

Climate change adaptation and livelihoods in three arid regions of Mauritania

GEF Secretariat Review for Full Sized Project

Basic Information

GEF ID

10103

Countries

Mauritania

Project Title

Climate change adaptation and livelihoods in three arid regions of Mauritania

GEF Agency(ies)

UNEP

Agency ID

UNEP: 01629

GEF Focal Area(s)

Climate Change

Program Manager

Katya Kuang-Idba

Part I – Project Information

Focal area elements

1. Is the project/program aligned with the relevant GEF focal area elements in Table A, as defined by the GEF 7 Programming Directions?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/24/2018 - Yes. The submission is aligned with GEF-LDCF Objectives 1 and 2.

Agency Response

Indicative project/program description summary

2. Are the components in Table B and as described in the PIF sound, appropriate, and sufficiently clear to achieve the project/program objectives and the core indicators?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/24/2018 - Yes. The project is adequately described with an appropriate level of detail for this stage of project development. The project's objective is to increase the adaptive capacity of rural communities in the wilayas of Adrar, Inchiri and Trarza; which it will do through the implementation of three components: (i) Institutional capacity development for planning and implementing climate change adaptation in arid ecosystems of Mauritanian (ii) Resilience to climate change in the three target wilayas; (iii) Knowledge on climate change and EbA in arid ecosystems. The outputs under each component are tangible and measurable against the respective outcomes under each component.

Agency Response

Co-financing

3. Are the indicative expected amounts, sources and types of co-financing adequately documented and consistent with the requirements of the Co-Financing Policy and Guidelines, with a description on how the breakdown of co-financing was identified and meets the definition of investment mobilized?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - Further clarification requested. Several projects are contributing co-financing to this project, including: Project Agropole Maraicher of Benichab (PAMB); MCM Community Projects; and the Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project (PRAPS) are collectively contributing co-financing of \$16.2 million. However, in Table C, all the co-financing is categorized as grant financing.

Recommended action: Please clarify if all co-financing provided is grant financing, or if some are in the form of loans.

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - Cleared. The agency has clarified that all co-financing toward this project are in the form of grants.

Agency Response

All co-financing is in the form of grants.

GEF Resource Availability

4. Is the proposed GEF financing in Table D (including the Agency fee) in line with GEF policies and guidelines? Are they within the resources available from (mark all that apply):

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - Yes. The resources requested are in line with the current LDCF-SCCF Adaptation Strategy for 2018-2022, under which Mauritania is currently eligible to access up to USD \$10 million from the cumulative \$50 million ceiling.

Agency Response

The STAR allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

NA

Agency Response

The focal area allocation?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

NA

Agency Response

The LDCF under the principle of equitable access

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - Yes. The resources requested are in line with the current LDCF-SCCF Adaptation Strategy for 2018-2022, under which Mauritania is currently eligible to access up to USD \$10 million from the cumulative \$50 million ceiling.

Agency Response

The SCCF (Adaptation or Technology Transfer)?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

NA

Agency Response

Focal area set-aside?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

NA

Agency Response

Impact Program Incentive?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

NA

Agency Response

Project Preparation Grant

5. Is PPG requested in Table E within the allowable cap? Has an exception (e.g. for regional projects) been sufficiently substantiated? (not applicable to PFD)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - Yes. The PPG requested is within the allowable cap for a project of this size.

Agency Response

Core indicators

6. Are the identified core indicators in Table F calculated using the methodology included in the correspondent Guidelines? (GEF/C.54/11/Rev.01)

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - More information requested. In line with the Adaptation Program's efforts to align more closely with GEF Trust Fund procedures, we have developed four Core Indicators for PIF-stage (as well as subsequent-stage) submissions to the LDCF and SCCF. These will also contribute to an adaptation section of the [GEF Corporate Scorecard](#). Due to overwhelming demands on the Portal at the moment which preclude our being able to program them in, we would like you to please include a separate brief document (can be just a page) in your GEF-7 LDCF/SCCF PIF submissions to us, titled "Core Indicators".

