Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 06/15/2020 | Report No: ESRSA00508
BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Project ID</th>
<th>Parent Project ID (if any)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mauritania</td>
<td>AFRICA</td>
<td>P168847</td>
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</table>

Project Name: Integrated Agriculture and Livestock in Dryland Areas

Practice Area (Lead): Agriculture and Food

Financing Instrument: Investment Project Financing

Estimated Appraisal Date: 6/1/2020

Estimated Board Date: 7/30/2020

Borrower(s): Ministere de la Finance

Implementing Agency(ies): Ministere du Development Rural

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The PDO is to 'Improve agriculture and livestock productivity and strengthen resilience of beneficiary rural households in the targeted dryland areas in Mauritania'.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financing (in USD Million)</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Project Cost</td>
<td>40.00</td>
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</table>

B. Is the project being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

No

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project [including overview of Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to CPF]

The project will intervene in 7 regions (wilayas) of the Southeast of the country (Brakna, the southern part of Tagant, Gorgol, Guidimaka, Assaba, Hodh ech Chargui, and Hodh el Gharbi) primarily selected for their high level of poverty (the bottom 40% of Mauritians are predominantly rural livestock and agricultural producers that are concentrated in the southern regions). These areas are home to vulnerable populations who are highly food and nutrition insecure and are the main target beneficiaries of the project.
At this stage, it is envisaged that the project can be structured around 4 main components:

Component 1: Improve agriculture and livestock practices to secure resilience of people and landscape (US$18.00 million) - This component's objective is to restore and further develop selected landscapes in dryland areas as well as to accelerate adoption of more resilient agriculture practices on this newly productive foundation. The preparation of concerted and comprehensive sub-watershed level landscape restoration and productivity enhancement plans aligned with local needs and specificities will be assisted by mobilizing communities and government technical services in combination with ad hoc technical expertise as needed. Plans will include activities on engaging communities to understand how traditional knowledge and practices can play a role in shaping resilient agriculture practices. These plans may include (without being limited to) the rehabilitation and upgrading of water management structures to retain rain water and surface runoffs in some cases associated to Types 1, 2 and 3 small-scale irrigation systems as well as anti-erosion control works, environmental restoration and afforestation, productive services (such as vaccination pens and slaughter slabs). Producers in the areas concerned will also benefit from additional technical support (demonstration, inputs) to maximize the potential productivity gains from these developments and accelerate adoption of climate smart practices. This component will include specific activities for women such as specific sessions dedicated to women needs and specificities. Expected results would be more climate-resilient populations and landscapes through more diversified and intensive production methods, and more abundant and nutritious food sources.

Component 2: Support valorization of local resources and foster diversified income generation (US$12.00 million) - The objective of this component is to consolidate the economic base of rural households in the project area through the co-financing and support of Income Generating Activities (IGAs). Eligible activities include (i) the marketing or simple processing (e.g. drying, bagging or packaging.) of traditional products (e.g. cereals as millet, sorghum or cowpea, fodder, horticultural products, milk and other animal products), (ii) innovation and diversification of activities (e.g. creation of poultry farms, harvesting and packaging Arabic gum, producing oils or powders for medicinal or cosmetic purposes), and (iii) the provision and sale of basic agricultural services such as crop treatment services, rental of equipment, sale of inputs (fertilizers, multiplication and sale of improved vegetable and animal seeds), transportation or storage. It will include a mechanism to ensure meaningful and inclusive consultation with citizens and beneficiaries and collect feedback how IGAs and micro enterprises may better incorporate traditional knowledge and customary practices which is central to cultural resilience, social cohesion and social sustainability. The project will particularly support the increase of women undertaking IGAs or micro enterprises to reduce the gender gap in women’s economic participation in productive activities. A mechanism involving positive discrimination of female applicants and provide tailored gender specific training will be reflected in the PIM and the project will prioritize resources to communes where women participation in greatest.

Component 3: Institutional support to improve agriculture and livestock productivity, and landscapes (US$6.0 million). The objective of this component is to strengthen the capacity of the MDR to plan and implement interventions adapted to the dryland context, including in preparation and response to shocks and crises. The component will carry out a program of activities to improve the immediate and medium-term human, organizational and institutional capacity of select MDR entities.

