



**Part I: Project Information**

**GEF ID**

10586

**Project Type**

FSP

**Type of Trust Fund**

GET

**CBIT/NGI**

CBIT No

NGI No

**Project Title**

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

**Countries**

Mauritania

**Agency(ies)**

UNEP

**Other Executing Partner(s)**

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MESD)

**Executing Partner Type**

Government

**GEF Focal Area**

Biodiversity

**Sector**

**Taxonomy**

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Biomes, Desert, Mainstreaming, Tourism, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Financial and Accounting, Conservation Finance, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Terrestrial Protected

Areas, Productive Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Demonstrate innovative approach, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples, Beneficiaries, Communications, Strategic Communications, Behavior change, Education, Awareness Raising, Public Campaigns, Civil Society, Community Based Organization, Academia, Non-Governmental Organization, Private Sector, SMEs, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, Large corporations, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, Local Communities, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Partnership, Participation, Gender Equality, Gender Mainstreaming, Women groups, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Knowledge Generation and Exchange, Capacity Development, Access to benefits and services, Access and control over natural resources, Participation and leadership, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Knowledge Generation, Workshop, Training, Seminar, Enabling Activities, Learning, Adaptive management, Theory of change, Indicators to measure change, Knowledge Exchange, Conference, Innovation, Targeted Research

**Rio Markers**

**Climate Change Mitigation**

No Contribution 0

**Climate Change Adaptation**

No Contribution 0

**Biodiversity**

Principal Objective 2

**Land Degradation**

Principal Objective 2

**Submission Date**

12/30/2022

**Expected Implementation Start**

1/1/2024

**Expected Completion Date**

12/31/2027

**Duration**

48In Months

**Agency Fee(\$)**

250,774.00

**A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS**

<b>Objectives/Programs</b>	<b>Focal Area Outcomes</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Co-Fin Amount(\$)</b>
BD-1-1	Biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors	GET	500,000.00	3,771,750.00
BD-2-7	Improving financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate.	GET	2,139,726.00	11,315,249.00
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>			<b>2,639,726.00</b>	<b>15,086,999.00</b>

## **B. Project description summary**

### **Project 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>Project Component</b>	<b>Financing Type</b>	<b>Expected Outcomes</b>	<b>Expected Outputs</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>GEF Project Financing(\$ \$)</b>	<b>Confirmed Co- Financing(\$ )</b>
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Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1: Establishment of a new Protected Area (PA) in Adrar Wilaya	Technical Assistance	Outcome 1: Improved conservation status through the creation and effective management of a terrestrial 200,000 ha PA in Adrar: Indicators and targets (Core Indicator 1: Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use - A new IUCN Category VI 200,000 ha terrestrial protected area was established in Adrar (covering El Ghallouya KBA and newly designated KBA ) increasing the national coverage of terrestrial protected areas	1.1.1 Collection of detailed biodiversity data and technical support provided to MESD to enable the KBA assessment, designation and registration process of the entire new PA in line with current Global KBA criteria. 1.1.2 Technical support and capacity development provided to MESD and other strategic partners to carry out scientific research and to prepare documentation for the creation of the PA in Adrar 1.1.3 Land use plans to facilitate the identification and demarcation of priority areas for conservation in compliance with the gazetting	GET	1,025,300.00	8,933,367.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
		<p>-Population sizes of the following animal species are monitored and increase from ?rare appearance? to ?frequent appearance:? Addax, Ostriches, Dorcas gazelle, Bighorn sheep, Dama gazelle, Oryx dammah</p> <p>- Number of ha of degraded habitats and ecosystems restored</p>	<p>process and for 100,000 ha for sustainable land management in production systems in the surrounding landscape developed and under implementation.</p> <p>1.1.4 Enforcement and surveillance system strengthened in the new PA in Adrar through (i) a long-term monitoring and enforcement system in place and a platform for information sharing and intelligence gathering established between PA authority and the local communities and supported to be fully functional, and (ii) appropriate mechanisms and incentives in place to report illegal activities.</p>			

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
			<p>1.1.5 Established operational capacity at the new PA in Adrar through (i) a newly established Regional Office for the newly created PA with deployed and capacitated staff; (ii) an established long-term ecological monitoring system for the protected and adjacent areas; and (iii) a board-approved management plan under implementation in the PA.</p>			



Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 2: Establishing financial sustainability mechanisms for sustainable and effective management of the PA	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 2: Financial sustainability mechanisms improve and strengthen the sustainable management effectiveness of the PA beyond the life of the project</p> <p>Indicators and targets: (Core Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices</p> <p>- 100,000 ha under sustainable land management in production systems in landscapes adjacent to the new PA</p> <p>- At least three agreements signed with private sector actors to secure investments and promote eco and scientific</p>	<p>2.1.1 Financial mechanisms established and operational with necessary institutional capacity and processes in place for the financial sustainability of PA conservation.</p> <p>2.1.2 One national-level PA platform established showcasing best PA management practices, ecotourism potential, investment potential, and biodiversity status to be managed by the National Tourism Office of Mauritania</p> <p>2.1.3 Community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income-generating activities for local communities identified and</p>	GET	948,025.00	3,933,367.00

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
		<p>tourism potential of the PA</p> <p>GEF Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment</p>	<p>supported in line with sustainable agricultural and livestock practices identified in the land use plan for the PA and adjacent landscape.</p>			
		<p>- 10,000 direct beneficiaries (50% female beneficiaries) of community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities for local communities</p>				

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 3: Ensuring knowledge management and gender mainstreaming	Technical Assistance	<p>Outcome 3: Gender equality and knowledge management effectively support sustainability and inform up-scaling</p> <p>Indicators and targets</p> <p>-One (1) new PA gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan developed and implemented across components</p> <p>-One (1) knowledge management plan developed and implemented</p>	<p>3.1.1 Gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan implemented across project components</p> <p>3.1.2 M&amp;E plan implemented in a timely fashion to facilitate adaptive management and lesson learning</p> <p>3.1.3 Knowledge management and communication strategy, including toolkits and radio programs developed to raise awareness about biodiversity conservation.</p> <p>Project Monitoring and Evaluation</p>	GET	540,700.00	1,465,915.00
<b>Sub Total (\$)</b>					<b>2,514,025.00</b>	<b>14,332,649.00</b>

**Project Management Cost (PMC)**

GET	125,701.00	754,350.00
<b>Sub Total(\$)</b>	<b>125,701.00</b>	<b>754,350.00</b>
<b>Total Project Cost(\$)</b>	<b>2,639,726.00</b>	<b>15,086,999.00</b>

**Please provide justification**

**C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type**

<b>Sources of Co-financing</b>	<b>Name of Co-financier</b>	<b>Type of Co-financing</b>	<b>Investment Mobilized</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	Grant	Investment mobilized	1,403,508.00
Civil Society Organization	Foundation Ebnou Ateillah	Grant	Investment mobilized	7,383,491.00
Civil Society Organization	National Foundation for the Protection of Ancient Towns	Grant	Investment mobilized	5,000,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,100,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Ouadane Municipality	Grant	Investment mobilized	200,000.00
<b>Total Co-Financing(\$)</b>				<b>15,086,999.00</b>

**Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified**

At PIF various partners were engaged and offered to co-finance the project. At PPG the institutional contexts evolved and they have not been able to engage in the project as cofinanciers but as stakeholders playing other roles. Part of this change has been occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic which has financially constrained some institutions and compelled others to revise their priority areas of engagement. For the current situation, Investments mobilized have mainly been identified through collaborative initiatives from foundations, Municipal Administration, and Government agencies. The government, through the Directorate for the Protection and Restoration of Species and Environments (DPREM) has engaged with those foundations and Ouadane Municipal Council.

**D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds**

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>	<b>Total(\$)</b>
UNEP	GET	Mauritania	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	2,639,726	250,774	2,890,500.00
<b>Total Grant Resources(\$)</b>					<b>2,639,726.00</b>	<b>250,774.00</b>	<b>2,890,500.00</b>

**E. Non Grant Instrument**

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

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Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

**F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)**

PPG Required **true**

**PPG Amount (\$)**

100,000

**PPG Agency Fee (\$)**

9,500

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Trust Fund</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Focal Area</b>	<b>Programming of Funds</b>	<b>Amount(\$)</b>	<b>Fee(\$)</b>	<b>Total(\$)</b>
UNEP	GET	Mauritania	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	100,000	9,500	<b>109,500.00</b>
<b>Total Project Costs(\$)</b>					<b>100,000.00</b>	<b>9,500.00</b>	<b>109,500.00</b>



## Core Indicators

### Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
200,000.00	200,000.00	0.00	0.00

#### Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
200,000.00	200,000.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
El Ghallouya Protected Area		Protected Landscape/Seascape	200,000.00	200,000.00		

#### Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDP A ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
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**Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)**

<b>Ha (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Ha (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Ha (Achieved at TE)</b>
50000.00	100000.00	0.00	0.00

**Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)**

<b>Ha (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Ha (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Ha (Achieved at TE)</b>
50,000.00	100,000.00		

**Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes under third-party certification incorporating biodiversity considerations**

<b>Ha (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Ha (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Ha (Achieved at TE)</b>

Type/Name of Third Party Certification

**Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems**

<b>Ha (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Ha (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Ha (Achieved at TE)</b>

**Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value or other forest loss avoided**

<b>Disaggregation Type</b>	<b>Ha (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Ha (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Ha (Achieved at TE)</b>

**Indicator 4.5 Terrestrial OECMs supported**

<b>Name of the OECMs</b>	<b>WDPA-ID</b>	<b>Total Ha (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Total Ha (Achieved at TE)</b>

**Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)**

Title

Submitted

**Indicator 11 People benefiting from GEF-financed investments**

	<b>Number (Expected at PIF)</b>	<b>Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)</b>	<b>Number (Achieved at MTR)</b>	<b>Number (Achieved at TE)</b>
<b>Female</b>	1,000	5,000		
<b>Male</b>	1,000	5,000		
<b>Total</b>	2000	10000	0	0

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

The estimation of the core indicator 11 is based on the population dynamics in Adrar Wilaya which is estimated at 62,658 . During initial stakeholder consultations, it was estimated that 16% of the population in Adrar would be concentrated in the proposed project area. Women constitute ~49.8% of the population in Mauritania. Under the BD FA, the project will improve the conservation status through the creation and effective management of a terrestrial protected area in Adrar Wilaya ? covering a total area of 200,000 ha and through improved practices including sustainable land management in production systems on 100,000 ha adjacent to the new PA. That is, Guelb-Richat (the heart) as a fully protected central zone will sit on 200,000 ha, and the 100,000 ha will constitute the peripheral rings (two rock rings) as a buffer zone where activities respecting resources and biodiversity will be developed (mainly ecotourism and relevant land use plans), wadis and dune formations (ergs) from the outside where plant formation is most important in peripheral areas. The extension of the area includes the rocky plateau north of the central site, El beyed, the area of El Ghalawiya and Ouadane. It will be in this region outside the ?heart? that community participation will be most critical for their socioeconomic benefits of the project but also direct and active involvement in project-supported activities. The process of land use planning in those areas adjacent to the PA will be an important step to ensure that land and other resource use is appropriately managed to maximize land productivity without compromising the ability of biodiversity conservation around the PA. Thus, land use planning will be principal route of the proposed project?s biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors, consistent with BD -1-1. The project will therefore support the implementation of sustainable natural resource management practices, and conservation and management measures, in selected other use zones within and around the proposed protected area. The project will contribute to meeting Targets 5, 6 and 7 under Strategic Goal B (?Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use?); Targets 11 and 12 under Strategic Goal C (?Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity?); and Targets 14 and 15 under Strategic Goal D (?Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and

ecosystem services?), of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets) for the 2011-2020 period.

## Part II. Project Justification

### 1a. Project Description

*The Islamic Republic of Mauritania is situated in the Sahel, a region that grapples with acute development problems and serious humanitarian difficulties. Over the years, repeated food and nutrition crises caused by environmental hazards and climate change (environmental degradation, drought, floods, etc.), poorly functioning markets, low agricultural productivity, poverty, weaknesses in governance and conflicts have severely compromised the ability of people, particularly rural communities to withstand repeated and increasingly frequent shocks. Administratively, Mauritania is divided into 15 Wilayas which are further sub-divided into 15 Moughataas and 218 communes. Each Wilaya is under the administrative authority of a Wali while Moughataas are administered by Hakems. Communes are under the administrative authority of Mayors.*

*With a population of ~4.6 million (increasing at faster annual rate of 2.67%), a low GDP/capita (US\$ 1,219 in 2018), Mauritania only has ~ 0.5% of the total land surface considered arable. The country also remains one the most water deficit countries - it is arguably the driest and most exposed country in the Sahel desertified zone. The mean annual rainfall increases gradually from <50 mm in northern Mauritania to around 400 mm in southern Mauritania. The average annual temperatures between 21 and 31 °C in the littoral and inland, respectively, and the hot and dusty winds (harmattan) render most of the country an apparent barren desert. A combination of both natural and anthropogenic factors account for about 60% of land surface classified as either severely or very severely degraded. These phenomena have contributed to land degradation and loss of biodiversity where trees, shrubs and herbaceous vegetation are cleared for agricultural purposes, by bushfires and overexploitation of natural resources. This exposes soils to water erosion and especially aeolian erosion. These phenomena are manifested in the fragility of ecosystems (characterized by insufficient, irregular and poor rainfall distribution); sedentarization; and more rapid exploitation of resources compared to the rate of regeneration.*

*Mauritania has a poor record in terms of environmental governance index, and is ranked 45/46 of countries assessed in sub-Saharan Africa. Besides mining and fisheries, Mauritania is not endowed with directly exploitable natural resources. Desertification and environmental degradation are threatening the country's meagre size of arable land, including the Sahelian oasis ecosystems which are the life-support system of agricultural and pastoral activities that dominate rural economies. The pressures on the oases' ecosystems have compromised their functional ability to secure soil productivity and soil formation, and providing agricultural land, rangeland, fuel wood and critical habitats for a large variety of vegetation and wildlife species. There is strong human pressure on scarce natural resources for domestic needs and unsustainable agricultural and pastoral production leading to ecosystem degradation, erosion of sandy soils due to winds, siltation that affects arable land and infrastructure, and land and soil degradation.*

*In addition to the issues mentioned above, the Integrated Management of Protected Areas in the Arid Regions of Mauritania (IMPADRA) project has been designed to address challenges posed on the environment due to human population growth, illegal hunting, overdraft of scarce water resource and plastic pollution from local populations and tourists. Other threats human-wildlife conflict, mineral explorations and proliferation of trunk roads that have eased human access the Guelb Er Richat Nature Reserve which has an important Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), El Ghallouya in the north in Adrar*

*Wilaya. IMPADRA's strategy is to create an enabling environment for conservation of key species Adrar Wilaya through creation of a Protected Area and sustainable management of land in production systems of the surrounding landscape. The project is thus structured around three linked components: Establishment of a new Protected Area (PA) in Adrar Wilaya; establishing financial sustainability mechanisms for sustainable and effective management of the PA; and ensuring knowledge management and gender mainstreaming. The project will create a 200,000 ha PA and bring 100,000 ha of production landscapes under improved practices while directly impacting 10,000 people through a portfolio of diversified livelihood options and capacity development. By reintroducing/restocking Addax, Ostriches, Dorcas gazelle, Bighorn sheep, Dama gazelle, Oryx dammah and improving the management of the PA, IMPADRA will contribute to improving biodiversity conservation and livelihoods in Mauritania while raising the environmental performance index of the country.*

**DESCRIBE ANY CHANGES IN ALIGNMENT WITH THE PROJECT DESIGN WITH THE ORIGINAL PIF**

The table below highlights the changes in alignment with the project design with the original PIF

No.	PIF stage	CEO Endorsement stage changes
<b>Component 1 level changes</b>		
1.	Indicator change: Population size of at least 4 animal species is known and increased by at least 10% during the life of the project	Animal species population sizes[1] <sup>1</sup> is monitored and increases from ?rare appearance? to ?frequent appearance:? Area under rehabilitation within the PA specified as 2,500 ha.
2.	A new IUCN Category VI 200,000 ha terrestrial protected area established in Adrar (covering El Ghall?ou?ya KBA and newly designated KBA) increasing the national coverage of terrestrial protected areas	Additional indicators proposed in RF: ? Number of animal species reintroduced/restocked in the new PA, monitored and population size observed from ?rare appearance? to ?frequent appearance.? ? Number of land use plans (LUPs) developed and number of hectares under land use plans around the PA ? Number of long-term monitoring and enforcement systems in place ? Number of platforms for information sharing and intelligence gathering established between PA authority and the local communities and supported to be fully functional ? Number of Regional Offices to ensure the management of the new PA ? Number of long-term ecological monitoring system established for the PA and adjacent areas ? Number of PA management plans developed, board-approved and under implementation.
<b>Component 2 level changes</b>		

1.	Outcome 2 read ?Financial sustainability mechanisms improve the management effectiveness of the PA in Adrar?	Outcome 2 now reads ?Outcome 2: <b>Financial sustainability mechanisms improve and strengthen the sustainable management effectiveness of the PA beyond the life of the project</b> ? given the creation of the PA and the planned institutional arrangement and financial mechanisms to be established.  Proposed RF indicators are:  ? One (1) national level PA platform established to showcase best PA management practices, eco-tourism potential, investment potential and biodiversity status ? <b>10,000</b> direct beneficiaries of Community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities for local communities ? <b>5,000</b> female direct beneficiaries of Community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities for local communities
2.	Indicator change: 50,000 ha under sustainable land management in production systems in landscapes adjacent to the new PA	100,000 ha under sustainable land management in production systems in landscapes adjacent to the new PA ? reflecting the area to be brought under PA and area to be under agriculture and pastoral activities by communities who include both sedentary and nomadic systems.
	Number of agreements signed with private sector actors to secure investments and promote eco and scientific tourism potential of the PA	At least three agreements signed with private sector actors to secure investments and promote eco and scientific tourism potential of the PA
	1,775 households (50% women-headed) in the target Wilayas benefit from alternative income generating activities in line with biodiversity conservation targets	<b>10,000</b> direct beneficiaries (50% female beneficiaries) of community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities for local communities ? reflecting the population dynamics
Component 3 level changes		

1.	<p>Component 3 has four outputs, namely: 3.1.1 Gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan implemented across project components; 3.1.2 M&amp;E plan implemented in a timely fashion to facilitate adaptive management and lesson learning; 3.1.3 Communication strategy, including toolkits and radio programs developed to raise awareness about biodiversity conservation; 3.1.4 Knowledge management plan developed and implemented with lessons disseminated to relevant stakeholders to promote replication of the biodiversity conservation approaches in arid areas</p>	<p>Component 3 now has three outputs, namely: Output 3.1.1: Gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan implemented across project; Output 3.1.2: M&amp;E plan implemented in a timely fashion to facilitate adaptive management and lesson learning; Output 3.1.3: Knowledge management and communication strategy, including toolkits and radio programs developed to raise awareness about biodiversity conservation. Essentially, outputs 3.1.3 and 3.1.4 have been collapsed into one, that is, output 3.1.3</p>
2.	<p>Number of tangible gender outcomes demonstrated through the implementation of the gender equality strategy</p> <p>Number of Government and strategic partners adopt lessons to inform scaling up of biodiversity conservation in arid areas</p>	<p>One (1) new PA gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan developed and implemented across components</p> <p>One (1) knowledge management plan developed and implemented</p> <p>RF indicators under component 3 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>? One (1) new PA gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan developed and implemented across components</li> <li>? Four (4) communication strategies or mechanisms and tools developed</li> <li>? Four (4) biodiversity conservation awareness campaigns</li> <li>? One (1) knowledge management plan developed and implemented</li> </ul> <p>-To ensure indicators are more measurably feasible</p>



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[1] This approach is based on the findings from a baseline study that used a more participatory approach to establish the presence of animals in the proposed project area. The establishment and conservation efforts will be measured by any difference in appearances in the animals identified as present. The periodic monitoring approach of the population changes will combine a community participatory approach with the use of the surveillance system that will be developed under output 1.1.4.

1a. *Project Description*. Elaborate on: 1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description); 2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects; 3) the proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project; 4) alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies; 5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing; 6) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF); and 7) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up. ?

### **1) The global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers**

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania (Mauritania or IRM hereafter) is situated in the Sahel, a region grappling with acute development problems and serious humanitarian difficulties. Human development in the region is among the lowest in the world. Over the years, repeated food and nutrition crises caused by environmental hazards and climate change (environmental degradation, drought, floods, etc.), poorly functioning markets, low agricultural productivity, poverty, weaknesses in governance and conflicts have severely compromised the ability of people, particularly rural communities to withstand repeated and increasingly frequent shocks.[2] Administratively, Mauritania is divided into 15 Wilayas which are further sub-divided into 15 Moughataas and 218 communes. Each Wilaya is under the administrative authority of a Wali while Moughataas are administered by Hakems. Communes are under the administrative authority of Mayors.



agricultural purposes, by bushfires and overexploitation of natural resources[4]; exposing soils to water erosion and especially aeolian erosion. These phenomena are manifested in the fragility of ecosystems (characterized by insufficient, irregular and poor rainfall distribution); sedentarization; and more rapid exploitation of resources compared to the rate of regeneration.