The four **Core LDCF/SCCF Indicators** are:

- **Number of direct beneficiaries (gender-segregated, M/F):** Please include a breakdown of male/female beneficiaries. Please also note that "direct beneficiaries" in this case are those that directly benefit from adaptation technologies, improved livelihoods, climate-resilient facilities/infrastructure, and those with significantly reduced vulnerability to climatic hazards due to new or enhanced early warning systems. It does not include recipients of trainings or awareness-raising efforts (which is captured by Core Indicator 4, below). It also does not include an entire community far downstream of an area where a riverbank protection measure has been installed/improved, or the entire group of people who have downloaded an early warning app on their phones (many of whom may not necessarily be vulnerable).

- **Number of hectares of land under climate-resilient management:** Please provide numbers for this indicator in hectares only. This indicator has been selected due to the large volume of LDCF/SCCF projects in the agriculture and food security sectors. If not relevant to the project, please omit.

- **Number of policies, plans and development frameworks that mainstream climate resilience:** Please include regional, national, sub-national and sectoral plans that the project will mainstream adaptation in.

- **Number of people with enhanced capacity to identify climate risk and/or engage in adaptation measures (gender-segregated, M/F):** This number may include government staff, communities and households, private sector workers, etc. Please include a breakdown of male/female beneficiaries.

Recommended action: As requested in the email dated 17 October, please include a very brief document entitled “Core Indicators” with the information requested.

GEFSEC, 11/1/2018 - Yes. The agency has included a matrix indicating LDCF-SCCF Core indicators and targets onto the review sheet area of the Portal. At CEO Endorsement, please ensure that a separate document is included.

Agency Response

The core indicators and targets expected are as follows:

Core Indicator	Expected (at PIF)
Number of direct beneficiaries	M: 1,300 F: 2,200 Total: 3,500
Number of hectares of land under climate-resilient management	1,300 hectares
Number of policies, plans and development frameworks that mainstream climate resilience	3 local development plans (1 in each target <i>wilaya</i>); 1 national plan for development of arid regions
Number of people with enhanced capacity to identify climate risk and/or engage in adaptation measures	M: 180 F: 220 Total: 400[1]

[1] These numbers only include beneficiaries that will directly benefit from training. Awareness-raising activities (under Outputs 3.3 and 3.4) will benefit a much larger audience.

Project/Program taxonomy

7. Is the project/ program properly tagged with the appropriate keywords as requested in Table G?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - No. The project is not properly tagged with the appropriate keywords as requested.

Recommended action: Please utilize the project taxonomy worksheet provided in Annex C on the Portal to tag this project with the appropriate keywords.

GEFSEC, 11/1/2018 - Yes. This project is tagged with the appropriate keywords.

Agency Response

The project has been tagged with the appropriate keywords.

Part II – Project Justification

1. Has the project/program described the global environmental / adaptation problems, including the root causes and barriers that need to be addressed?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - Yes. The PIF submission clearly indicates the adaptation problems in each of the three wilayas, which have differing ecosystems and socio-economic circumstances, resulting in different drivers of ecosystem degradation. In Adrar, low soil fertility combined with dry conditions has led to the overexploitation of oasis ecosystems, particularly through date farming. Inchiri is equipped with higher quality soils but, poor water resources management and overgrazing has led to ecosystem degradation. Overgrazing exacerbates the problem of sand encroachment in the desert regions of Traza. Rural communities in all three wilayas rely on functional ecosystems to buffer them against the negative impacts of climate change and there is therefore a need to implement adaptation interventions that target both people and ecosystems. The proposed LDCF project is the first to address climate change adaptation in the arid regions of Mauritania, and will address barriers to climate change adaptation in the three target wilayas. These barriers include: i) limited awareness of climate change within local government structures and communities; ii) limited knowledge of government and communities on appropriate adaptation interventions in arid ecosystems; iii) limited institutional and technical capacity of national and local government to plan and implement climate change adaptation (particularly EbA) in arid ecosystems; iv) insufficient investments in climate change adaptation (particularly EbA); and v) limited capacity of vulnerable local communities to adopt climate-resilient livelihood strategies.