Component 4: Project Management and Monitoring Evaluation (US $ 4.0 million). This component will support the functioning of the Project Implementing Unit (PIU) within the MDR at central and regional (wilaya) levels. The component will finance the costs of the PIU, including consultant fees, daily subsistence allowances (DSA) and running
costs, such as transport, office equipment, furniture, tools, and internal and external audits, among others. It will also finance the costs of project launching, M&E, project sensitization and communication, supervision, staff training (on the Environmental and Social Management Framework – ESMF, Resettlement Policy Framework, Social Assessment, MIS and Kobotool Box, financial management and procurement, as well as Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)/Sexual Harassment (SH) prevention measures, and incorporating traditional knowledge and cultural practices in programming and services, enhancing social inclusion etc.), learning events, performing studies and analyses in relevant areas and other administration expenses. This component will include specific activities to enhance the project benefits and other positive impacts on women.

D. Environmental and Social Overview
D.1. Detailed project location(s) and salient physical characteristics relevant to the E&S assessment [geographic, environmental, social]

The project aims to improve agriculture and livestock productivity and strengthen the resilience of beneficiary rural households (including pastoralists and farmers) in targeted dryland areas of Mauritania. It will focus on developing the agricultural and sedentary livestock production potential of the dryland regions of Assaba, Brakna, Gorgol, and Tagant, as well as the two Hodhs. Resilience will be improved through support for livelihood diversification, by providing financial and technical support for the development of income-generating activities adapted to local conditions and connected to market and consumer demand. As a cross-cutting measure, institutional support will strengthen the capacity of government services to monitor the situation, plan appropriate responses (including in the event of a crisis), and deliver the necessary agricultural services. The project will target returnees, refugees, pastoralists, farmers, women, youth and other vulnerable people and groups by offering a range of livelihood support opportunities and citizen engagement mechanisms to enhance inclusion, voice and empowerment. Gender actions per component are also included in the project design.

Subject to increasing climatic constraints, and having received less attention and support than irrigated areas, these areas are home to vulnerable populations, such as pastoralists, farmers, women, youth, and returnees who are highly food/nutrition, water and land insecure, and are the main target beneficiaries of the project. The areas of intervention identified are also priority areas for the social safety net project in which a systematic registration of vulnerable households is being started. This social register, under the General Direction for Development Policies and Strategies (DGPSD) of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, represents a considerable body of work that could be of great interest to the Ministry of Development Rural for the identification of beneficiaries and the monitoring of the impact of its actions and investments on the improvement of the living conditions of the targeted beneficiaries.

In the context of an already challenging desert landscape and a ground water table that is dropping, increasing climate variability presents huge challenges for the future of rural areas in Mauritania. The rainfed production of traditional sorghum, millet, and cowpea crops has dropped sharply over the past 15 years. In many areas, the localized over-exploitation of natural resources has led to environmental degradation, compounded by unreliable and diminishing rainfall. Until now, rainfed farming has been largely left out of targeted support programs and the sector has been left behind in terms of the adoption of more modern farm practices, effective access and the use of quality inputs, with only very few services that would help with improved knowledge acquisition by farmers, or infrastructure that would help in the marketing and value addition of rainfed production. Very traditional crop production and livestock husbandry practices in the areas mean populations are missing potential opportunities for adding value to
crop residues or the post-rainfall harvesting of vegetation for livestock fodder, as well as the sustainable harvesting of forest and bush by-products. Mauritania’s strong winds favor the relentless advance of sand dunes, sterilizing cropland and pastures. Vast areas of land are being claimed by the desert and becoming unsuitable for both agriculture and livestock, threatening the livelihood and survival of the populations affected. A better integration of crop production potential, along with more integrated livestock husbandry practices, would improve land and water conservation and have a positively impact on the landscape. Community resilience (including among returnees, refugees, women, youth and other vulnerable people and groups) can be enhanced through livelihood support, as well as communal involvement in landscape management and other citizen engagement opportunities.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