The environmental challenges in Mauritania are exacerbated by poor environmental governance ? According to the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) at Yale[5], Mauritania currently ranks 45th out of 46 assessed countries in sub-Saharan Africa, with an EPI score of 19.2 and change in EPI of -0.2 over the past 10 years (see figure below[6]) and 171 out of 180 countries assessed globally.

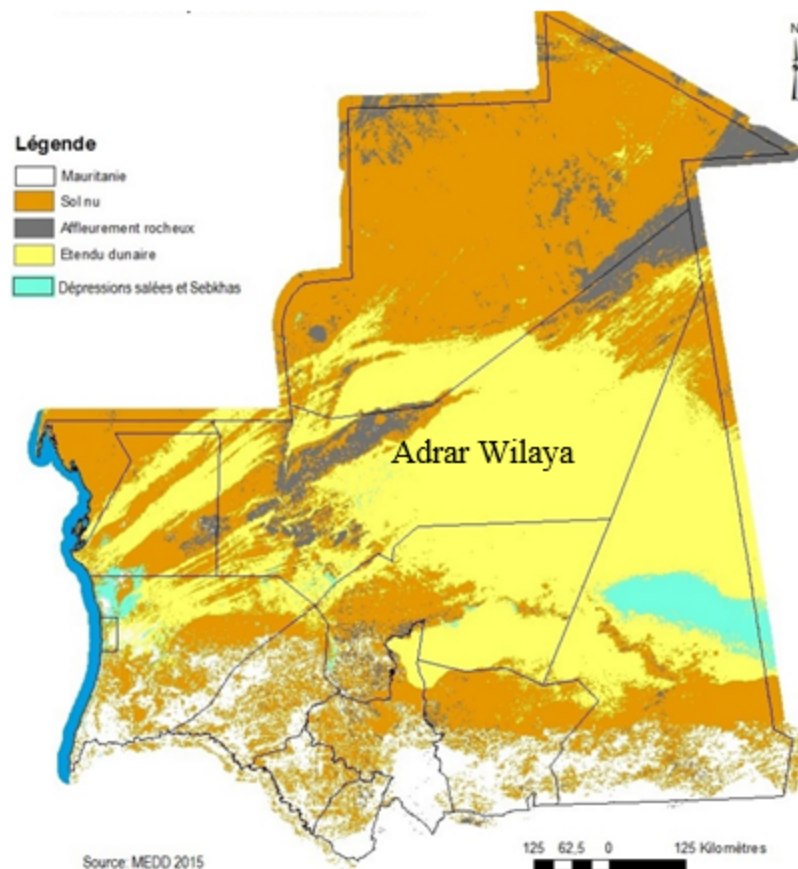
Besides mining and fisheries, Mauritania is not endowed with directly exploitable natural resources. Desertification and environmental degradation are threatening arable land (45% of the total surface), including the Sahelian oasis ecosystems. The oasis ecosystems in the country are the life-support system of agricultural and pastoral activities that dominate rural economies. The pressures on the oases? ecosystems have compromised their functional ability to secure soil productivity and soil formation, and providing agricultural land, rangeland, fuel wood and critical habitats for a large variety of vegetation and wildlife species. Agriculture provides more than 60% of the population with jobs and income and rural activities occupy more than 55% of the active population and provide almost 17% of national GDP per year[7], with livestock (cattle, camels, sheep, goats) representing 80% of this figure. Only 11.5% of the area under agricultural production is irrigated. The downward trend in rainfall, demographic dynamics and land pressure, among others, have accelerated the rate at which the degradation of natural resources and particularly that of soil fertility is happening in the country. Most notably, agricultural production covers only 40% of the food needs of the Mauritanian people. 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. The production of dates has become a highly valued economic activity for the country (in oasis areas, agriculture is essentially based on the date palm with over 200 palm cultivars counted).

Forest cover has decreased at an average annual rate of around 2.7% over the last 10 years. In the Senegal River Valley, many classified forests have gradually disappeared or seen their areas reduced due to drought and agricultural pressures. More and more of these areas are being given up to the development of hydro-agricultural schemes. A strategy for restoring protected forests has been developed however its action plan has not been implemented. Out of a total land area of 1,046,303km<sup>2</sup>, 6,508 km<sup>2</sup> or 0.62% are protected. Mauritania has two national parks: The Banc d'Arguin National Park (BANP) and the Diawling National Park, and three nature reserves: Tilemsi, El Aguer and Guelb er Richat.

At the core of the environmental and socio-economic challenges in Mauritania is in part the protection of the remaining limited natural resources from further degradation and then using the same resources to generate more environmental benefits while reducing the socio-economic vulnerability context of the local people. In addressing these intertwined complex socio-economic and environmental challenges, this project is proposed in Adrar Wilaya. This Wilaya is part of the arid zones of Mauritania (see Figure

1), affected by the lowest investment levels of the country. Embedded and supported by the dictum that 'aridity is not sterility', Adrar Wilaya remains an important landscape for pastoral as well as food crop producing rural communities. Additionally, the Wilaya is also a home to some of the endemic animal species that are of national and global importance. The Wilaya also has oases that define and shape economies for the survival of rural populations.

*The Wilaya of Adrar:* The Wilaya is on an elevation of about 700 m in the north and west. It gets subsumed in dunes in the southern and eastern sides. More than half of the inhabitants of Adrar are considered to be poor (57.1%), or 15 points more than the national level (42%). Socio-economic activities in Adrar are related to tourism and crafts, mining and petroleum, transport, energy, and dressed stone, as well as livestock and exploitation of natural resources. Agriculture is the main activity of the Wilaya, which contains the largest number of oases in the country (more than 63), is self-sufficient, and participates in the supply (with vegetables and dates) of the capital Nouakchott. Nevertheless, cereal production, largely dependent on irregular rainfall, only covers 30% of estimated needs in good years. Tourism is another critical economic activity due to the geographical location, its magical landscape (sand dunes, mountain ranges, and historic towns of Chinguity and Ouadane).



*Figure 1: Map of desert and arid zones in Mauritania*

Tourism has recovered after 2018, making a steady increased contribution to the income of the household standard of living and to the national GDP.[8] Adrar has therefore substantial ecotourism potential with the full involvement of local communities. For example, past interventions from the European Union (EU) offered training programmes to local communities in support of ecotourism and eco-surveillance. Other partners have also worked in the past to promote traditional weaving, dyes and seams, inn creation; promote the exploitation of livestock products in handicrafts (such as camel skins and wool); and systematization of access rights. There have been efforts to reintroduce gazelles, antelopes and other Sahelo-Saharan species in the Parc d'Aouleigat created in Trarza Wilaya in 2016. The MESD has established partnerships with Spain, Senegal, Niger, Zimbabwe to this effect and recently collaborated with CBD Habitat (Spain) in the successful reintroduction of about 150 individuals and 10 species in the Parc. The MESD has demonstrated interest in the potential reintroduction of indigenous Sahelo-Saharan species in the new PA as recommended by the decree drafted for the designation of Guelb Er Richat as PA. This would need additional financial and ecological assessment to ascertain any future reintroduction.

It is important to note that the potential of biological resources in Mauritania is unknown, never having benefited from a systematic inventory to determine more precisely the potential of their biological or genetic diversity and the areas they cover. There is only a partial inventory on government official record made in 1981 by USAID that covers only one part of southwest Mauritania, giving an idea of the diversity of species in the areas covered. Unfortunately, it can no longer be taken into consideration today due to the different drivers of biodiversity loss at the national level.[9] This partly explains the poor environmental governance indicator of Mauritania.

*Animal species in Adrar Wilaya:* In Adrar, the terrestrial fauna is found in two distinct biotopes. These are the massifs and valleys which are the respective areas of the Barbary sheep and the Dorcas gazelle. The Guelb Richat, has been recognized for the faunistic diversity, particularly the Oryx, Addax, Ostrich, and Gazelle dama.

#### Biodiversity in Adrar Wilaya

Species	Scientific name	Existence based on observations
<b>List of wild mammals in Adrar</b>		
Dama gazelle	<i>Gazella dama</i>	Very rare
Gazelle dorcas	<i>Gazella dorcas</i>	Very rare
Barbary sheep	<i>Ammotragus lervia</i>	Very rare
Orycteropus	<i>Orycteropus afer</i>	Very rare
Porcupine	<i>Hystrix cristata</i>	Very rare
Hare	<i>Lepus capensis</i>	Undetermined
Desert hedgehog	<i>Paraechinus aethiopicus</i>	Undetermined
Red monkey	<i>Erythrocebus patas</i>	Scarce
Golden jackal	<i>Canis aureus</i>	Undetermined
Pale fox	<i>Canis pallidus</i>	Undetermined
Civet	<i>Viverra civetta</i>	Scarce
Striped hyena	<i>Hyaena hyaena</i>	Very rare
Genette tigrine	<i>Genetta tigrina</i>	Very rare
Sand cat	<i>Felis margarita</i>	Undetermined
Burrowing squirrel	<i>Euxerus erythropus</i>	Frequent
Rock hyrax	<i>Procavia capensis</i>	Frequent

Species	Scientific name	Existence based on observations
<b>List of birds of Adrar[10]</b>		
Great Bustard	<i>Ardeotis arabs</i>	Rare
Pharaoh's hen	<i>Eupodotis senegalensis</i>	Less frequent
Denham Bustard	<i>Neotis denhami</i>	Rare
Black-bellied bustard	<i>Eupodotis melanogaster</i>	Rare
Curvite Isabelle	<i>Cursorius cursor</i>	Undetermined
Senegalese gangas	<i>Pterocles exustus</i>	Undetermined
Gambian gangas	<i>Pterocles quadricinctus</i>	Undetermined
African turnix	<i>Turnix sylvatica</i>	Undetermined
Crow pie	<i>Corvus albus</i>	Undetermined
Brown raven	<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>	Undetermined
<b>List of reptiles in Adrar</b>		
Desert monitor	<i>Varanus griseus</i>	Abundant
Sand monitor lizard	<i>Varanus varanus</i>	Rare
African snake	<i>Dasypeltis scabra</i>	Undetermined
Puff adder	<i>Bitis arietans</i>	Undetermined
Horned viper	<i>Cerastes carastes</i>	Undetermined
Erg viper	<i>Cerastes vipera</i>	Less frequent
Sand snake	<i>Psammaphis schokari</i>	Rare
Land turtle	<i>Testudo sulcata</i>	Very rare
Agama sp	<i>Agama sp</i>	Abundant

Source: Government of Mauritania (2017). Actualisation de la Monographie De La Wilaya de l'Adrar  
Rapport diagnostic

A baseline study for the development of IMPADRA reveal that the Guelb er Richat is part of the migratory corridor of birds between the Mediterranean and the south Sahara. The tables below show birds that were observed during the study, highlighting the presence of avifauna in El Ghallaouiya of local but also global environmental importance. The birds combine both Afro-tropical migrant and Palearctic migrant species.



*Small migratory passerine bird  
observed during baseline study*

*uelb er Richat Nature Reserve*, one of the only three nature reserves in Mauritania[11] is located in the Wilaya of Adrar, in the Moughataa of Ouadane. The reserve covers an area of 20,000 km<sup>2</sup> (2,000,000 ha), created in an area with diverse biotopes. According to the European Union study conducted in 2007 to create a community-managed protected area for the Guelb Er Richat site and its outlying areas,

Guelb Er Richat is of great geological interest (refer to Figure 2) and hosts a variety of healthy ecosystems. This is partly thanks to the difficult of access to the area, therefore less anthropogenic impact on the landscape. The prehistoric and cultural wealth of the area is unparalleled in Mauritania. There are permanent sources of water, natural protection against winds for the animals and human access.

Scientific name	Common name
<i>Ammamones cincturus</i>	Elegant Ammamone
<i>Eagle rappax</i>	Eagle captor
<i>Circus aeroginosus</i>	Northern Harrier
<i>Corvus ruficollis</i>	Brown raven
<i>Falco biarmicus</i>	Lanner falcon
<i>Hippolais polyglotta</i>	Polyglot hippola?s
<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Barn swallow
<i>Lanius excubitor</i>	Grey Shrike
<i>Lanius senator</i>	Red-headed Shrike
<i>Merops apiaster</i>	European beeper
<i>Milvus migrans</i>	Black kite
<i>Skip simplex</i>	White Sparrow
<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>	Red tail with white front
<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>	Bonelli pouillot
<i>Rhodopechys githaginea</i>	Roseline githaginne
<i>Streptopelia senegalensis</i>	Laughing dove
<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	Turtle Dove
<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>	Whitethroat

The presence of oases in the Reserve is also particularly important for migratory birds. The Reserve was created for the protection of a bighorn sheep (mouflons) population that is endangered. Today it is used for protection of a rich and varied Saharan flora and fauna. The most important wildlife species are the addax, dorcas gazelle, bighorn sheep, red-fronted gazelle and the owls[12]. The dominant plant species are those of the arid zones which are certainly scattered but of great biological diversity.[13] Given its natural, including geological endowments and cultural value, the Reserve has increasingly gained political support to invest in considerably improving its protection. In bilateral negotiations, between the European Union, the World Bank and the Government, the Reserve has become part of the topics to attract investments in the near future to spur eco-tourism potential, conserve biodiversity, prevent the movement of sand dunes, particularly in the southern end of the Reserve and to create employment opportunities to curb migration to cities.

IMPADRA?s baseline study confirmed the presence of mammals of local and global significance within the project area. While the presence of mammals cannot be disputed in Guelb Er Richat, approaches to establish baselines would be plagued with the fact that the area is vast, and animals withdraw to areas where they can find grass to graze or water points. A descriptive assessment can however be done to indicate the relative abundance of the observed animals. This is in terms of rare, moderately rare, abundant and very abundant. This categorization of animal presence is important in the case where quantitative baselines are hard to establish ? where the assessment also draws on communities within and around a given area of interest. Based on indications such as carcasses, footprints in some cases, observations from researchers and community traditional knowledge of Guelb Er Richat, aside the ostriches and Addax nasomaculatus, the following animals were reported during

the baseline study:



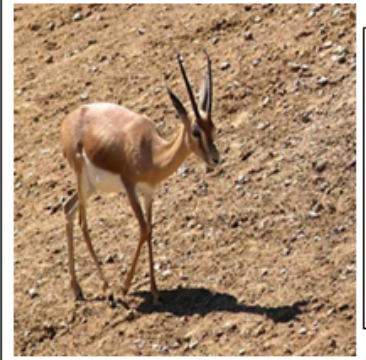
**The dama gazelle:** Rare and threatened; it is considered by the IUCN as Critically Endangered. It consumes mainly plant organs, leaves, flowers, seeds, fruits. Its diet may change with the seasons as food sources will depend on the vegetation available in the area. As this species gives birth only once every two years, it needs less food than other gazelles and therefore adapts more to the lack of food.



**The African ostrich** (*Chlamystris undulata*) appears in the Richat, and is considered by the IUCN as



**The Bighorn sheep (*Ammotragus lervia*):** Considered vulnerable by the IUCN, the species is increasingly rare but spotted in Guelb Er Richat and surrounding area. The species takes refuge in some isolated areas. The mouflon is able to survive long periods in rocky places with reduced vegetation and almost without water. Environments such as the Guelb Richat and its periphery, constitute a natural biotope for its retreat. It is more often noticed after rainfall as grass is growing for feeding on.



**The dorcas gazelle** (*Gazella gazelle*) is the smallest Saharan gazelle, considered by the IUCN as rarely spotted in Er Richat.



**The Rock Damans:** Considered Least Concern by the IUCN, the species is a herbivore that feeds mainly on leaves, wood, bark or stems or fruit and bryophytes. The Guelb and its periphery is indeed its favorable biotope. Its droppings are used in various ways such as in hyraceutum which has been used to treat epilepsy, seizures and a number of diseases specific to women.



**Oryx damalis** Extinct in the wild since the 1970s and has participated in experiments of the MED in the AN of the AN National Park in Mauritania.

At the level of flora more precisely, the southern part of the Guelb Er Richat is poor in pasture. Only a few tufts of *panicum turgidum* grow there. The woody vegetation is very sparse and is made up of *balanites aegyptiaca* and *Acacia raddiana*. The northern part of Guelb Er Richat is richer. There are



important meadows of *Panicum turgidum* combined, with *Acacia ehrenbergiana*, *Capparis decidua*, *Maerua crassifolia*, *Acacia raddiana*, *Euphorbia bamalsifera*, *Sclerocephalus arabicus*, *Cymbopogon schoenanthus*. The concentric enclosures of Guelb Er Richat leave between them clayey-silty depressions where fodder plants grow in case of rains. The *sebkhas* located inside the Richat constitute, in the event of rains, pastures that attract herbivores. The northern periphery of Richat is a flat area interspersed by wadis where *Panicum turgidum* and relatively dense stands of *Acacia* grow. The



southern periphery is covered with dune formations where grow *Aristida pungens*, *Aristida plumosa*, *Anastatica hirochuntina* (Jericho rose), *Broechia cinerea*, *Crotalariae sahariae*, *Cleome tenalla*, *Aerva javanica*, *Schouvia purpurea*, *Cassia obovata* and *Colocynthis vulgaris*. The Guelb Er Richat is surrounded by a wadi which seemed to be occupied by an old gallery forest. Currently the dominant vegetation consists of *Leptadenia pyrotechnica* and *Acacia raddiana*. At the level of fauna, there are Dorca gazelles, Barbary sheep, addax and oryx around the Guelb Er Richat. The presence of these antelopes as well as other species of animals such as the rock hyrax, the gray monitor, the jackal and migrating raptors is threatened by various activities including hunting. In addition, competition between wild species and domesticated animals for water supply in certain pastoral areas still turns to the disadvantage of wild species. The Guelb Er Richat area is a crossing point for migrating passerines from the Western Palearctic.[14]

To the north-east of the Guelb Er Richat Nature Reserve is an important Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), *El Ghall?ou?ya* (coordinates: 21°35'N 10°35'W). *El Ghall?ou?ya* is a winding escarpment that links to the Guelb Er Richat and, further south, to the Adrar plateau. *El Ghall?ou?ya* is a permanent water-source exploited by nomadic herders, acknowledged as "one of the best water source in the Sahara", critical for species that rely on the water for their biological processes such as birds, the dorcas gazelle or the felou gundi. Deep ravines intersect the cliffs and there are many ledges and crevices in the rock-face. The plains are dominated by ergs and isolated dunes, punctuated by wells and sebkhas. The area has relatively important vegetation in depressions: *Hyoscyamus muticus*, *Tamarix sp.*, *Acacia raddiana*, *Capparis decidua*, *Leptadenia pyrotechnica*, *Maerua crassifolia*, *Salvadora persica*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Panicum turgidum* and *Stipagrostis pungens*. [15] According to the 2001 assessment, *El Ghall?ou?ya* sits on 35,000 ha and has the following bird species with their IBA criteria in brackets: Crowned Sandgrouse *Pterocles coronatus* (A3); Nubian Bustard *Neotis nuba* (A1); Pharaoh Eagle-owl *Bubo ascalaphus* (A3); Greater Hoopoe-lark *Alaemon alaudipes* (A3); Bar-tailed Lark *Ammomanes cinctura* (A3); Desert Lark *Ammomanes deserti* (A3); Pale Rock Martin *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta* (A3); Streaked Scrub-warbler *Scotocerca inquieta* (A3); Fulvous Babbler *Argya fulva* (A3); White-crowned Wheatear *Oenanthe leucopyga* (A3); *Passer simplex* (A3); and Trumpeter Finch *Bucanetes githagineus* (A3). [16]

According to the same European Union Study of 2007 mentioned earlier, *El Ghallaouiya* is the richest rock carving site in Mauritania with a rich diversity of biotopes, especially along the cliffs with a rich ecological niches around permanent water sources and forests in depressions. Gazelles, dorcas, addax and the bustard appear to survive on the plateau. These animals are rare and adapted to the harsh conditions of the Sahara. However, cultural hunting practices (illegal) and the buying of hunting permits by large wealthy hunters to hunt the last specimens of large and endangered wildlife is a real threat to the biodiversity in the area. Additionally, government presence is limited, and this contributes to the general failure to enforce and comply with existing legislation, particularly with regard to the plundering of Paleo and Neolithic resources, and the illegal hunting of large Saharan fauna. The well of *El Ghallaouiya* and the pass to the north to the pastures of erg Maqtier and Baten at the foot of Adrar Wilaya and the pastures of the great sandy plains of Mreyye and Adrar have always been a place of transit. This explains the richness of the rock site.