Agency Response

2. Is the baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects appropriately described?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - Yes. The submission adequately describes the business as usual scenario, briefly indicating initiatives, such as the Sustainable Development of Oases project relevant to the proposed initiative; as well as the three projects which will be providing the lions' share of the co-financing to the proposed LDCF intervention.

Agency Response

3. Does the proposed alternative scenario describe the expected outcomes and components of the project/program?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - Yes. The project is adequately described in the section which presents the alternative scenario.

Agency Response

4. Is the project/program aligned with focal area and/or Impact Program strategies?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - Yes. the project is aligned with objectives 1 and 2 under the 2018-2022 LDCF/SCCF strategy.

Agency Response

5. Is the incremental / additional cost reasoning properly described as per the Guidelines provided in GEF/C.31/12?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - Clarification requested. While the agency describes in detail how the LDCF-financed activities are necessary within the baseline scenario, it is unclear what the relationship between the LDCF-financed activities and the three projects listed as baseline projects, and how the former are additional to the baseline.

Recommended action: In the alternative scenario section, if possible, please briefly articulate which specific baseline project the LDCF activities are related to and how they are additional.

GEFSEC, 11/1/2018 - Cleared. The agency has clarified the additionality of activities under the second and third components in Section A1.3. Component 2 will build on the work being carried out by the Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project, by implementing EbA interventions in the arid ecosystems of Adrar, Inchiri and Trarza, which will enhance the sustainable resource management objectives of PRAPS and strengthen the climate resilience of pastoralists targeted by this baseline project. Sustainable resource management will be integrated into improved water management practices in the proposed project's target *wilayas*, which will consider the needs of both pastoralists and other users. The MCM Community Projects' interventions will also be built on through this component, which will include the integration of climate change adaptation approaches to this baseline project's ongoing agriculture, pastoralism and water mobilization activities. Additional climate change adaptation interventions include improved climate-resilient water management technologies, as well as EbA approaches to climate proof MCM's existing agricultural and pastoral interventions. Agropole Maraicher of Benichab's (PAMB) agricultural and irrigation activities will be built on through the incorporation of climate-resilient water management measures, and EbA interventions will be introduced to reduce the impacts of desertification on the farming plots that have been established by PAMB.

Agency Response

The additionality of activities under project Components 2 and 3 vis-à-vis the baseline projects has been expanded on in Section A1.3.

6. Are the project's/program's indicative targeted contributions to global environmental benefits (measured through core indicators) reasonable and achievable? Or for adaptation benefits?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2015 - Please see Item 6 under Part I.

GEFSEC, 11/1/2018 - Cleared. The agency has included targets for core indicators, projecting that the project will benefit an estimated 3,500 people, while placing 1,300 hectares of land under more sustainable/climate resilient management. Other specific adaptation benefits include: i) increasing the resilience of arid ecosystems to buffer against climate-induced droughts; ii) reducing soil erosion; iii) improving water supply by promoting groundwater recharge and water conservation; iv) providing NTFPs and alternative livelihoods; and vii) improving food security through the introduction of water-efficient farming techniques. In addition to the tangible adaptation benefits, the project will build local and national institutional capacity to plan for as well as implement EbA adaptation measures in arid ecosystems. This institutional capacity building will improve the success of climate change adaptation responses and stimulate additional adaptation investments in the arid regions of Mauritania. In terms of local communities, training, demonstrations and the dissemination of climate change and EbA information in these areas will promote the autonomous uptake and replication of interventions. The project is also expected to generate global environmental benefits by reducing deforestation and protecting biodiversity. It will also protect environmental services – such as clean water and fuel wood provision – as a basis for continued resilience.