The project will be prepared and implemented by the newly established Ministry of Rural Development (MRD). The MRD has been formed by combining the former Ministries of Agriculture (MoA) and of Livestock. Because the project will entail aspects pertaining to water management and because it takes a landscape approach, the MRD is expected to closely coordinate its operations related to this project with both the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Environment. While its implementation will be the responsibility of a newly established MRD, both the Ministry of Agriculture and the Livestock Ministry have been involved in managing previous World Bank operations. The MoA has been responsible, during the past decade, for some projects, and remains involved in the implementation of the regional PARIIS (Sahel Irrigation Initiative Support Project), albeit under the responsibility of the Ministry of Water Resources. The Livestock Ministry is currently involved in the implementation of the regional PRAPS (Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project) project that supports the livestock sector. While both ministries have faced capacity challenges implementing their respective operations, both have an acceptable track record of managing Bank-financed projects.

Mauritania has a government ministry in charge of the Environment and Sustainable Development (MEDD), which has five technical Directorates. The Environmental Pollution and Emergencies Directorate and the Environmental Control Directorate are involved in the effective implementation of the mitigation measures included in the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).

II. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC) Substantial

Environmental Risk Rating Substantial

Mauritania is a very large, sparsely populated country with an extremely fragile physical environment. Governmental and local capacities to manage natural resources are hugely underdeveloped. Numerous efforts to better manage soil, land, and water resources, especially along the Senegal River, have met with mixed results. Technical interventions to intensify agricultural and livestock production, as measured by increasing yields, have often not incorporated sufficiently sustainable management practices. Projects in rural Mauritania are difficult for the central government to implement and supervise due to the long distance between Nouakchott and the agricultural and livestock production zones. In addition, there are risks associated with increased use of pesticides.
Social Risk Rating

As various potential risks have been identified, and the locations of the different project activities have not been finalized, the social risk has been determined to be substantial. The Borrower has limited capacity and experience in identifying and managing social impacts and risks under the ESF, and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH), among others.

The most significant social risks foreseen are related to occupational health and safety, working conditions (especially for potential community workers) and grievance management for laborers. Based on experiences in the agricultural sector, there is also the potential risk of the use of child labor. The type and number of workers have yet to be determined, so the magnitude of the risk is currently not known. Other key project risks include possible temporary or permanent physical and economic displacement impacts from project activities, and the exclusion (if not properly monitored) of women and girls, returnees, refugees, and other vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities, elders and youth; risks to traditional livelihoods, if communities as well as and women are not properly consulted and their views reflected in programs and interventions, especially as it relates to incorporation of traditional ecological knowledge; stakeholder risks, especially in relation to adequately addressing cultural considerations and community concerns related to competing land uses and access to resources. This includes concerns related to access to water and the recognition of customary land tenure and land uses, which can exacerbate conflict, as well as misgivings or distrust among stakeholders who do not receive grants; and risks related to improper and/or the regular consultation and engagement of communities (and women) throughout the project lifecycle, including the inadequate implementation and monitoring of the project-level Grievance Mechanism.

In addition, as activities restoring/upgrading physical infrastructures have been identified, both skilled and unskilled laborers could be brought in, which heightens certain labor related risks involving the health and safety of workers, fair wages and working conditions, and the protection of women workers. Moreover, there are risks to community health and safety related to increased air and noise emissions, and risks from wastewater management. There may also be issues related to SEA/SH and security risks within the communities emanating from the greater presence of people from outside the communities. A SEA/SH risk is also associated with the potential of having an increased numbers of trucks and project vehicles and their drivers coming from outside the community.

Moreover, as activities restoring/upgrading physical infrastructures have been identified, both skilled and unskilled laborers could be brought in which heightens certain labor related risks involving health and safety of workers, fair wages and working conditions and the protection of women workers. Moreover, there are risks to community health and safety related to increased air and noise emissions as well as from wastewater management. There may also be issues related to SEA/SH and security risks within the communities emanating from the greater presence of people from outside the communities. A SEA/SH risk is also associated with the potential for increased trucks and project vehicles in the project area(s).