The main environmental constraints in Adrar Wilaya include: (i) a strong human pressure on scarce natural resources for domestic needs and unsustainable agricultural and pastoral production leading to ecosystem degradation; (ii) erosion of sandy soils due to winds; (iii) silting that affects arable land and

infrastructure; and (iv) land and soil degradation[17]. More specifically, the main environmental threats in the proposed project area include human population growth, illegal hunting, overdraft of scarce water resource and plastic pollution from local populations and tourists. Other threats human-wildlife conflict, mineral explorations and proliferation of trunk roads that have eased human access to the area.[18]

The Wilaya of Adrar in the arid zones of the country represents important productive landscapes for agricultural and pastoral communities. They are home to the rare mouflons as well as endangered gazelles of Mauritania, and to the "Eye of the Sahara"[19] that is of cultural, geological and environmental importance at national and global levels. Sadly, the arid zones have received little development attention from both the national Government and development partners. This is however, beginning to change, and this proposed project is strategically placed to catalyse many interventions in the target Wilaya, including the interventions listed in the baseline scenario, among others.

It is very important to note that the El Ghallouya KBA and the Guelb er Richat Nature Reserve form a contiguous landscape that supports both the wildlife and vegetation detailed above. Therefore, the establishment of a Protected Area between the El Ghallouya KBA and the Guelb er Richat is critical to the sustainable management and conservation of both the flora and fauna in Adrar Wilaya. Creating a Protected Area will safeguard the biodiversity integrity of species that are found in both Guelb er Richat Nature Reserve and El Ghallouya KBA.

It should be noted here that the government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania has taken an important step in establishing the Guelb Er Richat as a Nature Reserve. The government has increasingly attached importance to the area as national treasure that now even appears on the national currency (figure below).



*Figure 2: The structure of the Guelb Er Richat*

This remains an important step in improving biodiversity conservation in the country, however, on its own, it is insufficient. Thus, herein lies the value added in the creation of the PA to give the area a legal conservation status with regimented conservation programs, which hitherto, have been absent in the Nature Reserve. Overall, the government has financial, human and institutional constraints, and its presence to ensure sufficient conservation measures in Adrar Wilaya is limited.

The long-term solution sought by the project is to create an enabling environment for conservation of key species in this arid Wilaya of Mauritania through integrated PA management and sustainable land management in production systems of the surrounding landscape. The project aims to apply an integrated landscape approach that leads to multiple environmental benefits through biodiversity conservation and support to sustainable, resilient and healthy ecosystems. The effectiveness of efforts to realise this long-term solution is however being compromised by the following key barriers, linked to the weak institutional and policy structures (as reflected in the low environmental governance indicator) to

improve environmental governance and conserve biodiversity; lack of an integrated approach to biodiversity conservation and natural resource management in Mauritania; and insufficient capacity in sustainable natural resource management and participation of rural communities resources in biodiversity conservation. These barriers are detailed below.

. *Weak institutional and policy structures to improve environmental governance and conserve biodiversity:* The capacity of the national and local agencies responsible for conservation planning and management is weak, with insufficient operational funding, staffing complement, and technical skills being committed to fulfill their conservation mandates (refer to baseline scenario). Areas where resources are locally managed by user associations are an exception. **User associations play a key role in the management of natural resources, including forests, crop land, protected areas, and grazing land. These associations, which are typically made up of local communities, play a critical role in preserving and sustainably utilizing these resources. In the case of forests, user associations are responsible for managing and protecting forests through a participatory forest management approach. This approach involves involving local communities in decision-making and management processes, and it has been shown to be effective in reducing deforestation and promoting sustainable forest management. The government of Mauritania has established a legal framework that recognizes the rights of local communities to use and manage their land, and user associations are responsible for enforcing these rights. Overall, by involving local communities in decision-making and management processes, user associations are helping to ensure that these resources are used sustainably and that local communities benefit from their use.**

The target areas are all poorly demarcated, there is a lack of information on status and trends of biodiversity, including benefits from biodiversity and ecosystem services. They have weak support from local communities and political decision-makers. There is a need to reinforce government *presence* in El Ghallouya, currently limited an army base at Al Ghallaouiya. Given the absence of the government, there is non-adherence to the existing regulation, particularly the pillage of paleo and neolithic resources and poaching of the Saharian fauna.

? *Lack of an integrated approach to biodiversity conservation and natural resource management in Mauritania:* Fisheries, agriculture, forestry and livestock holding that constitute Mauritania's important natural resources are estimated at 30% of the total national wealth stock.[20] However, the condition of land, water, forests and biodiversity continues to deteriorate owing to the combined effect of hostile climatic conditions and continued overexploitation and pressure from deforestation to increased land for agriculture, timber and fuel needs. These factors contribute to habitat loss of key species in and around El Ghallouya KBA. Despite the high levels of land degradation, only 0.62% of the land area is protected in an institutional context where planning processes are siloed, rather than integrated to address the complex interlinkages between environmental, social and economic issues affecting the country. Added to this is weak environmental governance, i.e., institutional, material, financial and human resources available to the authorities in charge of environmental management. Despite these challenges, we have noted a number of emerging opportunities and a combination of private and public investments under the leadership of the Government. These will be harnessed by the project in the context of the

existing natural resource to support the country to towards achieving its conservation and development goals and reduce poverty levels of communities whose livelihoods are tied to the exploitation of natural resources.

? *Insufficient capacity in sustainable natural resource management and participation of rural community resources in biodiversity conservation:* Mauritania's HDI ranks 161 out of 189 countries and territories. Though Mauritania's economy has seen growth from the mining sector, the poverty levels in rural areas -where almost 70% of the poor people live- are still very high. There is generally limited community involvement in and benefit from protected area management. This is related to a variety of factors. There is generally lack of awareness on the value of biodiversity conservation and related ecosystem services, understanding of sustainable natural resource management and related investments. This is partly linked to the lack of institutional frameworks at local level to support capacity development for improved integration of communities in sustainable management of natural resources that underpin their livelihoods. Additionally, the government is less present in the drylands, depriving communities in those areas of social services, including economic opportunities that come with a vibrant government and private sector presence. Therefore, reliance on the maximum exploitation of natural resources is almost their only option to survive. As a strategic management policy direction for rural development, sustainable economic growth depends on the development of income-generating activities that diversify the livelihoods of the poor rural communities around El Ghallouya who depend almost entirely on the exploitation of natural resources for their survival. Alternative and diversified income generating activities for rural communities will expand economic opportunities to reduce their reliance and exploitation of natural resources that lead to resource degradation.

## **2) The baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects**

As a signatory to the CBD, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania (IRM) is committed to providing an effective response across sectors and at various government levels to conserve biodiversity and to achieve the Aichi targets. Mauritania seeks to continue integrating the process of sustainable use of biological resources for future generations. The country's National Strategy for Biodiversity (2011-2020) indicates that Mauritania seeks to preserve the functions of long-term ecosystems, including their capacity to adapt and evolve according to environmental changes, especially climate change and desertification. Several projects to create Protected Areas are currently being studied in Mauritania, some of which are in a very advanced state. Among those, Guelb El Richat, which forms the same contiguous landscape with the El Ghallouya KBA, is listed as a priority project (6th National Report to CBD, 2018). The parliamentary decree to establish a PA in the area has been prepared, the National Tourism Office has been relaunched in October 2020 and the Government has initiated investments in support for tourism infrastructure in target villages in Adrar, the proposed Wilaya (region) for the project. IMPADRA therefore will ride on these government's efforts. In the event of change of government priorities and or delays, IMPARA will continue to seek partnerships and engaging development partners for technical, policy advocacy but also financial resources to inform adaptive project management.

The Government of the IRM acknowledges the above-mentioned barriers in its commitments. In line with the country's multilateral biodiversity commitments, there are a number of national organizations

implementing biodiversity-related activities. In this baseline scenario, a few of them have operations in Adrar Wilaya. These are however largely insufficient, linked to financial, human and institutional constraints as indicated in the barrier analysis (including the limited government presence). Beyond the efforts made by the IRM to designate the area as nature reserve and the leadership of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MESD) to mobilize technical and financial partners, the GEF funding will be critical to enable the scientific basis and governance framework that will lead to the formal creation of the PA and its sustainable management with regimented conservation programs and sustainable financing mechanisms. Within the MESD, DPREM is responsible to design the national policy for the conservation of terrestrial and marine protected areas and to develop the network of protected areas within the framework of sustainable development, among other functions. The Directorate includes three departments: Protected Areas Service; Littoral Service; Biodiversity Monitoring Service. The Protected Areas Service is responsible for promoting new models of protected areas and implementing them within the framework of new classification projects, serving as an interface between protected areas and between them and partners and ensure the preservation of endangered species, including migratory or resident species in protected areas, the coast and wetlands. Article 33 defines responsibilities of the Biodiversity Monitoring Service for data collection and proposition of measures for the safeguard and conservation of migratory species in protected areas and along the coast. The Directorate of Protected Areas and Coastline with a total staff capacity of 35 personnel (including a Director, a Deputy Director, 3 Head of Services and around 30 officers) has an estimated budget of USD 3 million for 2021-2026 period.

DPREM will work directly with partners in Ouadane through the regional tourism office in Adrar ? ensuring project coherence with national policy for the conservation the new protected area within the framework of sustainable development, in addition to the different baseline projects and coordination projects mentioned below. As mentioned above, DPREM was established to support government efforts and development partners to prioritise investments for for the conservation of terrestrial and marine protected areas and to develop the network of protected areas within the framework of sustainable development. The role of DPREM in this project is IRM?s strategic and deliberate decision to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management in the arid regions of Mauritania. The principle community economic activities in Adrar are related to oasis agriculture based on the cultivation of dates, gardening and production of cereal crops; and pastoralism, dominated by livestock transhumant camel, sheep and goat breeds on large pastoral areas with little to no forest formations. Oasis agriculture and pastoralism are very important to the local and national economies in Mauritania. To this end, these activities are a priority to IRM that has sought to develop and implement a development agenda axed on biological diversity, sustainable development, and agriculture. Thus, with different development partners, the IRM has invested in oasis agriculture and pastoralism in Adrar region through the following projects that constitute the associated baseline projects:

? *Development of an integrated system to promote the natural capital in the drylands of Mauritania:* This is a \$3.9 million four-year GEF-funded and IUCN implemented proposed project for the period 2023 ?2026. The project has a cofinancing of \$7.5 million. It aims at improving livelihoods of rural communities in the wilayas of Adrar, Inchiri and Dakhlet Nouadhibou in Mauritania through sustainable land restoration and management. It has been designed around four components: capacity building and governance; land and ecosystem restoration; financing scaling-up of SLM; and project-specific knowledge management and Monitoring and Evaluation. The proposed project presents solid potential

to complement the biodiversity conservation focus of the UNEP project with the implementation of activities in the Wilaya of Adrar related to SLM and ecosystem restoration outside the PA. More specifically, the proposed project will build on the 15 community livelihoods improvement and land restoration micro-projects, taking advantage of community-level mobilization to expand livelihood activities that go beyond land restoration to include biodiversity-friendly approaches, sharing approaches and best practice from component 2 and through component 3.

? **EBNOU ATAILLAH Foundation Initiatives:** The foundation has among others, mandate to i) identify, design, study, finance, implement and/or monitor the implementation of economic and social development projects, alone or in partnership with public or private bodies, natural or legal persons; and ii) to take stock of grassroots development experiences implemented in developing areas and which may appear to be a model for replication. The foundation current investment in project area include Income Generating Activities (INGA), Fighting Poverty and environmental protection, agricultural and livestock production projects, infrastructure and hydraulic projects and health and education projects. These investments which worth \$7 383 491, constitute an important cofinancing opportunity for IMPADRA project.

? *National Foundation for the Preservation of Ancient Cities:* The foundation is working on numerous prehistoric and cultural sites. The activities include i) *Development of the city of Ouadane through the creation of dams, telephone antennas between Atar and Ouadane, cultural and sports complex, water supply, electricity, construction and rehabilitation of the old town, support for local cooperatives,* ii) *construction training centres including schools;* iii) *City development ; and organisation of annual Festival of heritage cities. These activities provide opportunities for the project to raise awareness on conservation of biological and historic sites but also create tourist attraction which will add value to the ecotourism infrastructures the project will be creating.*

? **Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement (REDISSE) Phase III:** This program covers four countries, namely: Benin; Mali, Mauritania and Niger. For Mauritania, this is a \$20 million IDA project implemented by the World Bank in the country to strengthen national and regional cross-sectoral capacity for collaborative disease surveillance and epidemic preparedness in Mauritania; and in the event of an Eligible Emergency, to provide immediate and effective response to said Eligible Emergency ? to primarily benefit 4.3 million people whose livelihoods are likely to be affected by animal diseases. REDISSE is conceived around the following components: Surveillance and Information Systems; Strengthening of Laboratory Capacity; Preparedness and Emergency Response; Human Resource Management for Effective Disease Surveillance and Epidemic Preparedness; Institutional Capacity Building; and Project Management, Coordination and Advocacy. **IMPADRA will build on the engagement of REDISSE III with pastoral communities, particularly as it relates to supporting livelihoods of pastoral communities in the project area.** Diseases of zoonotic nature for communities whose livelihoods are centred on the health of animals can reduce their resilience and increase their vulnerability ? altering the way in which they interact with a broad range of natural resources. Therefore,

IMPADRA will learn from REDISSE to enhance community livelihoods building on REDISSE III achievements.

? *Regional Support Project for the Sahel Irrigation Initiative (PARIIS)*: This is a \$197.25 million program funded by the World Bank for the period 2017 to 2024. The objective is to improve the capacity of stakeholders to develop and manage irrigation and to increase irrigated areas by following a regional approach based on "solutions" in six countries in the Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Chad). The project interventions revolve around three components: Modernization of the Institutional and Planning Framework; Financing of irrigation solutions and Knowledge Management and Coordination. This project operates in the oasis areas of Adrar where the proposed project will synergise with the current one in land use plans and development of knowledge products regarding date production to improve the management of ecosystems in the oasis areas. In the implementation of irrigation solutions and modernization of institutional and planning frameworks, the current project uses participatory approaches ? establishing local-level structures that the proposed project will make use of to engage with communities through participatory processes.

? *Regional Project of Support to Pastoralism in the Sahel (PRAPS)*: \$248 million World Bank funded project for the period 2015 ? 2021. The PRAPS stems from the Nouakchott Declaration on pastoralism that was adopted on October 29, 2013 for 6 Sahelian countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Chad and Senegal). The PRAPS-MR intervenes according to the main transhumance axes in 6 eco-pastoral zones (cross-border zones) at the level of 10 wilayas (Trarza, Brakna, Gorgol, Guidimakha, Assaba, Hodh Elgharbi, Hodh Echargui, Tagant, Adrar, Inchiri), to improve access to essential production means and services and to markets for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in selected cross-border areas and along transhumance routes The main components are: Improve animal health; Improve the management of natural resources; Facilitate market access; Improve the management of pastoral crises; Project management and institutional support. Date farming and livestock production are important socioeconomic activities in Adrar. In Adrar, the proposed project will learn from PRAPS on community mobilisation as well as institutional and community-supported approaches to improve management of natural resources.

? *Adaptation and Livelihoods Project in 3 Arid Regions of Mauritania (AMSTRA)*: funded by the GEF, implemented by UNEP with \$ 4 million for 2019-2022 to strengthen adaptation to climate change and design activities that protect, preserve and rehabilitate ecosystems and improve the living conditions of local populations at the local level in the arid and semi-arid zones of Inchiri, Adrar, Tagant, Tiris Zemmour and Dakhlet Nouadhibou. Some of the ecosystem strengthening activities involving communities as well as technical institutional capacity building of this project will be implemented in Adrar - offering potential for collaboration in terms of community engagement and capacity development. The KM work envisaged under this project would also serve to inform the proposed project component 3.

? *The Development of an Improved and innovative Management system for Sustainable climate-resilient livelihoods in Mauritania project (DIMS)*: This was a \$5 million four-year (2013 ? 2017) GEF-UNEP funded project. With the objective to develop improved and innovative irrigation systems to improve the livelihoods of farmers in Mauritania, this project focused on the development of an improved and innovative management system for climate resilient livelihoods in Mauritania. The proposed project will draw lessons from this project regarding engaging government agencies and other stakeholders to develop innovative governance mechanism deliver livelihood options to local communities. Additionally, the proposed project will draw on lessons regarding community consultative processes that support local community engagement in identifying biodiversity hotspots in the targeted project area, and how communities can be engaged to develop meaningful alternative livelihood strategies.

? *Partnership to Mainstream Biodiversity into Oil and Gas Sector Development in Mauritania (2010 - 2016)*: This is a \$1 million UNDP-GEF project to mainstream biodiversity conservation into Mauritania's new era of oil and gas development through a concerted partnership involving the oil and gas industry, government and civil society stakeholders. It was conceived around the following components: mainstream biodiversity considerations within national government policies, guidelines and regulations for the oil and gas sector, and within the sector's operations; oil and gas sector partnership for conservation financing; and strengthened capacity of local stakeholders and key government agencies to work collaboratively with the oil and gas sector to protect biodiversity. This project was implemented targeting the coastal regions of Mauritania. The proposed project will learn from this project's experience of establishing legal and policy framework for the Biodiversity Trust Fund with a transparent management structure, to efficiently guide the allocation of resources to biodiversity conservation with community participation in marine and coastal environments.

? *Adaptive management and monitoring of the Maghreb's Oases systems*: This is a three-year (2014 ? 2017) \$1.7 million GEF-5 GEF-FAO project to enhance, expand and sustain the adaptive management and monitoring of the Magreb's Oases systems. Its components focus on enhancing institutional skills to collect, manage and monitor trends in degradation of natural resources and impacts for an improved capacity to apply adaptive management tools in NRM and SLM reporting; enhancing knowledge on best practices for dynamic conservation, adaptive management, and monitoring of oases ecosystems; and awareness-raising to facilitate scaling-up and mainstreaming of adaptive management tools for oases ecosystems. This multi-country project had one of its activities that focused on best practices for the adaptive management of oasis ecosystems ? documenting and sharing the best practices among CSOs. In Mauritania, it was in Adrar Wilaya. The proposed will therefore learn from the best practices that were selected and documented to improve oasis ecosystems.

? *Natural Resource Management Programme in Mauritania*: This is a \$9.6 million Gesellschaft f?r Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) funded programme (2011 ? 2016) to create a framework for sustainable management of natural resources by local populations in selected areas. The project focused



on capacity building of all stakeholders and their organizations; training of local communities; consideration of gender aspects; and consultation with development partners to achieve greater aid effectiveness. The programme successfully established local collective management associations. These are community-based organizations for sustainable management of natural resources within designated local areas. The project had a national scope, and one of its focus areas relevant to the proposed project is the strengthening of decentralised management of natural resources in the agricultural, woodland and pasture areas in the south of the country. The proposed project will therefore draw on lessons regarding the decentralisation of resource management in its co-management plans in Adrar Wilaya.

### **3) The proposed alternative scenario with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project**

Overall, the design of IMPADRA is premised on the understanding that the creation and sustainable management of a new Protected Area in the arid Wilaya of Adrar will enhance the conservation of key species in Mauritania. The design of the project responds to the national context characterised by an arid climate in the north and semi-arid in the south. The country's HDI is among the lowest in the world. Its environmental performance is rated very low. Mauritania grapples with food and nutrition crises caused by environmental hazards and climate change, compounded by poorly functioning markets, low agricultural productivity, poverty, weaknesses in (environmental) governance and conflicts with limited capacity to cope with shocks. Redressing these challenges is hampered by three important barriers. These are: weak institutional and policy structures to improve environmental governance and conserve biodiversity; lack of an integrated approach to biodiversity conservation and natural resource management in Mauritania; and insufficient capacity in sustainable natural resource management and participation of rural community resources in biodiversity conservation.

To address the afore-mentioned barriers, IMPADRA is logically structured around three principal components, namely: establishment of a new Protected Area (PA) in Adrar Wilaya; establishing financial sustainability mechanisms for sustainable and effective management of the PA; and knowledge management and gender mainstreaming. When these components are implemented, the conservation of key species in Mauritania through the creation and sustainable management of a new PA will be enhanced through Improved BD conservation by means of collaborative and institutional capacities, increased management effectiveness of PA in Adrar, and gender mainstreaming and biodiversity scaling up in arid regions.

The objective of this project is to enhance the conservation of key species in the arid Wilaya of Adrar through the creation and sustainable management of a new Protected Area (200,000ha) and through sustainable land management in production systems in 100,000 ha adjacent to the new PA. In the proposed alternative scenario, the project aims to create a terrestrial protected area and to build on current efforts by the Government of the IRM to establish the necessary institutional structures, capacity and legal provisions to ensure effectiveness in their management. The proposed approach is centered on the involvement of local communities in the management strategy to promote alternative income generating

activities linked to community-based biodiversity enterprises. It will support the implementation of sustainable natural resource management practices, and conservation and management measures, in selected other use zones within the proposed protected area and in 100,000 ha in a surrounding landscape. This means that the project focus in terms of executing concrete activities will primarily be in the new PA, and secondarily in the 100,000 ha. Activities within the 200,000 ha will primarily focus on the processes that will support the creation of a terrestrial protected area and bringing the area under improved management for conservation and sustainable use.