Agency Response

7. Is there potential for innovation, sustainability and scaling up in this project?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - Yes, the EbA approach in the Sahelian and Saharan ecosystems is both innovative and cost-effective. EbA provides favourable cost-benefit ratios compared with hard infrastructure approaches and not only reduces climate change vulnerability, but also provides a range of co-benefits including carbon sequestration, biodiversity conservation, alternative livelihoods and poverty reduction opportunities.

The sustainability of the proposed LDCF project will be enhanced by: i) developing EbA measures that are tailored to arid conditions and therefore applicable throughout the target *wilayas*; ii) mainstreaming EbA into policies and strategies; iii) building the technical and institutional capacity of national and local government to assist local communities in the continued planning and implementation of EbA; iv) involving local communities in decision making and implementation to ensure buy-in; v) demonstrating the benefits of low-cost EbA interventions to communities; and vi) providing a knowledge base and guidelines for designing and implementing EbA in arid environments. In addition, the research and monitoring of the project interventions undertaken in collaboration with local research institutes and universities under Component 3 will also generate data and lessons learned to inform future adaptation interventions.

As for scalability, activities proposed under Component 3 will enhance the knowledge on the most suitable adaptation interventions in arid regions to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities to the effects of climate change; and the results will be communicated to relevant stakeholders, which will promote the upscaling of the best adaptation interventions both in Mauritania and regionally.

Agency Response

Project/Program Map and Coordinates

Is there a preliminary geo-reference to the project's/program's intended location?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - Yes. A geo-referenced map is included in Annex A.

Agency Response

Stakeholders

Does the PIF/PFD include indicative information on Stakeholders engagement to date? If not, is the justification provided appropriate? Does the PIF/PFD include information about the proposed means of future engagement?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - Yes. The agency has indicated that key stakeholders include governmental bodies (e.g. DREDDs), CNOEZA officers, national scientific and academic partners, local authorities and local communities, as well as private sector entities (in particular the mining sector); and that the project will be implemented using a consultative and participatory approach. Convention and MEA focal points, active networks, youth and local communities will also be involved during the PPG and implementation phases. Moreover, the representation and active participation of women and vulnerable groups will be emphasized during the implementation of all project activities. An inception workshop will be convened with all major stakeholders at the beginning of the PPG phase and a full list of stakeholders will be compiled during that time.

Agency Response

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Is the articulation of gender context and indicative information on the importance and need to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, adequate?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - Yes. The agency indicates that the project takes into consideration the specific vulnerabilities of women, and will emphasize the involvement of particularly vulnerable community groups, such as youth and women-headed households. Such community groups will be targeted for inclusion in the project's activities, particularly with respect to the national awareness-raising campaigns and identification of climate-resilient livelihoods based on NTFPs. The promotion of women's participation under the project is in line with GEF guidance and standards and recommendations from the GEF Gender Equality Action Plan (2014) will be followed and a gender analysis will be conducted during the PPG phase. Gender-disaggregated indicators will be developed to during the PPG phase to provide project targets for women's participation.

Agency Response

Private Sector Engagement

Is the case made for private sector engagement consistent with the proposed approach?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - Yes. The submission indicates that the private sector will be engaged during implementation, particularly activities which support the identification of natural resource-based livelihoods, which will support local entrepreneurs. Furthermore, project will engage with the Mauritania Copper Mines (MCM) Community Projects to support the integration of climate change impacts and adaptation into the planning and implementation activities in Inchiri. MCM Community Projects will contribute US\$500,000 of baseline co-financing to the proposed project.

Agency Response

Risks

Does the project/program consider potential major risks, including the consequences of climate change, that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved or may be resulting from project/program implementation, and propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - More information requested. The risk matrix is adequately developed for this stage of project development but does not take into consider natural hazards or climate and/or other shocks and extreme events.