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1. General Assessment

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts
Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

This standard requires that the Borrowers carry out an assessment of environmental and social impacts and risks of the Project. This project has multiple environmental and social dimensions. It focuses on dryland areas where adaptation to climate change is vital and where the use and management of natural resources (particularly water and rangeland) underpins rural livelihoods, including livelihood groups, such as farmers and pastoralists and other vulnerable people, such as women, youth, and returnees. Many of the project’s activities are directed toward preserving the natural capital of these wilayas, which is integral to their economic and social development.

Anticipated environmental impacts are expected to be mostly site-specific, and can be avoided and/or managed. These potential negative environmental impacts include soil fertility loss and/or soil erosion; localized modification of seasonal surface water flow; increased incidence of standing water for mosquito breeding; decreased water quality at local water points due to increased quantities of livestock and small ruminants seeking water; groundwater pollution due to increased use of fertilizers and pesticides, which, although not directly financed by the project, may increase in use due to increased rural incomes. Potentially negative environmental impacts, if managed well, can be largely outweighed by an improved governance of natural resources. Potentially adverse social impacts can be addressed through consultation and inclusion in project design and outcomes, including livelihood and skills development, education and training programs, and other social risk mitigation efforts.

As the project includes a CERC subcomponent, if the CERC is triggered, the ESMF will be updated and activities under the CERC will be assessed for risks and impacts, with appropriate mitigation measures to be implemented and monitored in line with the ESF and national laws and policies.

An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been prepared as the exact activities and their respective sites have yet to be identified. The ESMF defines screening mechanisms and monitoring procedures for the identification and management of potentially adverse environmental and social impacts, and will include: (a) a social assessment of the communities in the project area; (b) checklists of potential environmental and social impacts and their sources; (c) procedures for the participatory screening of proposed sites and activities, and their environmental and social considerations; (d) procedures for assessing the potential environmental and social impacts of the planned project activities, including cumulative impacts and SEA/SH risks; (e) institutional arrangements for avoiding, minimizing, mitigating and managing the impacts identified, according to the mitigation hierarchy; (f) typical environmental and social management planning processes for addressing negative externalities in the course of project implementation; (g) a system for monitoring the implementation of mitigation measures; and (h) the capacity building measures recommended for environmental and social planning and the monitoring of project activities; (i) a grievance mechanism with guidance on the reception, recording, handling, and reporting of complaints that may be encountered during project implementation, including sensitive complaints such as SEA/SH and involuntary resettlement; (j) how the CERC will be addressed, and, (k) an estimate of the budget needed to implement the framework.

Additionally, the ESMF will make use of the general and sector-specific World Bank EHSGs for the subprojects identified. When project sites are identified, site-specific ESIA/ESMP will be prepared. Lastly, the Borrower will prepare an ESCP with the support of the Bank. The ESCP will include a commitment both to the preparation of subsequent ESIs and relevant instruments, and to the timeline.
Some activities could lead to physical and/or economic displacement due to the loss of property and the loss or disruption of income or livelihood activities of individuals and groups of people. In addition to the ESMF, an Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will need to be prepared to guide the preparation of resettlement action plans (RAPs) once the exact location of project activities is identified.

Additional analysis, either on its own or embedded in the ESIA, may be required during implementation, such as conflict risk analysis, livelihood and culture impact assessment, or social assessment to assess the the applicability of ESS7, and others, as required.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Stakeholder engagement is a critical tool for social and environmental risk management, deepening the trust, understanding, accessibility to and inclusion of beneficiaries, and mitigating risks, improving the project’s sustainability and overall success. In consultation with the Bank, the client has prepared, and will implement, an inclusive and accessible Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) proportional to the nature and scale of the project and associated risks and impacts. Some of the key stakeholders include women, including women farming and pastoralist associations, elders, youth, persons with disabilities, community (wilaya) leaders, pastoralist and farming communities, returnees, livestock, environmental, veterinary and agricultural NGOs and associations, and relevant government ministries. A draft SEP will be disclosed prior to appraisal, and a finalized SEP will be disclosed after negotiations. The borrower will engage in meaningful, inclusive and culturally appropriate consultations with all stakeholders throughout the project life cycle, paying particular attention to the inclusion of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, female-headed households and orphans and other vulnerable children, returnees, and youth. Stakeholders will receive timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information, and consult them in a culturally appropriate and gender-sensitive manner free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation. A project-level Grievance Mechanism (GM) has been designed and will be implemented through the project cycle.

