16) This component supports the MEDD in management of the Project by financing: (i) a project management and administration training workshop covering procurement best practices; (ii) a project launching workshop; iv) hiring of an Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) officer and (v) implementation of project management (preparation of annual work and budget plans, updating of Project Results Framework, coordination of activities at national and local levels, progress reports, operating costs).

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

E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Dahlia Lotayef (GENDR)

Medou Lo (GENDR)

Salamata Bal (GSURR)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	<p>The project is expected to have minimal adverse impacts on the environment. Nonetheless, the Project may invest in activities – such as small-scale rehabilitation projects or small scale irrigation infrastructures – that have the potential for minimal adverse social and environmental impacts. Adverse impacts from these small-scale operations are easily identified, minimized and mitigated by simple interventions.</p> <p>During preparation, the recipient will prepare an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), since the specific sites and scale of subprojects are unknown at this stage, to screen all potential investments for adverse environmental impacts, guide execution of any activities such that adverse impacts are avoided, minimized, and mitigated, and describe the standard mitigation activities for the types of project interventions possible. This ESMF will include a budget for mitigation activities, outline who will be responsible for what, and describe ongoing trainings that will be provided to the Directorate in support of implementing safeguard activities.</p> <p>The ESMF will be developed in consultation with potentially affected communities and other stakeholders, and a draft will be shared with them in advance of public consultation. The final draft will be widely disclosed publicly in a form accessible to Project stakeholders. The ESMF will be reviewed and cleared by the national environmental agency and the Bank, then disclosed in-country and at Bank Infoshop, prior to appraisal.</p>
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	Project activities will bolster natural habitats in the three regions of Mauritania. As such, the changes in management of natural habitats will be for the better.

Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	Project activities will improve the management and status of forests in the three project areas.
Pest Management OP 4.09	Yes	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. The recipient will prepare a Pest Management Plan as part of the Project ESMF to outline the standards for the purchase, application, storage and disposal of pesticides.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	No	The Project is not expected to support any activities that would directly and adversely impact any physical cultural resources as defined in OP 4.11.
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	The Project will not support the acquisition of land or the physical resettlement of people. Nonetheless, the Project may support activities that restrict access to resources within protected areas. In this case, the recipient will prepare a Process Framework as part of the ESMF to outline the activities necessary to consult with users about potential restrictions, identify potential losses as a result of the restrictions, and develop alternatives to offset these potential losses.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	This project will not involve building dams nor is it dependent upon an existing dam.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	This project will not take place on any international waterways, nor support any 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, nor support any activities that will impact disputed areas.

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS: 31-May-2014

B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed.

The specific studies and their timing¹ should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS:

The project-level ESMF will be prepared, disclosed, consulted upon and finalized prior to appraisal.

IV. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader(s):	Name: Dahlia Lotayef	
Approved By:		
Safeguards Advisor:	Name: Johanna van Tilburg (SA)	Date: 29-Jun-2015

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.

Practice Manager/ Manager:	Name: Benoit Bosquet (PMGR)	Date: 29-Jun-2015
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