

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	10586
Project Name:	Integrated Management of Protected Areas in the Arid Regions of Mauritania (IMPADRA)
Countr(ies):	Mauritania
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Integrated Management of Protected Areas in the Arid Regions of Mauritania (IMPADRA)

Country

Mauritania

GEF ID

10586

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
(MESD)

Trust Fund

GET

Project Type

FSP

PIR Submission

9/15/2025

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2025 , 1st PIR

Objective

To enhance the conservation of key species in Mauritania through the creation and sustainable management of a new Protected Area in the arid Wilaya of Adrar.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Moderately Satisfactory

Development Objective

Moderately Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

2,890,500.00

Cumulative Disbursement

400,000.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

9/27/2023

Agency Approval

7/16/2024

Implementation Start

8/28/2024

First Disbursement

1/2/2025

Expected MTR 2/28/2027	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 3/30/2027	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

Since its official launch in April 2025, the IMPADRA project has made steady progress. A multi-stakeholder Steering Committee is in place, ensuring inclusive governance and coordination. The successful launch workshop engaged key national, local, and international stakeholders, strengthening ownership and alignment around the action plan. Technical groundwork is well underway, including data collection, mapping, needs assessments, and integration of the Geulb Richat protected area into the Ouadane Local Development Plan. Coherence between planning and implementation is evident, with pilot activities and capacity building set to begin. The project has established a strong institutional and technical foundation, with clear next steps identified. These achievements justify a marginally satisfactory this stage.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Coordination Complexity Despite a Steering Committee, aligning ministries, local authorities, NGOs, and partners remains challenging due to overlapping mandates and differing priorities. **Sustaining Local Engagement** Ensuring continuous participation of communities—especially women, youth, herders, and traditional leaders—is difficult without immediate, visible benefits. **Environmental Pressures** The Geulb Richat area faces overexploitation, poaching, erosion, and unregulated tourism, requiring urgent conservation and enforcement measures. **Delayed and Uncertain Financing** Delays in state co-financing and limited private sector engagement hinder implementation and threaten long-term financial sustainability. **Budget Misalignment** Initial budget estimates do not fully reflect the project’s complexity, geographic isolation, and operational needs. **Capacity Gaps** Local institutions lack sufficient staff, equipment, and funding—putting strain on implementation and sustainability. **Implementation Delays** Procurement bottlenecks, slow work plan approvals, and limited local service providers risk slowing field activities and disbursement. **Climate Vulnerability** Frequent droughts and desertification increase pressure on ecosystems and livelihoods, underscoring the need for integrated climate resilience.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

The first Steering Committee meeting served as an introductory platform for: Committee members, The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, The project supervisors from UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme). This initial session allowed participants to: Understand the project context and objectives, Engage in structured dialogue, Review and adopt a budgeted work plan for the remainder of 2025. Although this marks a strong start, sustaining effective coordination among diverse stakeholders remains a key challenge, especially at decentralized levels.

D. Gender Equality

Component 3 of the project is specifically dedicated to the development of a gender-sensitive strategy for managing the protected area. This component acknowledges that effective conservation must reflect the roles, needs, and contributions of both women and men in the local context. In preparation for this strategy, a gender-focused study will be launched in the third quarter of 2025, aiming to: Identify women-led or women-

dominated activities in and around the protected area, Understand how women interact with natural resources and the challenges they face, Inform targeted interventions that promote gender equity in conservation and sustainable development. Furthermore, the project has already taken concrete steps to promote women's leadership by hiring: A female Administrative and Financial Manager, and A female Gender and Environmental Safeguards Specialist. These actions reflect a clear commitment to mainstream gender equity not only in strategic planning but also in staffing and institutional leadership.

E. Knowledge Management

not yet established

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	
Components and Cost	
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	
Implementation Schedule	
Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	
Co-Financing	
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category	Title
M and E Document	10586-PIR-UNEP-2025-Mauritania IMPADRA