Depending on the country context related to the COVID-19 pandemic, modified stakeholder engagement and monitoring procedures may be required. Guidance from the Bank, in line with the technical note on public consultations and stakeholder engagement in World Bank-supported operations when there are constraints on conducting public meetings, and The World Health Organization’s (WHO) “COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan” (2020), will be provided to and discussed with the CPU.

B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts

A brief description of the potential environmental and social risks and impacts relevant to the Project.

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions
The project focuses on poor households and the communities that will be the primary stakeholders, and on the most vulnerable populations, mainly women, youth and returnees. The ESMF screening process will refer and pay special attention to any subproject that may need community labor. As the project works are to be carried out by community beneficiaries, the Borrower has prepared Labor Management Procedures (LMP) with detailed information on the work terms and conditions. The LMP includes measures to ensure that community labor is provided on a voluntary basis, and it will further ensure that the health and safety of workers, especially women, are given adequate attention. As the extent to which small civil works (mostly water retention systems) will be rehabilitated, the LMP includes provisions for both community and contract labor.

The LMP will include details of the grievance mechanism for project workers and laborers within the supply chains and for community workers, as well as the roles and responsibilities for monitoring such workers. It spells out its standards for non-discrimination and equal opportunity, worker’s organizations, working conditions for community workers, and the occupational, health and safety measures required, as well as the inclusion of and enforcement measures for Code of Conducts (CoCs) forbidding and sanctioning SEA/SH. It also includes training for workers and awareness raising for communities on the CoCs, as well as raising awareness on the prohibition of child and forced labor.

The LMP will be implemented by the PIU with the support of the Bank's specialists and its procedures informed by the provisions of relevant national laws, as applicable.

**ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management**

Due to the expected intensification of soil, land, and water resource use, this ESS3 is relevant. Project preparation has considered ambient conditions and identified technically and financially feasible resource efficiency and pollution prevention measures. These measures will be developed into technical specifications as part of the project's Operations Manual. As the project may have a significant impact on limited water resources locally, the Borrower will adopt measures that avoid or minimize water usage so that the project’s water use does not have significant adverse impacts on communities, other users, and the environment. For this project, technical design includes the following elements: (i) an assessment of specific water use (measured by volume of water used per unit production) prior to, and expected as a result of, project intervention; (ii) benchmarking of these water use measurements to compare to regional standards for water use efficiency; and; (iii) opportunities for improvement in water use efficiency.

The project will not finance the use of chemical pesticides, chemical fertilizer, soil amendments, and chemicals other than pesticides and fertilizers.

Lastly, it should be noted that, at this time agricultural runoff and animal waste are not anticipated to be factors for pollution management and prevention. Mauritania's dryland agriculture, whether sustained by rainfall or water storage, has such a water deficit that agricultural runoff is not expected. With regards to animal waste, the project is expected to support a national vaccination program, as well as improved practices in fenced livestock, notably cows. The project will neither support commercial nor large-scale livestock production, nor livestock slaughter or processing.
ESS4 Community Health and Safety

The ESMF includes an assessment of potential land use changes and/or the loss of natural areas, as well as an assessment of these changes/losses in terms of increased vulnerability and community safety-related risks and impacts. Relevant ESMPs will include measures to mitigate against adverse impacts due to labor influx, including enforcing Codes of Conduct, as well as measures to address labor influx more broadly. These mitigation measures for the civil works will be clearly stipulated in the contractor's ESMP (C-ESMP) based on the project’s ESMP, the implementation of which the contractor will be fully responsible. A SEA/SH risk assessment will be carried out and, where necessary, mitigation measures will be included in an action plan (the ESMP). A Code of Conduct, including measures against SEA/SH for ensuring community health and safety, will be prepared and included in all bidding documents. The project's GM has been designed to safely and ethically register complaints and address and document complaints and allegations (including those involving SEA/SH) during project implementation. The ESMPs will include measures to address SEA/SH and road security risks. All employees will sign Codes of Conduct that include SEA/SH provisions to prevent and protect local communities, children, and women. Given the contextual risks for SEA/SH and the high prevalence of different forms of gender based violence, this can increase the likelihood of SEA/SH. For this reason, the project will include a Gender Specialist in the PIU to ensure adequate SEA/SH risk identification, analyses, prevention, mitigation, and response spanning through the project cycle.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