The project design acknowledges that community engagement in natural resources management projects is crucial for the success and sustainability of these initiatives. Consultations and engagement with communities will continue throughout the life of the project ensuring the involvement of local communities in decision-making and implementation of projects that affect their natural resources. Given the scope of this project and its scope, this will be crucial. The goal of community engagement is to ensure that the needs and perspectives of communities are taken into account and that they benefit from the project outcomes. This approach recognizes that communities often have a deep understanding of their natural resources and can contribute to the management and protection of these resources in a meaningful way. Therefore, community engagement will take many forms, including continuing stakeholder consultations, community meetings and participatory planning processes. To ensure more effective community engagement, IMPADRA will consider open communication, trust-building, and a willingness to listen and respond to the concerns and ideas of communities. In this way, the project will ensure community engagement for more equitable and sustainable outcomes for both communities and the environment. Activities such as data collection, ecotourism enterprises, land use planning processes will require the active participation of communities and will share in the benefits coming with being involved in these activities, besides the others.

In this regard, the Guelb-Richat (the heart) will sit as a fully protected area on 200,000 ha, and the 100,000 ha will constitute the peripheral rings (two rock rings) as a buffer zone where sustainable land management activities and biodiversity will be developed (mainly ecotourism, and relevant land use plans).

The wadis and dune formations (ergs) from the outside where plant formation is most important will be in peripheral areas. The extension of the area includes the rocky plateau north of the central site, El beyed, the area of El Ghalawiya and Ouadane. Outside the "heart" zone, community participation will be most critical for their socioeconomic benefits from the project but also direct and active involvement in project-supported activities.

Thus, beyond the created central zone (protected area), the project will support activities that bring land under improved practices, including but not limited to:

- o Community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities for local communities identified and supported in line with sustainable agricultural and livestock practices identified in the land use plan for the PA and adjacent landscape;
- o Communication strategy, including toolkits and radio programs developed to raise awareness about biodiversity conservation; and

- o Knowledge management plan developed and implemented with lessons disseminated to relevant stakeholders to promote replication of the biodiversity conservation approaches in arid areas.

In doing so, it aims at designing and implementing measures that achieve multiple benefits through conserving biodiversity and safeguarding and enhancing ecosystem services and the well-being of people who depend on them for their livelihoods. The project will build on best practices and collaboration with existing development interventions and the conducive policy space in the country to support integrated management of protected areas and contribute to the conservation of key biodiversity species in Adrar Wilaya. The project proposes a suite of interventions that address the institutional and policy gaps, financial sustainability, livelihoods and knowledge products to support sharing of lessons, awareness-raising and informing conservation strategic decisions in arid zones beyond Adrar Wilaya as reflected in the theory of change diagram on the next page.

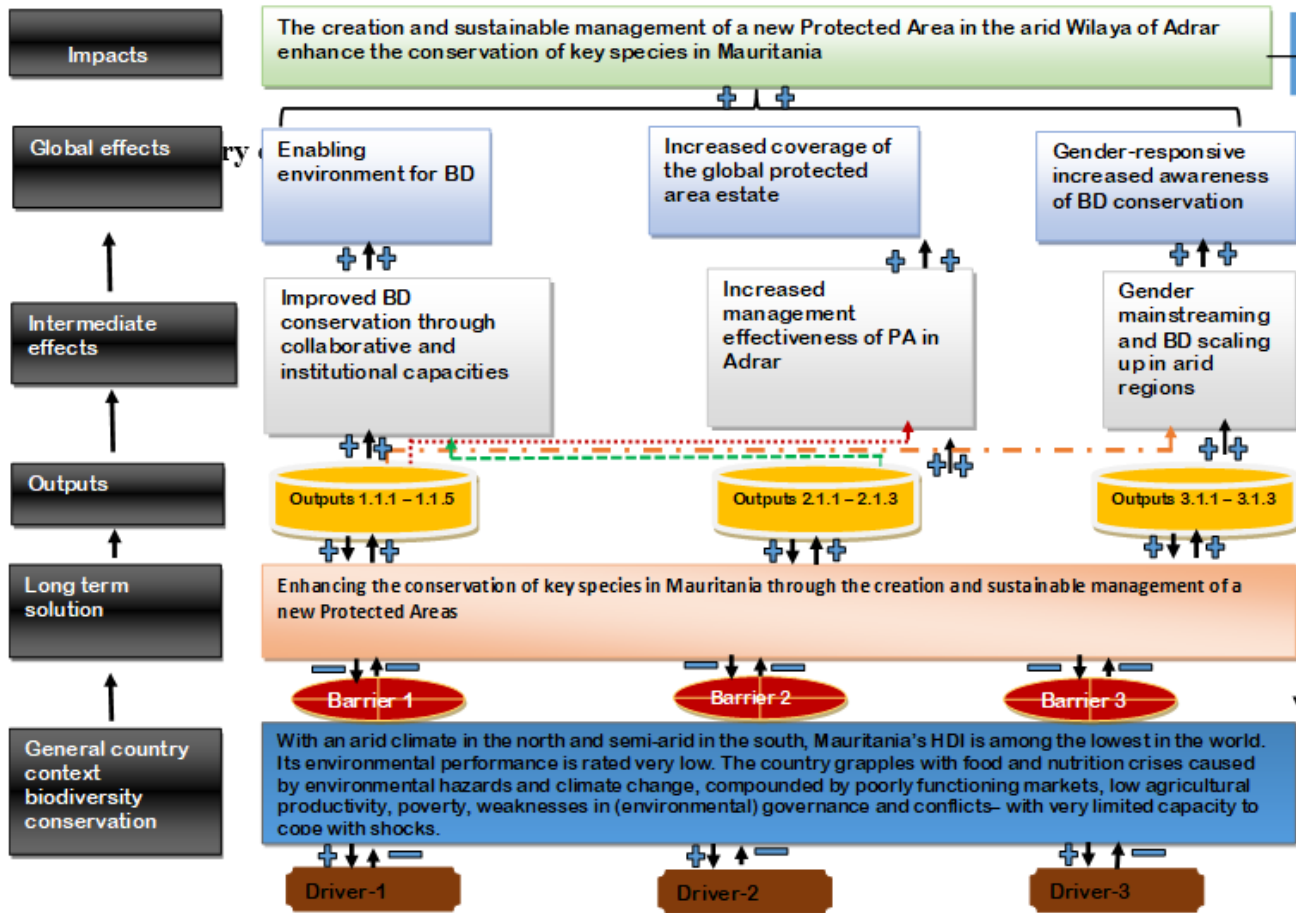
The logic that underlies the presented theory of change is that Mauritania has a socioecological context identified and characterised by strong human pressure on scarce natural resources for domestic needs and unsustainable agricultural and pastoral production leading to ecosystem degradation; land and soil degradation, including erosion of sandy soils due to winds; and siltation that affects arable land and infrastructure. Addressing these challenges is hindered by weak institutional and policy structures to improve environmental governance and conserve biodiversity; lack of an integrated approach to biodiversity conservation and natural resource management in Mauritania; and insufficient capacity in sustainable natural resource management and participation of rural community resources in biodiversity conservation. This context has not been favourable to support conservation efforts in Mauritania. Removing these challenges requires technical assistance as well as investments in to improve conservation status through the creation and effective management of a terrestrial protected area, ensuring financial sustainability mechanisms for sustainable and effective management of the protected area, and knowledge management system that support the role of women and men, sustainability of interventions and scaling up of best practices. The implementation of activities related to removing the afore-going barriers will lead to an enabling environment for biodiversity conservation, increase coverage of protected areas and generate gender-sensitive knowledge in support of biodiversity conservation. The overall impact of this level of programming of interventions that respond to specific context of challenges is that the conservation of key species in the country will be improved.

In sum, the theory of change is supported by the following logic: understanding the context and its barriers -> recommending appropriate measures to respond to the context and identified barriers -> Implementation of the identified appropriate measures to yield desired results -> the yielded results will lead to long term impact that is linked to the 'problem' context at the beginning. This logical flow is demonstrated by the arrows on the left side of the theory of change below. At the core of this logic is the assumption that the context of biodiversity loss will continue shouldn't there by any interventions to address the drivers biodiversity loss. Additionally, recognizing the covid-19, the implementation of appropriate measures may be derailed due to a surge in the pandemic. Finally, biodiversity conservation for its socioeconomic value, cultural and environmental, among others, is of interest to the government and other stakeholders. Therefore, the success of the project hinges on the continued interest from all important stakeholders, including local communities.

Also, it has been alluded to that illegal hunting is a threat to biodiversity conservation in the target area. Addressing this challenge will require a more community participatory approach

that will be done through awareness campaigns. It is recalled here that the category of the PA will be VI, which, if community awareness campaigns are not conducted to inspire behaviour change, conflicts are possible. Therefore, addressing both illegal and legal hunting measures, the project will continue stakeholder consultations and community engagements.

**Annex H: Theory of Change**



**Barriers:**



## Key to the theory of change

### Barriers:

- Weak institutional and policy structures to improve environmental governance and conserve biodiversity;
- Lack of an integrated approach to biodiversity conservation and natural resource management in Mauritania; and
- Insufficient capacity in sustainable natural resource management and participation of rural community resources in biodiversity conservation.

### Drivers:

- Strong human pressure on scarce natural resources for domestic needs and unsustainable agricultural and pastoral production leading to ecosystem degradation;
- Land and soil degradation, including erosion of sandy soils due to winds; and
- Siltation that affects arable land and infrastructure.

### Outputs:

#### •Component 1

- ? 1.1.1 Collection of detailed biodiversity data and technical support provided to MESD to enable the KBA assessment, designation and registration process of the entire new PA in line with current Global KBA criteria.
- ? 1.1.2 Technical support and capacity development provided to MESD and other strategic partners to carry out scientific research and to prepare documentation for the creation of the PA in Adrar
- ? 1.1.3 Land use plans to facilitate the identification and demarcation of priority areas for conservation in compliance with the gazetting process and ha for sustainable land management in production systems in the surrounding landscape developed and under implementation.
- ? 1.1.4 Enforcement and surveillance system strengthened in the new PA in Adrar through (i) a long-term monitoring and enforcement system in place and a platform for information sharing and intelligence gathering established between PA authority and the local communities **and supported to be fully functional** and (ii) appropriate mechanisms and incentives in place to report illegal activities.
- ? 1.1.5 Established operational capacity at the new PA in Adrar through (i) a newly established Regional Office for the newly created PA with deployed and capacitated staff; (ii) an established long-term ecological monitoring system for the protected and adjacent areas; and (iii) a board-approved management plan under implementation in the PA.

#### •Component 2

- ? 2.1.1 Financial mechanisms established and operational with necessary institutional capacity and processes in place for the financial sustainability of PA conservation.
- ? 2.1.2 One national level PA platform established showcasing best PA management practices, eco-tourism potential, investment potential and biodiversity status to be managed by the National Tourism Office of Mauritania
- ? 2.1.3 Community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities for local communities identified and supported in line with sustainable agricultural and livestock practices identified in the land use plan for the PA and adjacent landscape

### •Component 3

- ? 3.1.1 Gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan implemented across project components
- ? 3.1.2 M&E plan implemented in a timely fashion to facilitate adaptive management and lesson learning
- ? 3.1.3 Knowledge management and communication strategy, including toolkits and radio programs developed to raise awareness about biodiversity conservation

Accordingly, the three inter-connected components as described below have been conceived to address the barriers identified previously:

#### ***Component 1: Establishment of the new PA in Adrar***

Component 1 acknowledges that Protected Areas (PAs) play a key role in preserving biodiversity and natural landscapes, store forest carbon, and provide other environmental services.[21] Beyond the combination of both natural and anthropogenic factors, the loss of biodiversity in Mauritania is exacerbated by the lack of appropriate management policies and legislation to foster the protection of species and constrained logistical and financial means to ensure effective biodiversity conservation. Addressing these barriers, this component has been designed to improve the conservation status through project support to enable the designation and registration of the KBA to contribute to the creation and effective management of a new PA in the Wilaya of Adrar. This component will enable the creation of an IUCN Category VI 200,000 ha PA, effectively linking El Ghallouya KBA and Guelb Er Richat. The proposed site is a co-habited production landscape that supports the movement of wildlife and the livelihoods of local communities and that will result in a substantial increase in the coverage of the national terrestrial protected area state. This area is also part of the migratory corridor of migratory passerine bird. The establishment of the new PA in Adrar is consistent with the overall philosophy of conservation ? PAs being among the most common conservation interventions, with the deliberate intention to maximize positive impacts without such efforts jeopardizing human wellbeing.[22]

Outcome of component 1:

- o *Outcome 1: Improved conservation status through the creation and effective management of a terrestrial 200,000 ha PA in Adrar*

Five outputs have been designed to deliver on outcome 1. These are detailed below:

**Output 1.1.1:** Collection of detailed biodiversity data and technical support provided to MESD to enable the KBA assessment, designation and registration process of the entire new PA in line with current Global KBA criteria - The output will build local capacity to support the collection of detailed biodiversity data to enable the KBA assessment, designation and registration process of the entire new PA in line with current Global KBA criteria. Detailed biodiversity data of the site will be collected early start of implementation to compile numbers of mature individuals of vulnerable and endangered species such as Dorcas Gazelles (VU in the IUCN red list), likely to trigger the KBA criterion in view of the existence of the permanent water-source in El Ghallouya, acknowledged as one of the best water source in the Sahara. Information will also be collected on endemic species of plants and invertebrates and other data to explore the possibility that the site can meet criterion C ? ecological

integrity. Under the responsibility of the University of Nouakchott and Ecole Normale de l'Enseignement Supérieur, activities under output 1.1.1 will include:

- ? Create a highly participatory process, involving local communities and relevant stakeholders, as part of site-based planning in accordance with the ecosystem approach, and use relevant ecological and socio-economic data required to develop effective planning processes for the PA.
- ? Support the actual KBA assessment and registration process.
- ? Promote interdisciplinary research, to improve understanding of the ecological social and economic aspects of PA, including methods and techniques for valuation of goods and services from the PA.
- ? Support towards a comprehensive assessment of the site-planning process an analysis of opportunities for the PA to contribute to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity at local, Wilaya and national levels as well as an analysis of threats and means of addressing them
- ? Identify appropriate measurable biodiversity conservation targets for the new PA
- ? Assess key threats to the new PA and develop and implement strategies to prevent and or mitigate such threats.
- ? Develop tools of ecological connectivity, such as ecological corridors, linking together water and grazing points within the PA to support wildlife conservation
- ? Capacity development of key stakeholders in the creation of the PA

**Output 1.1.2:** Technical support and capacity development provided to MESD and other strategic partners to carry out scientific research and to prepare documentation for the creation of the PA in Adrar - Building partly on the basis of the work under Output 1.1.1, Output 1.1.2 will provide technical support and capacity development to government and other strategic partners to carry out further scientific research and to prepare documentation for the creation of a terrestrial protected area covering El Ghallaoiuiya KBA and Guelb Er Richat in Adrar. The output will be critical to the monitoring process of biodiversity in the PA. Effective biodiversity monitoring requires careful planning, consistent data collection, and rigorous analysis. The University of Nouakchott and the Ecole Normale de l'Enseignement Supérieur have been identified as the partner that will support IMPADRA with developing methodological approaches for tracking and measuring changes in biodiversity in the PA. The methodological approaches will be tailored to the context of the PA, and may be in combination of participatory approaches, direct observation, species inventories, and remote sensing. Monitoring requires collaboration between researchers, government agencies, and local communities to ensure that the data collected is accurate and relevant to conservation efforts, and the partners will ensure the required collaborations are established. Under the responsibility of the University of Nouakchott and Ecole Normale de l'Enseignement Supérieur, activities under output 1.1.2 will include:

- ? Train 500 staff ensuring they are skilled properly and appropriately equipped, and supported, to carry out their fundamental role in the management and conservation of protected areas
- ? Develop and adopt appropriate methods, standards, criteria and indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of the new PA management and governance, and set up a related database, taking into account the IUCN-WCPA framework for evaluating management effectiveness, and other relevant methodologies which reflect the Mauritanian local context.



? Use the principles of ecosystem approach to engage local communities and relevant stakeholders in participatory planning and governance of protected areas.

**Output 1.1.3:** Land use plans to facilitate the identification and demarcation of priority areas for conservation in compliance with the gazetting process and for 100,000 ha for sustainable land management in production systems in the surrounding landscape developed and under implementation - Under Output 1.1.3, these efforts will include accompanying land use plans to facilitate the identification and demarcation of priority areas for conservation in compliance with the gazetting process. The land-use planning will also cover an estimated 100,000 ha that will strengthen sustainability of the PA through the participation of neighboring communities in sustainable land management in production systems of the surrounding landscape. Under the charge of the Regional Council of Adrar and the Municipal Council of Oudane, and with technical support provided by the projects through experienced resources persons, activities under output 1.1.3 will include:

? Develop land use plans for the PA and adjacent landscape ? the activity will also include supporting stakeholder consultations for the development of Land use plans to facilitate the identification and demarcation of priority areas for conservation.

? Rehabilitate and restore habitats and degraded ecosystems, as appropriate, as a contribution to building ecological networks, ecological corridors and/or buffer zones ? 2,500 ha.

? Identify appropriate and effective management opportunities based on i) the biodiversity attributes of concern with the new PA; ii) landscape connections to delineate particular locations with strong ecological interactions between the protected area and its surrounding landscape; and iii) socioeconomic dynamics that determine current and future use of land resources in and around the protected area.

**Output 1.1.4:** Enforcement and surveillance system strengthened in the new PA in Adrar through (i) a long-term monitoring and enforcement system in place and a platform for information sharing and intelligence gathering established between PA authority and the local communities **and supported to be fully functional**, and (ii) appropriate mechanisms and incentives in place to report illegal activities - Output 1.1.4 will ensure a surveillance system in the new PA in Adrar through the establishment of a long-term monitoring and enforcement system and a platform for information sharing and intelligence gathering between the PA authority and the local communities. Appropriate mechanisms and incentives will be put in place to enable reporting and monitoring of illegal activities. Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, activities under output 1.1.4 will include:

? Encourage the establishment and establishment use of new technologies including geographic information system and remote sensing tools for monitoring protected areas.

? Develop and implement an efficient, long-term monitoring system of the outcomes being achieved through protected area systems in relation to the goals and targets of this work programme.

? Encourage development and use of appropriate technology, including technologies of local communities with their participation.

? Draw upon monitoring results to adapt and improve protected area management based on the ecosystem approach

**Output 1.1.5:** Established operational capacity at the new PA in Adrar through (i) a newly established Regional Office for the newly created PA with deployed and capacitated staff; (ii) an established long-term ecological monitoring system for the protected and adjacent areas; and (iii) a board-approved management plan under implementation in the PA - Output 1.1.5 will focus on ensuring that there is an established operational capacity at the PA in Adrar. It will build on the recent relaunch of the National Tourism Office and commitment of the Government to issue a decree towards the creation of a Regional Office for the PA in year 2 of the project. This will ensure that there is a permanent institution with budget and regular staff that is integrated in the institutional structures of the Government of the IRM. The project will build the capacity of the staff, establish a long-term ecological monitoring system for the protected and adjacent areas and support the development and approval of its management plan. Under the charge of University of Nouakchott and Ecole Normale de l'Enseignement Supérieur, activities under output 1.1.5 will include:

? Conduct the PA capacity needs assessments, and establish capacity building programmes on the basis of these assessments including the creation of curricula, resources and programs for the sustained delivery of PA management training.

? Promote an enabling environment (legislation, policies, capacities, and resources) for the involvement of local communities and relevant stakeholders in decision making, and the development of their capacities and opportunities to establish and manage the PA.

? Harmonize sectoral policies and laws to ensure that they support the conservation and effective management of the protected area system.

? Develop necessary mechanisms for institutions with responsibilities for conservation of biological diversity at the regional, national and local level to achieve institutional and financial sustainability

### ***Component 2: Establishing financial sustainability mechanisms for sustainable and effective management of the PA***

Biodiversity conservation is beneficial to many businesses and local livelihoods around protected areas. Component 2 is proposed on the acknowledgement that Establishing and managing protected areas costs money because there are significant running costs associated with ensuring that protected areas are effectively protected, that local communities benefit from them and that the value of protected areas are maintained in perpetuity.[23] The creation of a PA with accompanying institutional arrangements in component 1 will be an important step towards improved biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in Mauritania. Safeguarding valuable ecosystems, including biodiversity is therefore not only crucial for the preservation of natural resources and maintaining a healthy ecological equilibrium, but also integral to communities' economic welfare.[24] The newly created PA also requires financial

sustainability to ensure management effectiveness through the implementation of institutional arrangements and sustained individual and institutional capacity to achieve its conservation objectives. Component 2 builds on component 1 to explore and establish an adequate mechanism, including external funding to support PA management costs, that can provide additional socio-economic and environmental benefits beyond the existence value of biodiversity, including by improving and changing agriculture and pastoralist production practices through technical capacity building and implementation of the mentioned financial mechanisms.