Recommended action: Please consider taking climate and or weather hazards and other extreme events into consideration and reflect this in onto the risk matrix.

GEFSEC, 11/1/2018 - Cleared. The risk matrix is adequately developed for this stage of project development and sufficiently captures major risks and mitigating measures.

Agency Response

A natural hazard and climate shock risk has been added to the risk table.

Coordination

Is the institutional arrangement for project/program coordination including management, monitoring and evaluation outlined? Is there a description of possible coordination with relevant GEF-financed projects/programs and other bilateral/multilateral initiatives in the project/program area?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - More information requested. While the institutional arrangements relating to project coordination and management is clearly articulated in the submission, and the detailed information regarding coordination with relevant initiatives; the Secretariat would appreciate further information regarding how the project will coordinate with some unmentioned LDCF-financed projects as whether the project is coordinating with GCF-financed initiatives.

Recommended action: Please briefly indicate whether and how the project is coordinating with in-country GCF financed initiatives, such as P-STRALAM, and NAP readiness activities; as well as whether and how the project is coordinating with GEF ID 8033, an LDCF-financed initiative being implemented by IUCN; GEF ID 5190 (AfDB) or GEF ID 3893 (IFAD).

Agency Response

A brief description of coordination and potential synergies with these GEF- and GCF-funded projects has been inserted on page 26.

Consistency with National Priorities

Has the project/program cited alignment with any of the recipient country's national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - Yes. The project is well aligned with adaptation priorities identified in its' NAPA (priorities 3,11, 20,25,26,28; and arid and semi-arid ecosystems are identified as a vulnerable priority sector), the NDC, National Sustainable Development Strategy, National Environment Action Plan, and the Rural Sector Development Strategy for 2025.

Agency Response

Knowledge Management

Is the proposed “knowledge management (KM) approach” in line with GEF requirements to foster learning and sharing from relevant projects/programs, initiatives and evaluations; and contribute to the project's/program's overall impact and sustainability?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - Yes. The proposed project will address knowledge management under Components 1, 2 and 3. Evidence-based knowledge will be generated from the vulnerability assessments implemented in the three target *wilayas* under Component 1. Second, the benefits generated by the adaptation interventions implemented under Component 2 will be monitored, and lessons learned compiled and shared to inform policy development processes. Further knowledge on climate change impacts in arid regions and adaptation options

will be generated through the research and monitoring undertaken under Component 3, and under this component, information will be collated from interventions of past and current aligned initiatives as well as from the proposed interventions of the project. Therefore, this project will generate – and facilitate access to – critical knowledge on: i) degradation processes and climate change impacts in arid Sahelian and Saharan ecosystems; and ii) the implementation of EbA interventions in arid ecosystems. This will create an enabling environment for policy makers and technical staff in the ministries to access such knowledge and for upscaling project interventions to other areas of the country. Evidence-based knowledge will be disseminated and made easily accessible to the public.

Agency Response

Part III – Country Endorsements

Has the project/program been endorsed by the country’s GEF Operational Focal Point and has the name and position been checked against the GEF data base?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 11/1/2018 - Yes. The LOE is signed by the current OFP, Mr. Mohamed-Yahya Lafdal in September 2018.

Agency Response

**GEFSEC DECISION
RECOMMENDATION**

Is the PIF/PFD recommended for technical clearance? Is the PPG (if requested) being recommended for clearance?

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Additional recommendations to be considered by Agency at the time of CEO endorsement/approval.

Secretariat Comment at PIF/Work Program Inclusion

GEFSEC, 10/25/2018 - Not yet. Please refer to the flagged items and resubmit for consideration.

Review Dates

	PIF Review	Agency Response
First Review	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Additional Review (as necessary)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Additional Review (as necessary)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Additional Review (as necessary)	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Additional Review (as necessary)		