The project will support agricultural activities and livestock. The development of non-traditional sectors will be encouraged — such as horticulture and the growing of medicinal plants, gum arabic, and date palm oil, as well as raising poultry and carrying out other support activities benefitting the rural farming community. New technologies and practices optimizing water harvesting and use (rain, runoff and boreholes) will lead to sustainable improvements in agricultural productivity and production in a context of the scarcity of water resources and, consequently, to develop marketing channels. However, these activities could involve the physical and/or economic displacement of people. An RPF has been prepared to guide the preparation of Resettlement Action Plans during implementation, if land acquisition is needed leading to physical and/or economic displacement. Given the insecurity existing in some areas, the mitigation hierarchy will be applied, and avoiding involuntary resettlement will be the preferred option. If this cannot be avoided, measures to minimize involuntary resettlement will include livelihood improvement plans for people affected by economic displacement. The RPF will be reviewed, consulted upon and disclosed inside the country and on the World Bank website prior to project appraisal.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

According to the UN’s Food and Agriculture Organization, forest cover in Mauritania has decreased at an average annual rate of around 2.7 percent over the last 10 years. In the Senegal River Valley, many classified forests have gradually disappeared or seen their areas reduced because of drought and/or pressure from agriculture. A strategy for restoring protected forests has been developed; however, its action plan has not been implemented. Formerly classified as the second largest producer of gum arabic (Acacia Senegal) in the world, Mauritania now produces 500 tons annually, down markedly from 5,700 tons produced annually in the late 1960s/early 1970s.
Main pressures on and drivers of change to biodiversity (direct and indirect)

The main threats to terrestrial ecosystems have been identified as: overgrazing, the overexploitation of forest products and non-timber forest products; habitat fragmentation; poaching; climate change; bush fires; urbanization; salinization; erosion; alien invasive species; mining and oil exploitation.

As the project is expected to support high-value horticulture, possibly including trees, as well as gum arabic production, the project may indirectly, albeit marginally, contribute to reforestation.

With respect to agricultural and livestock intensification, site selection should include potential direct, indirect, and cumulative project-related impacts on natural habitats and biodiversity. The significance of the biodiversity and/or natural habitats should take into account the local values attached to biodiversity and/or natural habitats by project-affected parties.

ESS7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

There are no known Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities in the project area. The project will undertake a social screening exercise once activities and sites are identified and, if there are communities that meet the criteria of ESS7, Indigenous Peoples Plans will be prepared, consulted upon and disclosed.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

Although no tangible and intangible cultural heritage impacts are expected as a part of project implementation, chance finds procedures have been included as part of the ESMF. However, in rural Mauritania, there are natural features with cultural significance. Particular attention will be paid in the regions of Guidimaka and Assaba, where there could likely be remains of historic occupation; and associated intangible heritage. The site selection process for project intervention should include screening questions to exclude these natural features. In accordance with ESS10, the Borrower will identify stakeholders relevant for the cultural heritage known to exist or likely to be encountered during the project lifecycle, and carry out meaningful consultations. In case, when impacts are unavoidable, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan will be prepared and consulted upon with stakeholders.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

This standard does not apply.

B.3 Other Relevant Project Risks

The concurrent impacts of severe climate conditions, insecurity and conflict situations, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic (including post-COVID-19 recovery period) may exacerbate project impacts. Guidance to manage these
additional pressures is included in the ESMF. Key risks include: (a) social and protection risks; (b) security risks; and (c) implementation, monitoring and stakeholder engagement challenges.