The component is designed to address the barriers identified such as lack of institutional frameworks at local level to support capacity development for improved integration of communities in sustainable management of natural resources. It builds on the opportunities mentioned in the baseline scenario concerning: the commitment from the Government to conservation in the Arid Wilayas, paired with planned infrastructure developments towards eco-tourism, the variety of projects supporting livelihood interventions, sustainable land management (SLM) and sustainable agricultural practices and the legal establishment of a PA Regional Office to coordinate with the National Tourism Office to support the management of the new PA with funding from government. Through this component, the project will promote private sector investments towards conservation and eco and scientific tourism and will also take into consideration alternative opportunities and mitigation strategies to the potential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Directly, the project will support about 1,775 households with biodiversity conservation-friendly alternative income generating activities to integrate local communities in the financial system that will support the management of the PA.

In response to lack of integrated approaches to biodiversity conservation that ensure financial sustainability and community engagement in the local financial economy, this component has been designed to draw on accepted practices designed by the GEF and other development players in biodiversity conservation to develop and use innovative tools and revenue mechanisms that are responsive to specific needs of the drylands of Mauritania, around three interlinked outputs

In view to increasing contribution to the income of the household standard of living and to the national GDP, the government commitment and investments in support for tourism infrastructure and the Regional Tourism Office in Adrar and the substantial ecotourism potential conducive to the full involvement of local communities, the promotion of eco-tourism will be aggressively pursued, and so will partnerships for conservation with (international) development partners active within the country, and beyond. The project will pursue investments from development partners such as the European Union and the World Bank, including through the GGW and from private sector to materialize and promote the eco and scientific tourism potential of the PA. This will be an ongoing process during the implementation of the project ? and will ride on platform for showcasing best practices with different players that will include development partners, civil society organizations, academia, policy makers and communities, among others.

Under component 2, the project will engage and target local, regional, national and international opportunities to ensure financial sustainability. For example, it will support local tourism in the form of festivals and cultural importance of the ancient villages in the Wilaya of Adrar ? this is likely to support

financial sustainability in the potential event of resurgence of the COVID-19 pandemic which would lead to shutting doors to international visitors.

Outcome of component 2:

*o Financial sustainability mechanisms improve and strengthen the sustainable management effectiveness of the PA beyond the life of the project*

Three outputs have been designed to deliver on outcome 2. These are detailed below:

? **Output 2.1.1:** Financial mechanisms established and operational with necessary institutional capacity and processes in place for the financial sustainability of PA conservation - While Output 1.1.4 focuses on the creation and legal basis for operationalization of the new Protected Area Regional Office, output 2.1.1 will focus on establishing institutional structures for mobilizing resources to implement the management plan for the PA and on developing financial management and sustainability systems. The output will support the development of a financing plan for the PA as part of the establishment of financial mechanisms and the necessary institutional capacity and processes for PA conservation. Under the responsibility of the Ministry of Economy and Finance, activities under output 2.1.1 will include:

? Conduct a national-level study of the effectiveness in using existing financial resources and of financial needs related to the national system of protected areas and identify options for meeting these needs through a mixture of national and international resources and taking into account the whole range of possible funding instruments, such as public funding, debt for nature swaps, elimination of perverse incentives and subsidies, private funding, taxes and fees for ecological services

? Improve the capacity of the PA allied institutions and stakeholders to develop sustainable financing through fiscal incentives, environmental services and other instruments as deemed feasible.

? Support the establishment and implementation of country-level sustainable financing plan that will render support to the new PA in Adrar, including necessary regulatory, legislative, policy, institutional and other measures.

? Mainstream PA management into Adrar Wilaya, regional and national (as applicable) development and financing strategies and development cooperation programmes.

? **Output 2.1.2:** One national level PA platform established showcasing best PA management practices, eco-tourism potential, investment potential and biodiversity status to be managed by the National Tourism Office of Mauritania ? IMPADRA recognizes that information platforms are critical for stakeholders in protected areas management practice to access and share best practices. Such platforms facilitate communication and collaboration among stakeholders, leading to better decision-making and more effective management of natural resources. Access to information through such platforms can help stakeholders stay informed about current issues, emerging trends, and best practices in natural resource management, which can ultimately lead to better resource management outcomes.

This is particularly important for the Mauritanian context. The establishment of a PA in Adrar will be a pioneering conservation effort in Mauritania, and will be impactful at three levels: improving biodiversity conservation of important species in a highly climate vulnerable landscape; contributing to expanding socioeconomic opportunities of local communities; and contribute to setting the country on a green growth strategy with provision of green jobs from tourism. There will be lessons that will be learned that will need to be shared to inform other conservation efforts elsewhere in the country and beyond. The platform will showcase PA management practices, eco-tourism potential, investment potential and biodiversity status to be managed by the National Tourism Office of Mauritania. The platform will also serve as a one-stop shop for government and other stakeholder-organized eco-tourism promotion events. Under the National Tourism Office, activities under output 2.1.2 will include:

? Identify and foster economic opportunities and markets at local, national and international levels for goods and services produced by the new PA, consistent with the PA objectives and promote the equitable sharing of the benefits.

? Integrate protected area management needs into national and, where applicable, regional development and financing strategies and development cooperation programmes.

? **Facilitate and support peer-to-peer learning building on lessons from successful User Associations.**

? Regular provision of information on the PA financing to relevant institutions and mechanisms within Mauritania and other regional and international fora.

? Strengthen, and where necessary, establish information mechanisms directed at target groups such as the private sector, policy makers, development institutions, community-based organizations, the youth, the media, and the general public.

? **Output 2.1.3:** Community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities for local communities identified and supported in line with sustainable agricultural and livestock practices identified in the land use plans for the PA and adjacent landscape - Community-level economic factors, and the status and integrity of natural systems, are closely interlinked. Natural resources tend to be particularly important for poorer households and at times of stress, and often provide the ultimate safety-net when other sources of subsistence and income fail. Recognising that local economies depend intimately on the availability and quality of natural resources, conservation has become an increasingly important component of rural development activities. Simultaneously there has been a growing recognition that local economic concerns play a central role in natural resource management, and most strategies for nature conservation now involve and benefit local communities in some way.[25] Embedded in output 2.1.3 is the thinking to make both development and conservation efforts in Adrar through the PA to make it economically desirable for local communities to play their role of maintaining the status and integrity of nature ? that through economic benefits, active participation in the decision-making, planning, execution of activities and monitoring, they become agents of positive change.

The development of output 2.1.3 has been informed by consultations with communities and other different stakeholders to support optimal community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities. This has been done through a participatory approach, ensuring adequate representation of women and youth and involvement in decision making processes and prioritization of interventions. The identification of activities under this output focus primarily on those communities that are involved in activities within and around the PA. The involvement of communities and other key stakeholders through consultative and collaborative processes will be critical to effective implementation of the project to provide and strengthen the basis for sustainability, community ownership and behavioral change towards conservation, and sustainable natural resource management practices. The proposed activities below have triaged based on the following considerations: i) their potential impact in enabling communities to contribute to biodiversity conservation and PA effective management; ii) their potential for scaling up incentives for conservation and sustainable management in the medium and long term; and iii) the ability of local communities to sustain the enterprises beyond the life of the proposed project. In this regard, the support will focus on capacity and technical support, but also activities such as microfinance through cooperatives. It is envisaged that community-based natural resource management groups will capitalize on community-level social ties to create and strengthen community-level institutions to support livelihood goals and biodiversity conservation priorities of the project. This approach is consistent with the understanding that sustained individual and institutional capacity,

implementation of PA interventions through established frameworks and co-management between state and local governance structures will contribute to achieving biodiversity conservation objectives.

More critically, the project recognizes that the PA creation processes needs to be accompanied by incentives for local communities to contribute to effective PA management during and after project life to minimize management costs associated with community resource exploitation in the absence of alternative sources of livelihoods. Therefore, this project will seek to identify and support sustainable community-based activities that will meet the three considerations mentioned above. Additionally, under output 2.1.3, IMPADRA will ensure the actual implementation of the land use plans for the PA and surrounding landscapes, providing the knowledge, technical capacity and financial means, in line with the financing mechanism and plans to be designed under output 2.1.1. Under the charge of the National Tourism Office in collaboration with the private sector (Mauritania Copper Mine, Kinross, Soci?t? Toumour Mauritania, Fondation Elkheir, Banque Populaire de Mauritanie), local authorities (Regional Council of Adrar, and Municipal Council of Oudane and the) and local organizations (such as the The Business Women Association of Ouadane region), activities under output 2.1.3 will include:

? Identify and foster economic opportunities and markets at local, national and international levels for goods and services produced by the new PA, consistent with the PA objectives and promote the equitable sharing of the benefits.

? Establish benefit sharing mechanisms for socioeconomic benefits accruing from PA management to contribute to poverty reduction, consistent with protected-area management objectives.

? Conduct assessment to identify economically viable and socially responsive and acceptable community-based biodiversity enterprises and their value chains, and establish sharing mechanisms as required for social and economic benefits generated from the PA to support poverty reduction, consistent with protected-area management objectives.

? Capacity development of 4,500 stakeholders, including tourism market literacy for community-based organisations (co-operatives and associations) in the areas relevant to economically viable and socially responsive and acceptable Community-based biodiversity enterprises and their value chains.

? Provide training for community-based organizations, private sector and civil society representatives in the areas relevant to economically viable and socially responsive and acceptable Community-based biodiversity enterprises and their value chains.

? Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation strategies into sectoral planning and budgeting for sustainable agricultural and livestock production and rural development in Adrar Wilaya.

### ***Component 3 Knowledge management and gender mainstreaming***

IMPADRA acknowledges that women play a vital role in managing biological resources, and are disproportionately affected by the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Biodiversity loss and degraded ecosystems can perpetuate gender inequalities by increasing the time spent by women and children in performing certain tasks, such as collecting valuable resources including fuel, food and water, and reducing time for education and income generating activities. Ensuring equal rights to land, inheritance and natural resources is an important measure in enabling women to promote sustainable agricultural and land management practices, especially as women become increasingly responsible in agriculture[26] but also active agents of change to improve biodiversity conservation.

This component will aim at developing robust and gender-sensitive communications, monitoring and knowledge management for the project. This component will also be critical in inspiring pro-environmental behaviour which will be very important in ensuring ownership and sustainability of

project outcomes. The project acknowledges that there are certain socio-cultural and traditional practices, beliefs, attitudes and behaviours that i) make it hard to mainstream women's role in natural resources management, including in taking key decisions, planning and implementations besides equal access and use of resources; and ii) do not inspire pro-environmental behaviours among individuals and community members. The project acknowledges that what shapes pro-environmental behavior is complex and cannot be addressed that easily. Contexts such as demographic factors, external factors (e.g. institutional, economic, social and cultural) and internal factors (e.g. motivation, pro-environmental knowledge, awareness, values, attitudes, emotion, locus of control, responsibilities and priorities),[27] among others, all combined or in isolation, influence pro-environmental behaviour. Pro-environmental behaviour will remain important to the success of ownership and sustainability of the project ? ensuring fair and equitable representation of women in the conservation agenda of the PA. Therefore, women will need to be equally and actively involved in processes to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity - they play critical roles as primary land managers and resource users, and they face disproportionate impacts both from biodiversity loss and gender-blind conservation measures.[28] As resource users, women involvement by removing logistical and cultural barriers will give them an equal opportunity to contribute to more pro-environmental behaviour change.

Outcome of component 3:

- o *Gender equality and knowledge management effectively support sustainability and inform up-scaling*

Four outputs have been designed to deliver on outcome 2. These are detailed below:

**Output 3.1.1:** Gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan implemented across project components -the project will seek to develop and implement a gender mainstreaming strategy across to be operationalised and implemented across the project components. Under the leadership of the the Business Women Association of Ouadane region, activities under output 3.1.1 will include:

- ? Carry out a participatory review of the status, needs and context-specific mechanisms for involving stakeholders, ensuring gender and social equity, in protected areas policy and management, at the level of national policy, protected area systems and individual sites.
- ? Support the adoption of gender-responsive budgeting to reflect the specific needs and interests of both women and men in the management of the PA when conceiving and implementing budgets at Adrar Wilaya level.

Activity two above is based on the understanding that gender-responsive budgeting and planning is an important approach to natural resources management that addresses gender inequalities and promote gender equity. This approach recognizes that men and women have different roles, responsibilities, and needs in relation to natural resource management, and seeks to ensure that these differences are taken into account in budgeting and planning processes. Gender-responsive budgeting and planning will therefore help to ensure that PA management in Adrar benefit both men and women, and that the

implementation structures also promote women's participation in decision-making processes related to natural resources management. Ultimately, this approach will contribute to more sustainable and equitable natural resource management outcomes of the PA.

Output 3.1.2: M&E plan implemented in a timely fashion to facilitate adaptive management and lesson learning will ensure implementation of the M&E plan in a timely fashion to facilitate adaptive management and lesson learning. The project will monitor and generate information on reduction of threats to key species identified for protection. Under the responsibility of the Nature Mauritanie (local partner of Birdlife International), activities under output 3.1.1 will include:

- ? Establish effective mechanisms to document existing knowledge and experiences on protected area management, including traditional knowledge.
- ? Strengthen the capacities of institutions to establish cross-sectoral collaboration for protected area management at the regional, national and local levels.
- ? Establish mechanism and evaluate the impacts of communication, education and public awareness programmes on biodiversity conservation to ensure that they improve public awareness, change behaviour and support the achievement of protected area objectives.

Output 3.1.3: Knowledge management and communication strategy, including toolkits and radio programs developed to raise awareness about biodiversity conservation - will develop a communication strategy, including environmental awareness education programs and other targeted communication tools in support of achieving outcomes across the 3 components. For example, radio programs will be developed under this output to raise awareness about biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management and to ensure that information reach target audiences. A knowledge management plan will be developed to include environmental education and draws on lessons learned to develop and disseminate knowledge management products to promote replication of the community co-management biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management approach in arid areas. It will involve national academic institutions as partners for training and knowledge transfer and extension services as a form of training. Activities under output 3.1.1 will include:

- ? Develop and strengthen working partnerships with appropriate organizations and institutions which undertake research studies leading to an improved understanding of biodiversity in the new PA.
- ? Document and make available to different stakeholders and partners appropriate technologies for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity of the PA and its sustainable management.
- ? Assess needs for relevant technologies for protected area management involving local communities and stakeholders such as the, research institutions, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.



- ? Develop a knowledge management plan and implement it with lessons disseminated to relevant stakeholders to promote replication of the biodiversity conservation approaches in arid areas in Mauritania.
- ? Establish a stakeholder platform to specifically facilitate technology transfer and cooperation to improve protected area management.

Additionally, it should be noted that knowledge management will be important for the national level PA platform that will be established to showcase best PA management practices, eco-tourism potential, investment potential and biodiversity status that will be managed by the National Tourism Office of Mauritania. Part of the knowledge that will be created will therefore feed into the PA platform.

The implementation of activities under output 3.1.3 will be underpinned and supported by the following:

- Use male and female knowledge product and public education developers for diversity of perspectives and approaches, as well as male and female reviewers of these products.
- Use gender sensitive language and gender balanced images (women not presented as victims but as agents of change).
- Check context and content (use gender analysis; use convincing gender arguments based on reliable sources and qualitative and quantitative data including sex disaggregated data).
- Refer to best practices reflected in (inter-) national policy framework, policies, strategies and plans, as applicable and appropriate.

#### 4) Alignment with GEF focal area and/or Impact Program strategies

The project addresses two of the direct drivers of biodiversity loss identified by the GEF-7 BD strategy - habitat change (loss, degradation, and fragmentation) and overexploitation or unsustainable use in the arid areas of Mauritania. It will contribute to the BD focal area Objective 2: Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and its priority BD-1-1 by linking the objective of sustaining the PA and its conservation objective with targeted investments in land use planning in the surrounding geographies and improving and changing production practices in priority sectors through technical capacity building and implementation of financial mechanisms (Components 1 and 2). The project will contribute to priority BD-2-7 mainly through the creation of a new Protected Area (PA) in Adrar Wilaya (Component 1) and establishing financial sustainability mechanisms for sustainable and effective management of the new PA and through ensuring knowledge management effectively support sustainability and inform up-scaling of PA creation and sustainable management in arid areas (Components 2 and 3).

## 5) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing

The IRM has made great efforts towards addressing the loss of biodiversity of key species while facing extreme financial constraints, degradation of natural resources, population growth, and chronic and elevated levels of poverty. IRM aspires to improve the management of its fragile biodiversity through the creation and support to management effectiveness of a new protected area,[29] and outlining strategic objectives that include the following related to the proposed project:

- ? Objectives 3 and 9: Preserve species and their diversity, and ensure equitable share of biodiversity benefits;
- ? Objectives 4 and 7: Preserve and restore ecosystems and their functioning, and reduce pressure on biodiversity;
- ? Objective 5: Include the preservation of biodiversity in the economic decision; and
- ? Objectives 6, 11 and 13: Develop financial and human resources, strengthening governance and, build technical capacity to support biodiversity conservation.[30]

Under the baseline scenario, the target areas will continue to experience the current pressures to biodiversity and decline in ecosystem services. The strong baseline of projects described under the baseline scenario include a suite of livelihood interventions, sustainable land management and sustainable agricultural practices in the target Wilaya. The increased political commitment to the development of the project area provides an excellent opportunity for the GEF increment to generate a range of global environmental benefits. The GEF investment will improve the conservation of key species in the arid Wilayas of Mauritania through the creation, protection and integrated management of a new protected area and through shifting at least 100,000 ha under sustainable land management in production systems in landscapes adjacent to the new PA. Under the current baseline, Mauritania's poor environmental governance indicator will continue to be so particularly in the arid zones of the country where government presence in terms of institutional arrangements to support biodiversity remains wanting. Based on the Yale EPI,[31] as has already been alluded to in section 1, Mauritania's EPI has got worse by -0.2 over the past 10 years. The project will assist IRM to increase coverage of terrestrial protected areas from 4,216,000 ha[32] to 4,416,000 ha (after the addition of the 200,000 ha PA). This improvement in territorial coverage will be an important step in improving environmental governance score, but also will be consistent with the commitment expressed in the 6th National Report to the CBD and contribute to the achievement of Aichi Target 11 to conserve 17% of terrestrial areas. In the alternative scenario, the newly protected area will report a 50% score as per METT. In the alternative scenario, GEF investments in the arid yet productive landscapes will also contribute to improving and changing production practices to be more biodiversity-positive with a focus on sectors that have significant biodiversity impacts such as agriculture and tourism, through technical capacity building and

implementation of financial mechanisms (Component 2), therefore improving the environmental governance profile of the country. The project in the alternative will allow the country to realize a contribution to good environmental governance which revolves around planning / updating the National Action Plan for the Environment (program approach), political, institutional and legal framework? ? one of the priority areas of the 2011-2020 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

Accordingly, the project interventions have been designed to address the weak institutional, policy and regulatory context and population pressure on biodiversity resources in the target areas. GEF financial support will be instrumental to the improved conservation of key species in the arid Wilayas of Mauritania, an unprecedented conservation effort that will use an integrated and inclusive approach through community co-management to effectively protect the KBA and creation of a new PA. The GEF investment will therefore be critical in shifting the baseline scenario and enable the target region to conserve its biodiversity and to build required institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks to effectively reduce pressure on biodiversity in the arid regions of Mauritania. With the GEF support, the proposed project will thus incrementally respond to challenges reflected in the baseline scenario and systematically seek to improve the coverage and management effectiveness, support institutional and capacity reforms for biodiversity conservation and engage local communities in conservation to reduce pressures to biodiversity in the arid Wilaya of Adrar.

It should be noted that the baseline scenario of the existing and planned projects has a clear focus on expanding socioeconomic opportunities for communities in terms of livelihoods from alternative livelihoods, and agricultural activities (e.g irrigation). Also, the projects have focus on integrated ecosystem management and sustainable land management to improve the productive capacity of land. The projects are therefore foundational in creating and improving socioeconomic benefits on which to build interventions for biodiversity conservation. Thus, the proposed approach to create a PA and improving and changing production practices in priority sectors, including surrounding landscapes through technical capacity building and implementation of financial mechanisms is consistent with the overall incremental reasoning logic of the proposed project ? providing technical capacity and investments to create a PA with associated institutional arrangements and improving and changing production practices in surrounding landscapes to be more biodiversity-positive.

In sum, the investment of GEF resources in Adrar will create and trigger the sustainable management of a new Protected Area that will increase the area under protected area management that currently stands dismally at only 0.6% of the total land area ? in a area that is of national and international interest at various levels. In the broader management and protection of natural resources, the creation of a PA will improve Mauritania?s performance. Through the PA, local communities will positively be impacted through eco-enterprises that would have not been the case if it wasn?t for IMPADRA.

During implementation, it should be noted that IMPADRA will build on the following GEF projects: Integrated system to promote the natural capital in the drylands of Mauritania; and Climate change adaptation and livelihoods in three arid regions of Mauritania. While the former focuses on sustainable land and ecosystem restoration and management, and the latter on focuses on strengthening the adaptive capacity and climate resilience of rural communities. While drawing lessons and experiences from these two, IMPADRA goes beyond capacity development for resilience building and natural resources management, and SLM and ecosystem restoration to include PA creation ? inclusion of habitat restoration but

also faunal conservation. IMPADRA will continue engaging with partners, and will consult them during project reviews to be able to coordinate and share lessons and knowledge that will be created.