In addition, risks related to refugees and the engagement of host communities are substantial. Providing social protection to refugee communities is a new area of engagement for the World Bank Group, in which there is limited knowledge and significant sensitivity. However, the Mauritanian government’s overall acceptance of refugees and its general willingness to support their actual inclusion is essential for risk mitigation and enhancing social inclusion and project benefits.

a. Social and Protection risks: the World Bank, in consultation with the UN’s High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), confirms the continued adequacy of the protection framework. While the Government of Mauritania (GoM) has not practiced refoulement since 2016, either a strict adherence to social norms or to security considerations could result in cases of refoulement in the future. The World Bank Group will continue to monitor developments and remain in close contact with both the government and the UNHCR to assess the level of this risk and to discuss appropriate mitigation measures, in particular the adoption of the asylum law, which would formalize refugee protection in Mauritania.

b. Security risks: increased security threats in Mauritania itself, along the southern border with Mali (around Hodh El Gharbi and Hodh Charghi), would impact the ability of the Government of Mauritania to maintain peace and stability in the area. As of 2019, security has not been an obstacle to the government operating in the region.

c. Implementation challenges: the World Bank Group has very little reach or experience of working in the south-eastern part of Mauritania. The location of refugees, and by extension of host communities in this remote, hard-to-reach area, will provide a challenging environment for project team(s) to prepare, implement and supervise impactful operations in. However, as of 2019, World Bank teams have been able to supervise operations in refugee and host communities using UN security procedures and UN infrastructure and logistics, such as United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) flights and UN premises.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways
No
This project takes a landscape approach focusing on land management. The water management infrastructure that will be built or rehabilitated under it will improve storage of surface water run-off and therefore not affect international waterways.”

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas
No
There are no disputed territories within the borders of Mauritania.

III. BORROWER’S ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DELIVERABLES against MEASURES AND ACTIONS IDENTIFIED</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ESS 1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Actions to be completed prior to appraisal: ESMF and Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP).</td>
<td>06/2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementation: Development and Implementation of Institutional Capacity Strengthening Plan; Site Specific ESMP under ESMF for public works, Social conflict analysis (in ESIA); Livelihoods and Cultural Impact Assessment (if needed in the ESIA); SEA/SH Action Plan (and mapping of services), social assessment of communities project area (in ESIA) to assist in the determination of the applicability ESS7 will be prepared prior to project activities and implemented throughout.</td>
<td>03/2021</td>
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<tr>
<th>ESS 10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preparation, consultation and disclosure of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and GM prior to board approval</td>
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<tr>
<td>Implementation of the GM prior to project activities</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESS 2 Labor and Working Conditions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Labor Management Procedures prior to Board approval</td>
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<tr>
<th>ESS 3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management</th>
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<tr>
<td>The ESMP will include prevention, mitigation and compensation measures and actions to manage waste and hazardous materials and explore technically and financially feasible measures to improve consumption of water and building materials.</td>
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<tr>
<th>ESS 4 Community Health and Safety</th>
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<tr>
<td>Community health and safety, traffic safety and SEA/SH mitigation plans and mapping services - in ESIA/ESMP</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESS 5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement</th>
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<td>Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) prior to Board approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparation and implementation of a Resettlement Action Plan when necessary</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ESS 6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Include measures to mitigate consequences of Project activities to manage risks and impacts on livestock-related generic resources in accordance with the requirements of this ESS in the ESMF.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| ESS 7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities |
An Indigenous Peoples Plan if necessary if Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditionally Local Communities are found within the project area following a screening of project affected communities. 03/2021

ESS 8 Cultural Heritage

Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) if needed 03/2021

ESS 9 Financial Intermediaries

B.3. Reliance on Borrower’s policy, legal and institutional framework, relevant to the Project risks and impacts

Is this project being prepared for use of Borrower Framework? No

Areas where “Use of Borrower Framework” is being considered:
Due to the complexity of, and interrelationships between, project inputs and the potentially adverse environmental and social impacts of this project, the project will apply the World Bank ESF, and not rely on the Borrower’s E&S framework.

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank
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Telephone No: +1-202-458-0517 Email: dgerber@worldbank.org

Borrower/Client/Recipient
Borrower: Ministere de la Finance

Implementing Agency(ies)
Implementing Agency: Ministere du Development Rural

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
VI. APPROVAL
Task Team Leader(s): Daniel Gerber

Practice Manager (ENR/Social): Maria Sarraf Cleared on 14-Jun-2020 at 08:24:14 EDT