The co-financing for IMPADRA has been mobilised (that is, as mobilized investments that exclude recurrent expenditures) from Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (\$1,100,000). The total of ~\$13,986,999 in cofinancing is poised to contribute to the effectiveness, impacts and sustainability of the GEF-funded activities. That means that for every GEF \$ that will be invested in the IMPADRA with GEF resources, the \$ will be cofinanced with \$5.3 from the Government and two Foundations. It should be noted that the cofinancing will enable GEF's resources in IMPADRA to achieve more sustainable GEBs but also to facilitate collaborations and partnerships within Mauritania around the key themes of the project – that is, biodiversity conservation, capacity development, livelihoods and gender and knowledge management. Cofinancing provides additional resources that GEF resources capitalise and catalyse for scaling up, sustainability and more meaningful transformational change of the socioecological context of interest to the project.

The cofinancing amounting to ~\$15,086,999 will be used as follows: \$8,933,367; \$3,933,367 and \$1,707,250 have been allocated to components 1, 2 and 3, respectively. Finally, \$513,015 will cofinance the project management cost.

## **6) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)**

The proposed project will support biodiversity conservation efforts to generate Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) by creating and improving the management effectiveness of a new PA in an arid Wilaya of Adar. The global benefits associated with the Biodiversity focal area are the creation of and improved management effectiveness of 200,000 ha for conservation and sustainable natural resource use and 100,000 ha under sustainable land management in production systems in landscapes adjacent to the new PA. The 35,000 ha of El Ghallouya KBA will be extended towards the south-west where the KBA has the same contiguous landscape with the Guelb er Richatt Nature Reserve to create a 200,000 ha terrestrial protected area. This will contribute to improving the conservation of the bird species in El Ghallouya KBA in Adrar Wilaya. The project will support conservation actions through changes in local community behavior and by improving and changing production practices in arid areas to be more biodiversity-positive with a focus on sectors that have significant biodiversity impacts such as agriculture and tourism, through technical capacity building and implementation of financial mechanisms. This approach will be scaled up to other areas in Mauritania, particularly the arid zones of the country. Socio-economic benefits

from the project will include the improved livelihoods and reduced vulnerability of at least 1,775 community members. Furthermore, the project's communication strategy will aim to reach at least 135,316 people through radio environmental education/awareness programs on the value of biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management.

Embedded in the principles of an integrated natural resource management approach, the generation of the aforementioned GEBs will consider the environmental conditions of the arid landscapes in Adrar Wilaya. The project will also consider existing production practices (including pastoral practices), how communities interact with the environment and the limited institutional frameworks, insufficient regulations and current land uses in Adrar. The rationale is based on an integrated approach to more holistically address underlying drivers of environmental degradation while simultaneously, addressing socio-economic concerns of local communities. In this regard, an integrated natural resource management approach will be valuable in ensuring economic, social and ecological sustainability in a resource-constrained and climate-impacted environment[33] as in Mauritania.

## 7) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up

**Innovation:** Previous interventions in the target regions (please refer to the baseline scenario and associated projects) have used climate change, management of oases, pastoralism or agriculture as isolated entry points to address the environmental and socio-economic challenges. With a focus on rights, rights-holders and benefits, the project will seek to promote inclusion as it delivers innovative approaches to apply an integrated management of PAs in an arid Sahelian environment ? this will be in view to integrally and holistically addressing both environmental and socio-economic challenges in the proposed target region. Through this approach, the project will seek to simultaneously address underlying drivers of environmental and socio-economic challenges as well as lacunas in institutional and legal frameworks (enablers of improved environmental management). The project will be a platform that will serve to promote the involvement of the private sector in biodiversity conservation and sustainable conservation finance plans tailored to the region under Component 2. GEF support for the creation of PAs in the arid regions will catalyse and attract additional investments. The project will promote incentives to ensure that private sector investments in biodiversity-friendly businesses are viable. These innovative tailored solutions will also be collected and shared to be replicated in other arid areas.

It should be reiterated here that the establishment of a PA in Guelb Er Richat is a pioneering conservation effort that will bring together different stakeholders to contribute to increasing land under protected area. The creation of a PA comes with additional benefits for livelihoods, capacity development, gender mainstreaming and land rehabilitation and land use planning ? all in one package of an intervention. This is underscored as an important aspect of innovation that is embedded in the design of the project.

Beyond these broad areas, the project is specifically innovative in the following angle:

- **Innovation in biodiversity conservation:** The project to create the protected area around Guelb-Rich't is the first conservation project in the Saharan zone of Mauritania. This is indeed a challenge that reflects the interest that the authorities attach to the protection of the environment and the local development of this area. The approach to creating this protected area is innovative in West Africa for two reasons: i) it seeks to directly engage pastoralist and nomadic populations in the sustainable management of land and biodiversity, ii) it proposes the creation of a protected area whose management will be carried out according to an integrated, inclusive and therefore participatory model; iii) The establishment of a monitoring and evaluation system will ensure reliable data on long-term changes in socio-economic and ecological conditions in the area; and iv) It will also guide the sustainable development actions that will be programmed, monitor their impacts and propose possible reorientations.

**Sustainability:** The project approach of engaging local communities and the private sector, with strong commitment of relevant government institutions has been designed to enable sustainability. Component 1 of this project is focused on the creation and effective management of a new terrestrial PA in Adrar and by shifting at least 100,000 ha under sustainable land management in production systems in landscapes adjacent to the new PA, building the required institutional structures, technical capacities and solid management, land-use and financial plans. Additionally, the project will also seek to support financial resources for the management of the PA to be secured through the implementation of a board-approved business plan. Anchoring the implementation in government institutions with the participation of neighboring communities in sustainable land management in production systems of the surrounding landscape with land-use, management and financial plans will ensure the sustainability of the project outcomes. Implementation of the plans through support to climate-smart, sustainable agricultural and pastoral practices and the promotion of community-based biodiversity enterprises with the potential to change community behavior towards conservation and sustainable natural resource management will be critical to this effect. On the basis of the strong commitment from Government and the complementary support from development partners and private sector as described in the baseline, the proposed project seeks to establish a robust financial mechanism for effective management of the PA to ensure sustainability. The project will support the creation of the Regional PA Office in Ouadane, capital of Adrar. The Office will closely work with the Office National du Tourisme, the Conseil R?gional de l'Adrar, the Mauritanian Dates Society (under the Ministry of Agriculture) and the Banque Populaire de Mauritanie. During the preparation of this proposal, the government has confirmed their intention to create a budget line in support of the operational costs of the Regional PA Office and to be integrated in the relevant institutional structures to ensure the effective management of the PA in the long term. The GEF's financial support to create the PA and regional office will trigger and catalyze this commitment and weave partnerships to ensure financial sustainability beyond the life of the proposed project. Additionally, as has been noted under component 2, the proposed project will support at least 100,000 ha under sustainable land management in production systems in landscapes adjacent to the new PA with livelihood activities that will complement and strategically contribute to conservation efforts and the effective management of the PA.

Finally, under component 2, the project will draw on lessons from User Associations across the country to support peer-to-peer learning opportunities. Peer-to-peer learning gives an opportunity to local communities local to share knowledge, skills, and experiences with one another in order to promote best practices and improve resource management. Peer-to-peer learning empowers communities to take ownership of their resources and to take action to manage them sustainably. By sharing experiences and learning from each other, communities are better equipped to identify and solve problems, and to implement effective management strategies - promoting collaboration and cooperation among communities, which can lead to increased trust and shared responsibility for resource management, particularly given competing land uses between sedentary crop producers and pastoral communities, including nomadic communities.

**Potential for scaling up:** The project is proposed in Adrar Wilaya that constitutes about 22.8% of the total territory of Mauritania.[34] The project will be supported by the recently relaunched National Tourism Office, a national-level institutional arrangement that will potentially share lessons from Adrar Wilaya to other parts of the country, and beyond the borders at international fora. The success in the implementation of the project will generate lessons that will potentially inform investments and scaling up of the lessons in other arid zones. The project has a dedicated component on knowledge management, and therefore, lessons learned and best practices for biodiversity conservation in arid zones will be packaged for dissemination to relevant stakeholders to inform development intervention in other part of the country and beyond ? particularly in countries with similar climatic conditions and environmental affordances.

It should be noted that the IMPADRA recognises that scaling up good practices in the conservation efforts of the PA will remain essential to ensure the sustainability of efforts for protection and preservation of species. IMPADRA will share successful strategies, techniques, and innovations with other conservation projects and organizations (such as GEFID 10444 and GEFID 10103 projects). The sharing will take place through continuous collaboration between the projects PMU, networking events, conferences, online forums, and training sessions, among others that will be determined based on the audience. It will be also crucial to collaborate with stakeholders such as local communities, government agencies, development partners, academic (the University of Nouakchott which will have a big role in some of the outputs of this project) and NGOs, among others. This will help to create a sense of ownership and ensure that conservation efforts are integrated into the local context. The scaling up strategy will be developed to guide the processes of scaling up, and it will be done in close consultation and collaboration with different stakeholder. The strategy will feed into activities. It will test the biodiversity monitoring and assessment tools developed by IUCN, tools that could subsequently be applied to other projects to create protected areas to preserve the biodiversity of Saharan ecosystems in the sub-region.

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[1] This approach is based on the findings from a baseline study that used a more participatory approach to establish the presence of animals in the proposed project area. The establishment and conservation efforts will be measured by any difference in appearances in the animals identified as present. The periodic monitoring approach of the population changes will combine a community participatory approach with the use of the surveillance system that will be developed under output 1.1.4.

[2] Mauritania's UNDAF - Partnership framework for sustainable development 2018 - 2022

[3] 2019 World Population Review <http://worldpopulationreview.com/countries/mauritania-population/>

[4] The National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity (2011-2020)

[5] The EPI is a compound index from an assessment of countries' actions toward retaining natural ecosystems and protecting the full range of biodiversity within their borders. Represented are terrestrial biome protection (weighted for the national and global rarity of biomes), marine protected areas, Protected Areas Representativeness Index, Species Habitat Index, Species Protection Index, and Biodiversity Habitat Index: [Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy](#)

[6] Developed based on data from [Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy](#)

[7] Chouaib Ould Abdellahi & Mohamed Fadhel Aghdhafna. (2013). Strategic Investment Framework in Sustainable Land Management in Mauritania

[8] National Statistics Office of Mauritania (2019). Adrar in Numbers 2014 - 2018

[9] The National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity (2011-2020) page

[10] Not recognised as game and not in the table but exist in large numbers including doves, raptors, swallows.

[11] Referred to by the MESD as Nature Reserve although the parliamentary decree to establish a PA in the area remains in draft form and is listed as a priority project in the 6th National Report to CBD, 2018.

[12] Information compiled from: 1999, F. Lamarque. Rapport de mission en republique islamique de mauritanie: "R?introduction des antilopes saharo-sah?liennes". 2007, IUCN. Mission de caract?risation de la diversit? biologique de la zone du Guelb-Er-Rich?tt.

[13] The National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity (2011-2020). These include: *Alternanthera nodiflora*, *Amaranthus viridis*, *Aerva javanica*, *Pancreatium trianthum*, *Calotropis procera*, *Caralluma retrospiciens*, *Leptadenia pyrotechnica*, *Pergularia tomentosa*, *Cordia rothii*, *Heliotropium bacciferum*, *Indigofera oblongifolia*, *Tephrosia purpurea*, *Boscia senegalensis*, *Capparis decidua*, *Maerua crassifolia*, *Cornulaca monacantha*, *Nucularia*



*perrinii*, *Combretum aculeatum*, *Bauhinia rufescens*, *Cassia italica*, *Ipomea repens*, *Ipomea asarifolia*, *Cyperus sp.*, *Chrozophora brocchiana*, *Euphorbia balsamifera*, *Euphorbia granulata*, *Euphorbia scordifolia*, *Euphorbia sudanica*, *Jatropha chevalieri*, *Tapinanthus sp.*, *Acacia raddiana*, *Acacia Senegal*, *Acacia seyal*, *Gisekia pharnacoides*, *Boerhavia repens*, *Aristida funiculata*, *Grewia tenax*, *Balanites aegyptiaca*, *Tamarix sp*

[14] Legros Cyril & Leguet Nicolas (2003). Potential for the development of ecotourism in the Ouadane region (Adrar, Mauritania) as part of the establishment of a protected area on the Guelb Er Richat. *Master dissertation*, University of Angers.

[15] <http://datazone.birdlife.org/userfiles/file/IBAs/AfricaCntryPDFs/Mauritania.pdf>

[16] <http://datazone.birdlife.org/site/factsheet/el-ghall%C3%A2ou%C3%A9ya-iba-mauritania/details>

[17] UNDP-Mauritania. (2015). Regional Program to Combat Poverty in the Wilaya of Adrar

[18] Ali Ferchichi & Ethmane Monane. (2018). Mauritania Sixth national report to the Convention on Biological Diversity

[19] The Richat Structure, also called Guelb er Richat, the Eye of Africa, or Eye of the Sahara is a prominent circular feature in the Sahara's Adrar Plateau, near Ouadane, west-central Mauritania, Northwest Africa.

[20] World Bank. Mauritania: Counting on Natural Wealth for a Sustainable Future. Policy Research Working Paper No. 6887. Washington DC, 2014

[21] Cisneros et al. (2022). Impacts of conservation incentives in protected areas: The case of Bolsa Floresta, Brazil. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*

[22] Pullin et al (2013). Human well-being impacts of terrestrial protected areas. *Journal of Environmental Evidence*

[23] UNCBD (2007). Sustainable Finance: Protected Areas

[24] Eco-Business Fund (n.d) Promoting Conservation Finance to Increase Sustainable Production and Consumption

[25] Emerton, L. (n.d) Community-Based Incentives for Nature Conservation

[26] UNCDB (n.d). Biodiversity for Development: [SDG 5](#)

[27] Anja Kollmuss & Julian Agyeman (2002). Mind the Gap: Why do people act environmentally and what are the barriers to pro-environmental behavior?, *Journal of Environmental Education Research*

[28] IIED (n.d). The role, influence and impact of [women](#) in biodiversity conservation by Cristiana Pa?ca Palmer

[29] See the number of proposed areas on p110 of the Sixth National Report to UNCBD (2018)

[30] Mauritania National Biodiversity Strategy

[31] See the Mauritania's Environmental Performance Index at [Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy](#)

[32] According to the 2011-2020 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (page 13)

[33] Sara J. Scherr, Seth Shames and Rachel Friedman. (2013). Defining Integrated Landscape Management for Policy Makers

[34] Government of Mauritania (2017). Actualisation de la Monographie De La Wilaya de l'Adrar Rapport Diagnostic

**1b. Project Map and Coordinates**

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.



Map point	Latitude	Longitude
Point-1	21°26'54.14"N	10°46'13.56"W
Point-2	21°33'17.62"N	10°51'12.81"W
Point-3	21°24'8.34"N	11° 2'39.41"W
Point-4	21°20'1.14"N	11°19'51.01"W
Point-5	21°18'54.85"N	11°21'5.10"W
Point-6	21°16'34.39"N	11°27'24.19"W
Point-7	21°13'30.55"N	11°28'53.53"W
Point-8	21°12'4.84"N	11°31'4.00"W
Point-9	21° 8'33.57"N	11°31'55.35"W
Point-10	21° 5'50.46"N	11°30'35.14"W
Point-11	21° 2'30.56"N	11°28'3.98"W
Point-12	21° 0'54.60"N	11°23'40.34"W
Point-13	21° 1'26.93"N	11°14'23.00"W
Point-14	21° 4'44.45"N	11° 7'43.59"W
Point-15	21° 9'14.02"N	11° 2'6.57"W
Point-16	21°16'57.45"N	10°59'44.66"W
Point-17	21°22'18.92"N	10°51'40.11"W

**1c. Child Project?**

**If this is a child project under a program, describe how the components contribute to the overall program impact.**

**2. Stakeholders**

**Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:**

**Civil Society Organizations** Yes

**Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities** Yes

**Private Sector Entities** Yes

**If none of the above, please explain why:**

**Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.**

The leadership of the Republic of Mauritania through the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the National Unit for Environmental Observation and Arid Zones have been critical in the development of this project from the PIF stage through to the GEF CEO endorsement request. Following PIF approval, relevant studies and consultations have been undertaken to inform the full development of this document. There has been very active engagement from the government and active participation of national focal points of multilateral environmental agreements, Civil Society Organizations, research institutions, women groups and development partners (both bilateral and multilateral) in discussions that have contributed to the development of this project proposal at this CEO endorsement request. Participation by stakeholders has and will continue to be part of the success formula of this project. This is premised on the understanding that participation by stakeholders leads to empowerment and to joint ownership of the project. To increase participation, the project should start with a consultation process that moves to negotiations and ends with joint decisions by relevant stakeholders.

Consultations with communities as well as local authorities took into account the socio-cultural practices of interacting with visitors ? meeting the community members in their own socioecological context to engage them about the project so that they could appreciate what the project was proposing and how their own aspirations could be mainstreamed in the eventual design of the project. Thanks to community consultations:

- It was evident what kind of animal species are present in the area, which ones have disappeared over time;
- How community members interact with nature ? in terms of access and use of land and animals;
- what potential socioeconomic benefits can be envisaged for them based on their needs;
- The socio-cultural and traditional practices that are important to consider when doing community mobilization for their participation in decision-making processes, execution of activities and monitoring of the project progress;

- The capacity needs for them to more effectively be involved in the project implementation; and
- It was possible to understand community land use for both crop and animal production.

These aspects have been reflected in the design of the project, and activities have been proposed to ensure community-level dynamics smoothen project implementation.

Consultations with different stakeholders have been complemented by field visits to target communes to appreciate better the socioeconomic and environmental conditions in the proposed project areas. Further development of the project document has been informed by views and development interests from stakeholders that include civil society organisations and local communities. Stakeholder consultation meetings have been held in manners to promote gender balanced representation and have been held in Nouackchot as well as in Adrar Wilaya. Participatory processes have been used to widely consult with relevant stakeholders in the target Wilaya to ensure that their concerns are integrated in the design of project activities, and their roles are clarified. A participatory engagement with relevant stakeholders ensured ownership of proposed project activities. Additionally, a participatory engagement with various stakeholders, particularly direct beneficiaries in their socioeconomic context, has potential to support active participation in the implementation of project activities, but also the sustainability of project outcomes. The table below summarizes stakeholder mapping for this project. Engagement with stakeholder during the preparation of the project has been hybrid; involving physical interactions with some stakeholders and virtual meetings with other stakeholders. This has been caused by COVID-19 which, at some stage, limited the opportunity to physically meet with different stakeholders.

Stakeholder	Role in the proposed project
<b>Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development</b> Directorate for the Protection and Restoration of Species and Environments (DPREM) Directorates of the MESD in Adrar	DPREM is the executing agency of this project at the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. It will therefore, provide oversight on the day to day implementation of project activities on the ground, and ensuring that the project remains compliant and consistent with government policies and institutional regulations. The role of DPREM in this project is IRM's strategic and deliberate decision to promote natural resource management in the arid regions of Mauritania.

<p><b>Government Institutions</b>  Ministry of Agriculture  Ministry of Livestock  National Tourism Office  University of Nouakchott and Ecole Normale de l'Enseignement Supérieur</p>	<p>These institutions will provide support to ensure alignment of project activities to Wilaya development priorities. For example, through the National Agricultural Research and Development Center (CNRADA), the Ministry of Rural Development will also support the identification and extension services to accompany the implementation of agriculture-related activities within Adra.</p> <p>Given the level of development programs in the pipeline to raise the eco-tourism profile of Guelb er Richat, the National Tourism Office will play an important role in the management of the PA and in advancing partnerships with the private sector. The Ecole and the University of Nouakchott will provide technical expertise on the creation and improved management of the Protected Areas, including leading the data collection methodology and the KBA assessment. The Institutions will also be instrumental in knowledge generation and dissemination. It will support the execution of component 1, particularly outputs 1.1.1 and 1.1.2.</p>
<p><b>Development Agencies</b>  World Bank,  European Union,  Fondation pour la Nature MAVA Foundation for the Conservation of Biodiversity and its Habitat (CBD-Habitat)</p>	<p>These will provide coordination support, knowledge exchange and co-financing. For example, the World Bank, and the European Union are investing in tourism infrastructure in Adrar and CBD-Habitat have supported the reintroduction of wildlife in the recently created National Park of Awleigatt.</p>
<p><b>Scientific and Civil Society Organisations</b>  IUCN,  Nature Mauritanie (local partner of Birdlife International)</p>	<p>These institutions will be critical in supporting IMPADRA's activities related to PA creation and monitoring in the PA. Drawing on their experiences, the institutions will support research, community mobilisation, awareness-raising activities and knowledge sharing. For example, IUCN led in 2007 scientific research on the biodiversity in Guelb Er Richat.</p>
<p><b>Private Sector</b>  - Foundation for the preservation of Ancien Cities  - EBNOU ATeyllah Foundation  - Mauritania Tourism Board  - Association of Women Entrepreneur</p>	<p>The private sector will play a key role in developing alternative income generating activities, engaging in conservation finance, eco-tourism and to provide co-financing towards this project. During project implementation, they will be continually engaged and consulted during activity implementation and monitoring. Depending on the type of activities to be promoted, they will be contacted by the project to implement some private sector oriented activities.</p>
<p><b>Local Authorities</b>  Regional Council of Adrar  Municipal Council of Oudane</p>	<p>These Local Authorities have been part of important consultations that have informed the eventual design of IMPADRA ? indicating development priorities with which the project is aligned. They will continue in this role to ensure IMPADRA remains consistent with development priorities in their jurisdictions. Additionally, the Commune of Oudane will also provide co-financing for the project.</p>

<b>Women groups: Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Mauritania</b>	Women groups, including User Associations that comprise women, will be actively involved in the project implementation and monitoring processes. The Association of Women Entrepreneurs have been actively involved in the project. They committed to support project implementation through mobilization of women and identifying opportunities, but also to be in the project Steering Committee to reinforce the project governance. It should be repeated that the process will be deliberate on women inclusion, and will have a Gender Specialist in the PMU and gender experts within the PSC.
<b>Local communities CSO NGO Local Associations</b>	The successful creation of the PA will hinge on local community engagement. The local communities in the protected area will be consulted and actively involved in the planning, participatory decision-making processes and identification of activities. They will also be beneficiaries of community-level interventions.

Real development with sustainable resources does not exclude people from implementation and taking of key decisions. Overall, the logic for stakeholder participation in the project is embedded in the following table:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>●Ensures that the project plans are a reflection of the real needs and priorities;</li> <li>●Develops an environment of trusts by allowing the voices of the stakeholders be heard and their issues be known;</li> <li>●Makes the project accountable to the stakeholders;</li> <li>●Enables the voices of the stakeholders to be heard and by doing that the level of trust in the relationships increases;</li> <li>●Promotes transparency in the actions of the project and ensures that the project is held accountable for its actions;</li> <li>●Increases ownership by stakeholders who feel the project is taking in account their views and motivates them to sponsor the project, which ultimately leads to sustainability; and</li> <li>●It is a key strategy to win support to the project, to gain commitment to the project, and ultimately to increase the chances for sustainability after the project has been completed.</li> </ul>
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**Means and mechanisms of stakeholder engagement:** The success of this project in terms of its implementation, retention, ownership and sustainability of outcomes hinges on the engagement of a broad array of stakeholders based on participatory approaches. The participatory planning and engagement mechanisms established and agreed upon at PPG will serve as a basis for continuing efforts to engage with stakeholders in the implementation of the project. To ensure effective engagement with stakeholders, the project will draw on various existing consultation guidelines and exchange platforms in the region. These include the Great Green Wall Initiative platform that brings together different stakeholders at national and regional level. On a continuous basis throughout the implementation of the project, the stakeholders will be engaged to discuss, select and prioritize activities.

In the event of surge in COVID-19 cases in the country, the mobilization of actors as part of implementation of the activities, the project will draw on the health protocols in force in the country, while being guided by UNEP measures and GEF provisions.

The primary means of stakeholder engagement throughout the project cycle will be focused on consultations at appropriate levels, depending on the stakeholder type and role that they will play in the implementation of the project. In this regard, consultations has been part of the project preparation, but also will be part of implementation at national, Wilaya and local levels. Field visits, meetings, awareness raising, workshops and trainings, will constitute principal mechanisms and means of keep stakeholders engaged, but also their access to all important information and resources to play their roles. The underpinning rationale is that all key stakeholders are engaged in a manner that enables them to effectively play their role to the successful implementation of the project.

Therefore, stakeholder engagement and participation in the project will be consistent and comply with the GEF stakeholder guidelines to ensure:

- ? Constructive, responsive, accountable and transparent processes during project design and implementation;
- ? Fair, balanced and inclusive participation to ensure that even the voices of the vulnerable, women and differently abled are represented;
- ? Sustained commitment and action, including allocation of resources to support all stakeholders to play their role without being constrained by financial resources;
- ? Appropriate documentation and easy and timely access to information so that different stakeholders make informed decisions.

It should be reiterated that different stakeholders will play different roles. As noted under each output, some stakeholder will be directly involved in the execution of activities, and others will be part of the steering committee to provide guidance and oversight on the project - and others will be consulted for their technical inputs to the project. The stakeholder engagement for IMPADRA will be critical to ensure the effective participation of women and vulnerable groups. Stakeholders will be consulted throughout the implementation phase to: i) promote community understanding of the project's outcomes; ii) promote local community ownership of the project through engaging in planning, implementing and monitoring of the interventions; iii) communicate to the public in a way that can inspire behaviour change; iv) ensure gender equality; and v) maximise complementarity with other ongoing projects in Adrar Wilaya. This

level of engagement and implication of stakeholders in the implementation of the project will ensure sustainability.

Essentially, the ?how? the engagement will be done in this project will be determined by the category of the stakeholder. For example, engaging communities as an important stakeholder will involve participatory approaches within their communities. This will mean holding community meetings, assigning roles to different community members to guide their participation in project activities, including building capacities for them to participate in activities such as those related to eco-tourism or project monitoring. The financing of such activities will be through respective component and output budget allocations. In this regard, for example, capacity development of key stakeholders in the creation of a PA under output 1.1.1 that will be under the responsibility of the University of Nouakchott, the financing of this level of stakeholder engagement will be through the resources that will be allocated to this output under component 1.

It should be noted that the implementation of this project will involve a number of stakeholder. For this reason, proposed indicators are also ?people-centred.? For example, indicators such as number of platforms for information sharing and intelligence gathering established between PA authority and the local communities, number of PA management plans developed, board-approved and under implementation, number of direct beneficiaries of Community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities for local communities, number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment, number of female direct beneficiaries of Community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities for local communities, and number of biodiversity conservation awareness campaigns conducted, among others ? cannot be possible without the engagement of stakeholders. Therefore, through these indicators, the project will demonstrate its concern and engagement with different stakeholders, either as participants in the implementation of the project (with specific role to play such as the University of Nouakchott) or as beneficiaries of interventions (such as local communities).

It should be noted that resource requirements throughout the project cycle will be ensured through project activity budget as will be allocated during budgeted annual work plans which detail types of activities to be undertaken in particular fiscal year of a given project. For example, the Ecole Normale de l'Enseignement Supérieur will be one of the important stakeholders that will participate in the project. Its role will include the collection of detailed biodiversity data and technical support provided to MESD to enable the KBA assessment, designation and registration process of the entire new PA in line with current Global KBA criteria. Therefore, the Ecole Normale de l'Enseignement Supérieur will access resources required to execute activities that will lead to output 1.1.1 related to the collection of detailed biodiversity data and technical support provided to MESD to enable the KBA assessment, designation and registration process of the entire new PA in line with current Global KBA criteria. The timing



regarding the access to resources will follow the project's implementation manual but also the annual work plans.

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[1] Rodolfo Siles (2022). [Benefits](#) of Stakeholder Participation

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement

stakeholder engagement and participation in the project will be consistent and comply with the GEF stakeholder guidelines to ensure:

? Constructive, responsive, accountable and transparent processes during project design and implementation;

? Fair, balanced and inclusive participation to ensure that even the voices of the vulnerable, women and differently abled are represented;

? Sustained commitment and action, including allocation of resources to support all stakeholders to play their role without being constrained by financial resources;

? Appropriate documentation and easy and timely access to information so that different stakeholders make informed decisions.

**Select what role civil society will play in the project:**

**Consulted only;** Yes

**Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;** Yes

**Co-financier;**

**Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body;** Yes

**Executor or co-executor;** No

**Other (Please explain)**

**3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

**Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assessment.**

### **General gender context in Mauritania**

Although progress has been made over the past decade, women in Mauritania are still subject to discrimination in the legal realm. In 2020, the country ranked 177<sup>th</sup> in the world on the Women, Business and the Law Index. According to the 2021 Global Gender Gap Report, Mauritania has gone down by 5 rank compared to 2020 scoring 0.606 ? ranking the country 146 out of 156. This legal discrimination occurs across a wide range of areas: in addition to unequal wages and restricted property rights, for example, women are denied access to certain jobs, do not have the legal capacity to be heads of household, and lack protection against inequalities in access to bank loans and employment.[2]

According to the World Bank, approximately 49.7% of the Mauritanian population of 4.6 million people are women (as of 2020). The General Census provides a number of gender-disaggregated statistics that give an overview of gender inequalities in Mauritania. In terms of literacy for example, 41.0% of women are illiterate against 31.3% for men. Likewise, the activity rate of men (69.6%) is much higher than that of women (20.5%).

Along with the predominance of youth and a strong sedentarization dynamic, gender disparities and inequalities are one of the main characteristics of the Mauritanian population. Women and girls represent a high proportion of the population affected by multidimensional poverty. Poverty affects female-headed households more than male-headed households (poverty incidences of 46.3% and 40.7%, respectively), but with comparable shares of extreme poverty. The incidence of poverty is also higher in rural (73%) than in urban areas (9.5%).

The main sociocultural, institutional, and political obstacles faced by women in Mauritania include:

- At the socio-cultural level: i) poor access to information on gender equality, social prejudices, illiteracy, ignorance of the rights conferred by the law; and ii) submission to strong social traditions and cultural pressure, especially in rural areas;
- At the institutional level: i) insufficient gender mainstreaming in sectoral policies, strategies and programmes; and ii) insufficient qualified human resources, coordination and dialogue on gender issues at the national level; and
- At the political level: i) limited promotion of gender equality; ii) existence of structural constraints such as the non-respect of quotas in elective positions; and iii) strong resistance from political parties to the nomination of women.

Despite their strong presence in the informal economy, women have little access to the factors of production (credit, land, capacity building, etc.). Women hold only 27% of the labour income, making it difficult to reduce gender inequality by economic uplifting. The gender distribution of the employed population shows a very strong disparity between men (70.59%) and women (22.41%).

### *National responses to gender inequality in Mauritania*

Various commitments and instruments guide Mauritania's determination to fight against gender inequalities. The last decades have been marked by the adoption of numerous texts on gender equality and the empowerment of women, including: i) the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979); ii) the Dakar Platform for Action (1994); iii) the Platform for Action of the Fourth United Nations World Conference on Women (1995); iv) the UN Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security 1325 (2000); v) the Convention on the Rights of Women (1953, ratified by Mauritania in 1976); and vi) the International Labour Organisation Convention No. 3

on Maternity Protection (1919, ratified in 1963). In addition, Mauritania ratified (2005) the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966), which states (Article 3) that "the States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights political rights set forth in the present Covenant

In line with these commitments, Mauritania has taken a number of legislative dispositions to combat discrimination against women, in particular with the Constitution of 20 July 1991, amended in 2012, which guarantees the same rights to citizens of both sexes without discrimination in its 1st article: "the Republic ensures equality before the law to all citizens without distinction origin, race, sex or social condition". At the political level, the Constitution allows women to be electors (Art.3); it guarantees the right to property and to inheritance for all (Art. 15.1 and 15.2) and prohibits any moral or physical violence (Art. 13.4).

Furthermore, the GoM has undertaken to combat discrimination against women and girls by adopting the National Strategy for Gender Mainstreaming (Strategie Nationale d'institutionnalisation du Genre, SNIG) in March 2015. The SNIG, to which the Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and Family (Ministre des Affaires Sociales, de l'Enfance et de la Famille, MASEF) is the main custodian, is based on the three bodies: i) the Inter-ministerial Committee for Gender Institutionalisation chaired by the Prime Minister; ii) the Gender Monitoring Group chaired by an advisor to the Prime Minister; and iii) gender sectoral cells formed at the level of each relevant ministerial department.

#### *What has worked so far*

At the national level, efforts to combat gender inequality have materialised through a number of plans aiming to mainstream gender considerations. This includes the National Strategy for the Advancement of Women (1992); the National Policy for the Development of Nutrition (2006), the Systemic Approach for Better Results in Education (2016) and the National Action Plan for Rural Women (2008), among others. 9. The Ministry of Livestock has developed a sectoral gender strategy for livestock and pastoralism and a roadmap for gender mainstreaming 2019-2021. Several other mechanisms have been created, generally under the responsibility of MASEF: i) a National Committee for the fight against violence (2008); ii) regional and departmental committees to combat gender-based violence; iii) the establishment of the multisectoral commission against child marriage, etc.

In terms of concrete results, some improvements have been witnessed. With regard to the economic empowerment of women, a clear enhancement is perceptible. For example, women now represent almost 35% of employees, compared to 25% in 1993. This is a result of the strengthening of access to means of production and microfinance for women, increase scholarship quotas for girls, the development of vocational training, particularly in disadvantaged areas, and the opening of new branches of the Centre de Formation pour la Promotion Feminine. The school enrolment rate of girls is now similar to that of boys, reflecting the government's efforts to improve equal access to education.

At the political level, the adoption of the 2006 organic law establishing a 20% quota for women on all electoral lists was seen as a milestone. The new organic law no. 2012-034 of 11 April 2012 on the promotion of women's access to electoral mandates and elective functions further emphasised the need to increase women quotas for elective provisions. In consequence, Mauritanian women have seen their representation in parliament increase from 3% to 20% between 2000 and 2018.

At the socio-cultural level, the GoM instituted the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and launched national campaigns to combat violence against women. The GoM also initiates actions to fight against early marriage and penalised the perpetrators of genital mutilation.

Encouraging results although still not sufficient, have been recorded. For example, the teenage fertility rate fell from 82 to 70 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 between 2010 and 2018.

### *Remaining challenges*

Despite the progress outlined above, the empowerment of women in Mauritania still faces considerable obstacles, including: i) dual systems of traditional and modern (customary and state) norms; ii) the non-gratuity of legal proceedings, which often leads the poorest women to renounce any legal proceedings; and iii) the lack of financial and material support. The removal of legal obstacles would be a good starting point towards a less discriminatory labor market and a society. Indeed, legal discrimination is present in different areas, including in terms of: a) access to certain jobs and related decision-making to the labor market; b) maternity rights, the family, and household responsibilities; c) property rights and access to finance; and d) protection against different forms of gender-based violence.[3]

It is noted that Mauritania has made progress in terms of gender mainstreaming as well at the political, strategic and legal level. However, the operationalization of this process still seems to come up against the weakness of the existing institutional framework, the lack of coordination and of synergy between the various institutional players, the multiplicity and opacity of the sources of positive law and its weak application, especially for issues relating to women's rights.

At the sectoral level, despite progress, major deficits still persist, especially in in terms of statistics disaggregated by sex and their consideration in the actions of development. Also, socio-cultural reluctance continues to consider women as 'an inferior being' who cannot become the equal of man.[4] To this should be added the slow reconciliation between the demands of modern life in favor of respect for human rights and the strong oppressive patriarchal traditions against women.

In addition, and despite the declared will to improve the mainstreaming of gender aspects in public policies, some gaps in the legislation still hamper Mauritania's capacity to close the gender gap in many domains. Furthermore, the limited institutional capacity to implement the numerous gender policies that have officially been endorsed by the GoM, as well as the lack of awareness on existing rights and legal procedures weakens the framework for the reduction of gender inequalities. Besides the social progress that is thereby being impeded, economic growth also suffers from the limited integration of women in the formal economy: a recent report found out that Mauritania could increase its wealth by 19% if women had more opportunities to participate fully in economic activity.

It should be noted that in Adrar, agriculture is mainly concentrated in the oases. It is characterized by the cultivation of the date palm with understories of fruit trees, cereal crops (wheat, barley), vegetables (carrot, tomato, cabbage, etc.) and fodder (alfalfa) and henna shrubs (*Lawsonia inermis*).

### *The gender context at Wilaya level*

Within the context of Mauritania, the question of gender is best screened through the lens of socioeconomic opportunities available or not to both men and women, or simply to one of them to the complete or partial exclusion of the other.

The Wilaya of Adrar has important pastoral potential and its development does not require important quantities of rains as in the Wilayas of the south. Following a few tens of millimeters of annual rainfall, relatively rich pastures develop. Cattle farming is almost non-existent due to the type of terrain that is difficult to access and the traditions of the population who prefer the consumption of meat and milk from camels.

Trade in Adrar has generally evolved over time, with periods of expansion and decline: The period of trans-Saharan trade, with the economic role of Ouadane and Chinguetti, which constituted, at the era of real Saharan ports, between the Maghreb and West Africa. Thus, the caravans that left the area, made the economic reputation of Adrar, and even all of Mauritania.

With its natural and mythical landscapes, its archaeological sites and its ancient cities, the town of Aoudane, as in all the Wilaya of Adrar, has attracts many visitors. Tourism in the Wilaya has experienced

unprecedented growth since 1997 ? grown as an important economic activity in the region. However, the euphoria was short-lived and the Wilaya will experience an early crisis in its tourism in 2008, due to the insecurity of the time, and the global recession. However, there is hope, because Mauritania has ensured total security on its territory since 2009.[5]

In these activities that constitute the socioeconomic fabric of local communities, women remain at the periphery, largely due to deeply rooted social norms. Women are half more likely than men to be part of the active labor force, and their work remains vulnerable and undervalued.

Mauritanian girls and women are face great inequalities within the household, in the labor market and in institutions. These inequalities lead to, among other things, child marriage, early pregnancies and a low level of education among girls. This, in turn, leads to greater fertility and hence higher population growth. Inequality between genders within the household would also contribute increase the risk of domestic violence. It affects also women?s access to financial opportunities and economic.[6]

Within the context of gender disparities as mentioned above, it should be nuanced however that in cases such as client want to access funds at a bank, women are not disadvantaged on the ground of their gender. However, a difference appears when identifying the reasons why community member would wish to get loans. What is apparent is that women are generally less likely to even want to get loans. Part of the explanation is linked to the already mentioned factors that disproportionately disadvantage such as access to education, their roles in marriages and access to decent jobs to allow them to pay back loans.

Based on what has been discussed hitherto, is clear that that women participation in the planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the project is important for improved conservation, sustainability of project outcomes and overall behavioural changes towards more enhanced environmental and natural resources management in Adrar and beyond. The proposed project will address gender gaps through deliberately increasing women access and control over natural resources and income-generating resources, and investing in their technical and leadership skills towards equitable participation in decision-making, execution of activities, monitoring and reporting. Additionally, the design of the project will report on gender-disaggregated indicators. The Gender Action Plan below highlights the project?s efforts to consider gender aspects in its implementation.

### **Project Gender Action Plan**

*Project 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>Outcomes</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Project gender-responsive considerations</b>
<b>Component 1: Establishment of a new Protected Area (PA) in Adrar Wilaya</b>		
Outcome 1: Improved conservation status through the creation and effective management of a terrestrial 200,000 ha PA in Adrar: <i>Indicators and targets</i> - A new IUCN Category VI 200,000 ha terrestrial protected area established in	1.1.1 Collection of detailed biodiversity data and technical support provided to MESD to enable the KBA assessment, designation and registration process of the entire new PA in line with current Global KBA criteria.	Activities under output 1.1.1 related to participatory process, involving local communities and relevant stakeholders, as part of site-based planning in accordance with the ecosystem approach, and capacity development of key stakeholders in the creation of the PA will ensure an equitable representation of women.

Outcomes	Outputs	Project gender-responsive considerations
<p>Adrar (covering El Ghallouya KBA and newly designated KBA) increasing the national coverage of terrestrial protected areas</p> <p>-Population sizes of the following animal species is monitored and increases from rare appearance to frequent appearance: Addax, Ostriches, Dorcas gazelle, Bighorn sheep, Dama gazelle, Oryx dammah</p>	<p>1.1.2 Technical support and capacity development provided to MESD and other strategic partners to carry out scientific research and to prepare documentation for the creation of the PA in Adrar</p>	<p>Under output 1.1.2 are activities related to ensuring that protected areas are effectively managed or supervised through staff that are well-trained and skilled, properly and appropriately equipped, and supported, to carry out their fundamental role in the management and conservation of protected areas, and engaging local communities and relevant stakeholders in participatory planning and governance. These activities will ensure equitable women representation among staff to be trained and those participating in planning and governance sessions.</p>
	<p>1.1.3 Land use plans to facilitate the identification and demarcation of priority areas for conservation in compliance with the gazetting process and for 100,000 ha for sustainable land management in production systems in the surrounding landscape developed and under implementation.</p>	<p>Land use plans under output 1.1.3 as well as rehabilitation and restoration of habitats and degraded ecosystems building ecological networks, ecological corridors and/or buffer zones will benefit women. Land use planning processes will consider the socioeconomic dynamics that determine current and future use of land resources in and around the protected area. This too is of benefit to women as important users of natural resources.</p>
	<p>1.1.4 Enforcement and surveillance system strengthened in the new PA in Adrar through (i) a long-term monitoring and enforcement system in place and a platform for information sharing and intelligence gathering established between PA authority and the local communities and supported to be fully functional and (ii) appropriate mechanisms and incentives in place to report illegal activities.</p>	<p>The monitoring mechanism for the project will use surveillance system but also use a participatory approach where community members will actively participate in reporting on the appearances of wildlife. This people's approach will be important in enhancing people's positive behavioural change towards wildlife. Women will be involved in the monitoring process</p>

Outcomes	Outputs	Project gender-responsive considerations
	1.1.5 Established operational capacity at the new PA in Adrar through (i) a newly established Regional Office for the newly created PA with deployed and capacitated staff; (ii) an established long-term ecological monitoring system for the protected and adjacent areas; and (iii) a board-approved management plan under implementation in the PA.	The project will ensure that gender aspects are fully included in the tailored training programmes, which will provide a basis for the mainstreaming of gender aspects into the agenda of the groups. It should also be noted that the project will employ a Gender Specialist as full time staff
<b>Component 2: Establishing financial sustainability mechanisms for sustainable and effective management of the PA</b>		
<p>Outcome 2: Financial sustainability mechanisms improve and strengthen the sustainable management effectiveness of the PA beyond the life of the project.</p> <p><i>Indicators and targets</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 100,000 ha under sustainable land management in production systems in landscapes adjacent to the new PA</li> <li>- At least three agreements signed with private sector actors to secure investments and promote eco and scientific tourism potential of the PA</li> <li>- 10,000 direct beneficiaries (50% female beneficiaries) of community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities for local communities.</li> </ul>	2.1.1 Financial mechanisms established and operational with necessary institutional capacity and processes in place for the financial sustainability of PA conservation.	One of the key activities under output 2.1.1 will seek to improve the capacity of the PA allied institutions and stakeholders to develop sustainable financing through fiscal incentives, environmental services and other instruments as deemed feasible. Women are among important stakeholders who will benefit from the capacity development.
	2.1.2 One national level PA platform established showcasing best PA management practices, eco-tourism potential, investment potential and biodiversity status to be managed by the National Tourism Office of Mauritania	Under output 2.1.2, women will be involved and benefit from economic opportunities and markets that will be identified and fostered at local, national and international levels for goods and services produced by the new PA ? where the equitable sharing of the benefits will be promoted.
	2.1.3 Community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities for local communities identified and supported in line with sustainable agricultural and livestock practices identified in the land use plan for the PA and adjacent landscape.	50% of beneficiaries of community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities will comprise women. Additionally, women will also benefit from capacity development, including tourism market literacy for community-based, and trainings for community-based organizations, private sector and civil society representatives in the areas relevant to economically viable and socially responsive and acceptable community-based biodiversity enterprises and their value chains.
<b>Component 3: Ensuring knowledge management and gender mainstreaming</b>		

Outcomes	Outputs	Project gender-responsive considerations
<p>Outcome 3: Gender equality and knowledge management effectively support sustainability and inform up-scaling</p> <p><i>Indicators and targets</i></p> <p>-One (1) new PA gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan developed and implemented across components</p> <p>-One (1) knowledge management plan developed and implemented</p>	3.1.1 Gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan implemented across project components	Both activities under output 3.1.1 regarding context-specific mechanisms for involving stakeholders, ensuring gender and social equity, in protected areas policy and management, and support towards the adoption of gender-responsive budgeting to reflect the specific needs and interests of both women and men when conceiving and implementing budgets at Adrar Wilaya level ? will benefit women.
	3.1.2 M&E plan implemented in a timely fashion to facilitate adaptive management and lesson learning	Under output 3.1.2, women will benefit from strengthening capacities of institutions to establish cross-sectoral collaboration for protected area management at the regional, national and local levels ? as well as from establishing mechanisms and evaluating the impacts of communication, education and public awareness programmes on biodiversity conservation to ensure that they improve public awareness, change behaviour and support the achievement of protected area objectives.

Gender considerations have been part of the design of IMPADRA to ensure that the factors that drive inequality are understood and addressed in project design and planning. The project acknowledges that gender roles of women and men include different labour responsibilities, priorities, decision-making power, and knowledge, which affect how women and men use and manage biological resources. Rural people are often isolated from economic opportunities, have less access to basic social services, and therefore rely heavily on goods and services derived from biodiversity and ecosystems. Given the heavy reliance on the goods and services that are provided by the natural world for food, water, medicine, and fuel with limited non-land-based income streams, the loss of natural resources disproportionately affects the poor.

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[1] Betchtel, D. Jamie (2010). Gender, Poverty and the Conservation of Biodiversity A Review of Issues and Opportunities

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[1] World Economic Forum. (2021). Global Gender Gap Report 2021 Insight [Report](#)

[2] World Bank. (2021). Fourth [Report](#) on the Economic Situation in Mauritania: A better future: accelerate economic recovery by investing on the potential of women



[3] World Bank. (2021). Fourth [Report](#) on the Economic Situation in Mauritania: A better future: accelerate economic recovery by investing on the potential of women

[4] AfDB (2015). Country Gender Profile Islamic Republic of [Mauritania](#)

[5] Government of Mauritania (2017). Actualisation de la Monographie De La Wilaya de l'Adrar Rapport diagnostic

[6] World Bank. (2021). Fourth [Report](#) on the Economic Situation in Mauritania: A better future: accelerate economic recovery by investing on the potential of women

**Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?**

Yes

**Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources;** Yes

**Improving women's participation and decision making** Yes

**Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women** Yes

**Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?**

Yes

#### **4. Private sector engagement**

**Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.**

IMPADRA recognises the critical role that the private has to play in the success of this project, including the sustainability of some of the project activities beyond its life span. The openness of IMPADRA to working with the private sector is premised on the understanding that the private sector has a complementary and synergistic role to play in the project's success, without supplanting the roles of the public sector or those of other equally relevant stakeholders. Some of the livelihoods activities that this project will support such as improving crop production and pastoralism and associated products will require the involvement of relevant stakeholders, the private sector entities that can particularly support efforts to, for example, breeding of small ruminants and fodder production, community mobilisation and organisation into local level institutions for the conservation of key species.

The development of IMPADRA has been strategic in the manner of engaging with the private sector for impact at scale. Overall, the role of the private sector will primarily focus on developing and supporting alternative income generating activities, engaging in conservation finance, eco-tourism and to provide co-financing towards this project. For some activities, the IMPADRA's support will

catalyse and scale up some community-level activities in collaboration with the private sector entities such as the Mauritania Copper Mine, Kinross, Soci?t? Toumour Mauritania, Fondation Elkheir, and the Banque Populaire de Mauritanie.

Beyond the fore-going, IMPADRA?s engagement with the private sector will ride on the latter?s comparative advantage in terms of their innovation, expertise, and capabilities which the entities will bring through: i) entrepreneurship, market-based approaches to inform conservation strategies in the PA as well distribution networks; ii) investment capacity, and managerial and operational expertise, including risk-management which will benefit PA administrators and managers; iii) financial resources and expertise in market-based solutions that have the potential for achieving scale and sustainability in tackling systemic PA conservation and other environmental challenges; iv) and policy influence and the capability to deliver what the Mauritanian governments seek to achieve by establishing the PA building on the private entities? managerial skills, financial resources, knowledge, networks and other aspects of their business models.

Relevant private sector entities beyond those indicated in the stakeholder table will be identified to play this role of facilitating the promotion of conservation of key species. In this regard, IMPADRA will catalyse stakeholder alliances?to develop, harmonize and implement sustainable practices, creating alliances to promote conservation objectives as well as strengthening institutional capacity and decision-making among relevant stakeholders?to improve information, participation, and accountability related to achieving conservation objectives of the project.

The project will actively support the development of collaborative working partnerships between prospective private sector businesses (e.g. tourism operators, mining companies, and agricultural producers), representative community structures and mandated government institutions. It will seek to optimise the mutual benefits (community-private sector-government) from existing and new use agreements operating or being negotiated within the envisaged PA. IMPADRA will promote market linkages for community enterprises in the target areas. To encourage investments from the private sector, the project will provide incentives to ensure that private sector investments in biodiversity-friendly businesses are viable ? that is, including in the co-management plans private sector space for ?business and biodiversity? mechanisms that allow and regulate business profits through biodiversity conservation.

The private sector will participate in the implementation of activities under output 2.1.3. It should also be noted that there is a table that spells out stakeholders who have been part of the conversation to develop this project. The Association of Women Entrepreneurs of Mauritania has been actively engaged right from the PPG inception. This group which includes many women opinion leaders has committed to support the project even in its governance level.

## 5. Risks to Achieving Project Objectives

Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Risks	Level	Mitigation measure (how the risk will be minimized)
Weak and poor coordination with ongoing biodiversity conservation processes affecting stakeholder engagement and participatory processes that underpin co-management regulations and plans	Medium	Coordination and consultation mechanisms will be established to ensure ownership of the process and engagement by all stakeholders. Local communities rely on the extraction of natural resources in the proposed area and as per UNEP safeguards policy FPIC procedures will be followed. No resettlement, physical or economic displacement are envisaged as part of the project implementation. This is reflected in UNEP's Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF).
Technical risk: Conservation private sector entities not found. The private sector will contribute to project sustainability through capacity building/trainings of local communities in value chains ? which will be meant to improve and expand socio-economic opportunities to reduce community exploitation of natural resources. Additionally, through potential eco-tourisme activities, the private sector will be critical.	Medium	Targeted private sector entities have been engaged in the development of the project, including Kinross, mining companies. Engagements will continue and high level consultations will be undertaken involving the appropriate Ministry and other quasi-government institutions (e.g. the Office National du Tourisme) to identify viable business entities to work in AdrarWilaya.
Political risks: Changes in political circumstances and government priorities	Low	Broad stakeholder engagement and aligning the project to broader government development goals embedded in government institutions will support the management of any changes in political circumstances.
Social risks: Communities turn down the project and refuse to be engaged	Low	Through sensitization programs, community members will be consulted and engaged so that they appreciate the benefits of the conservation of key species and accruing socio-economic benefits. Additionally, communities will be actively involved in alternative income generating activities, capacity building and community conservation initiatives.
Lack of technical and institutional capacities for the management of natural resources in Adrar	Medium	Capacity building is part of this project design, and therefore, capacity needs will be identified to ensure that the required policy and institutional capacities are in place. The project concept already counts on strong government ownership to ensure that built conservation capacities and developed BD mechanisms in the country are institutionalized for sustainability.

Risks	Level	Mitigation measure (how the risk will be minimized)
Local socio-cultural practices prevent the inclusion of women, and slow down the adoption of conservation practices	High	Socio-cultural practices have been internalized and practised for years. They constitute a people's worldview. As a measure to mitigate the project will engage over time on awareness raising using targeted opinion leaders which may bring about change. Mauritania is a very tribal society. The use of tribe group and leaders is a very common practice to achieve higher changes even at government level. The project will consider the tribal opinion leaders as drivers for change and use them without encouraging detrimental hierarchy. Community participation will remain key in project monitoring. They will be involved as allies in the conservation agenda of the protected area that will be created.

Risks	Level	Mitigation measure (how the risk will be minimized)
<p>COVID-19 pandemic continues during implementation (a section on the COVID-19 situation in Mauritania included below)</p>	<p>High</p>	<p>COVID-19 pandemic is rated high. There is no 100% certainty regarding how the pandemic will evolve. Loss of co-financing would primarily affect the scale of operations of the project, causing the project to work with a smaller number of communities. It would not prevent the project from building on the planned investments by the Government, development partners, private sector or the Decree towards creation of the protected area or its management arrangements. At this point, it is very difficult to predict how long the pandemic will last and how it will evolve. Social distancing, wearing of masks, contact tracing and other measures will impact the project as long as the pandemic lasts. To the extent that local regulations allow, meetings and missions could be held while adhering to sanitary measures and precautions. Alternatively, electronic or virtual meetings can be used by those who have electricity, but this is generally not possible in rural areas. COVID 19 may also present new opportunities to integrate green recovery and resilience principles into projects and programs ? Project partners will make use of the GEF guidance on this that was issued in August, 2020, titled, ?Project Design and Review Considerations in Response to the COVID-19 Crisis and the Mitigation of Future Pandemics?</p> <p>Data shows 59,814 COVID-19 confirmed cases; 58,306 recoveries; and 983 deaths between March 2020 and June 30, 2022.[1] In another source[2]<sup>2</sup>, Mauritania has recorded 0 mortalities linked to COVID 19 between March 1 and October 2022. Uncertainties surround the evolution of the pandemic. In the event of its escalation during project implementation, while using the GEF's guidelines in above-mentioned document:</p> <p>? UNEP and MESD will monitor the COVID-19 situation at national level and in the project area;</p> <p>? MESD and UNEP will explore options to conduct stakeholder meetings remotely through on-line platforms and/or with limited number of participants practicing protective measures;</p> <p>? The project is designed on the basis of partnerships with organizations mainly located in Mauritania that will limit the need for international travel to implement the project. It should actually be noted that UNEP has an Officer in Nouakshott which further limits the need for international travel to provide technical support;</p>

Risks	Level	Mitigation measure (how the risk will be minimized)
		<p>? Part of the project Outputs can be delivered remotely via on-line tools, including mentoring, if necessary;</p> <p>? Some of the project activities can be reasonably delayed until restrictions are over in the framework of adaptive management and later fast-tracked for implementation;</p> <p>? The GEF will be informed in case of significant delays and the project can request a reasonable extension should the Pandemic worsen in the country</p> <p>This assessment primarily focuses on the project-level implementation of activities. However, it should be noted that impacts of COVID-19 on the project can include more detached aspects such as the flow of tourists to the project site, which in turn, can affect the economic viability of ecotourist enterprises. In this regard, the resurgence of COVID-19 can have both direct and indirect impacts on the project and its outcomes.</p>

Risks	Level	Mitigation measure (how the risk will be minimized)
Climate change (addition information included on climate change in the section below)	<p>Medium</p> <p>to</p> <p>High</p>	<p>The climate projections for the project area are elaborated further down. A climate risk assessment conducted by GIZ and its partners in Mauritania, indicates that climate change is expected to have a significant influence on the ecology and distribution of tropical ecosystems, though the magnitude, rate and direction of these changes are uncertain. With rising temperatures and increased frequency and intensity of droughts, wetlands and riverine systems are increasingly at risk of being converted to other type of ecosystems, with plant populations being succeeded and animals losing habitats. Increased temperatures and droughts can also impact succession in forest systems while concurrently increasing the risk of invasive species, all of which affect ecosystems. In addition to these climate drivers, low agricultural productivity and population growth might motivate further agricultural expansion resulting in increased deforestation, land degradation and forest fires, all of which will impact animal and plant biodiversity.</p> <p>Model projections of species richness (including amphibians, birds and mammals) applied for Mauritania show particularly strong agreement on the development of species richness: south-western Mauritania is expected to gain up to 30 % of animal species due to climate change. In addition to a decrease of up to 50 % in the south-east of the country. Regarding tree cover, model results are very uncertain and of low magnitude, which could also relate to the fact that tree cover in Mauritania is generally sparse. Overall, no reliable estimations on the development of tree cover can be made. These findings will inform the project interventions.</p> <p>It should be noted that the project with the consideration of the above climate change scenario, will focus mainly on technical support to create a PA with supporting financing mechanisms, establish a monitoring system, creation of a regional office, gender mainstreaming and creation of a PA national platform. These core activities of the proposed projects will be consistent in the persistence of a resilient ecosystem and adaptation capacity for both the system and the populations.</p>

Risks	Level	Mitigation measure (how the risk will be minimized)
Security issues that may emerge from terrorist attacks or any other form of insurgency	Low	Generally, the region is of West Africa is a context that is not free from attacks related to terrorism. As every attack, it is quite difficult to predict when it will or will not happen. Since there has not been any attacks or serious security concerns in Mauritania, the security risk associated with terrorist attacks remains low. In the unlikely event of an occurrence, the project will follow national security guidelines and ensure the safety of employees who will be on the project. It will not perform any activities that might create an opportunity for any attacks ? such as gathering stakeholders. It should be mentioned that Mauritania has adopted a multidimensional approach combining preventive and repressive measures ? and no terrorist attacks have been recorded on Mauritanian soil since 20 December 2011.[3] <sup>3</sup>
Involuntary displacement due to PA establishment and land use planning	Low	The establishment of a PA may lead to curtailing of access to important resources that underpin livelihoods. Land use planning may have similar results. The planned area for the PA establishment does not have permanent settlements. In consultations with stakeholders, particularly the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development as well as the Local Authorities in Oudane, the government has advised that this be a Category VI PA to allow continued access by communities, especially the nomadic communities for whom the area is a passing corridor. The PA Management Plan will spell out sustainable management practices that will be allowed within the PA. In terms of land use planning, this will be done with due consultation with communities.
Corruption and nepotism	Medium to high	Acknowledging that these social problems are deeply rooted, the Implementing Agency will closely support this project, particularly during recruitment but also procurement. It should be mentioned here that the UNEP Task Manager is based in Nouakchott, and this will present an opportunity to have regular meetings and benefit from the TM's technical support to keep chances of corruption and nepotism to the minimum. The project has been updated, and corruption and nepotism have been included as project risks

[1] UNICEF. Mauritania COVID-19 Situation Report: 01: January to June 2022

[2] COVID 19 in Mauritania. Report

[3] Information according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) published on 6 Dec 2019 [here](#)



At PPG after additional consultations with local communities in their own communities, it was clear that women in Mauritania face numerous challenges in accessing natural resources, including land, water, and forests. These challenges are rooted in cultural norms and gender roles, which often restrict women's mobility and autonomy. Customary laws and practices limit women's access to land, which makes it difficult for them to engage in agriculture and other natural resource-based livelihood activities. Women are also excluded from decision-making processes related to land allocation and management. In sum, traditional gender roles often limit women's mobility and make it difficult for them to access forests, which are important sources of fuel, fodder, and medicinal plants. Recognizing that these are entrenched traditional practices that characterise a people's world view, behaviour change within the life of this project is not likely to yield the desired result. The risk has therefore, been escalated to 'high' at PPG. The 'low hanging fruit' that IMPADRA sees is awareness-raising campaigns so that, equipped with the right information and knowledge, people will slowly start making environmentally-friendly choices and behaviour change is likely to naturally follow. Therefore, awareness-raising will be primed in this project, promoted with the assumption that information and knowledge will inspire positive, pro-environment behaviour change.

It is important to recap here and clarify that no forced evictions or any form of physical and economic displacements are foreseen in this project. First and foremost, there are no permanent settlements within the core area of the planned PA. Its creation may alter the access regime of nomadic communities to the area but only in one particular way: the access and use of natural resources will be regulated to allow only sustainable practices. Additionally, the land use plans in the 100,000 ha adjacent area may lead to the definition of land use and access to ensure the achievement of the project objective. However, it should be noted that the exercise will involve zoning but will be in close consultation with communities and authorities at different administrative tiers to ensure socio-economic wellbeing of communities as well as sustainable environmental outcomes. The approach will be participatory to ensure community participation and contribution to land use planning. The PA will be an IUCN category VI (protected areas with sustainable use of natural resources) therefore, communities will be allowed access, and the PA Management Plan will spell out sustainable practices that will be allowed to be practised within the PA.

The project activities have thoroughly been screened using a Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF), a UNEP tool for screening project activities against environmental and social impacts. The overall Environmental and Social Safeguard risk level is **Low**. The social and environmental risk screening for this project is detailed in SRIF. SRIF is comprehensively reflective of the nine minimum standard requirements GEF's nine Minimum Standards for Agency policies, procedures, systems and capabilities related to identifying and addressing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts in projects and programs. Given that the Environmental and Social Safeguard risk is Low, it means that the negative impacts are minimal or negligible, therefore, no further study or impact management required.

### **The COVID-19 Situation in Mauritania**

In the first week of December 2020, the cases of COVID-19 in Mauritania stood at 12,418, with 8,909 recovered and 281 deaths. The Government has lifted all restrictions and recently closed the containment centre for asymptomatic COVID-19 patients in place at the University of Nouakchott. These decisions continue to be interpreted by a large part of the population as the end of the pandemic in Mauritania, leading to a lack of respect for barrier measures and a very low level of alerts. However, the month of December has recorded a spike in the number of active cases in the country despite low number of cases between September and end of October. This suggests the unpredictable evolution of the COVID-19 in Mauritania ? just like in other countries. In terms of project design and implementation, the strategies and mechanisms (particularly as related to availability of technical expertise and capacity and changes in timelines, stakeholder engagement process, enabling environment, population migration and livelihood declines as noted below) will therefore, remain flexible to the evolution of the COVID-19 situation in the country.

The World Bank alerted about the macro-economic and social impact of COVID-19 in Mauritania, as well as the impact on food security. Based on their scenario in the report, the poverty rate could increase from 5.5% in 2019 to 6% (or 6.3%) in 2020, pushing 25,000 (or 42,000) additional people to fall into extreme poverty in Mauritania. This impact would be felt more by women and girls through, for example, a withdrawal from the education system to take care of their family members at home and the increase in gender-based violence. The Government is developing a multi-sectoral plan for cohabitation with COVID-19 and economic recovery, which is about to be finalized.

As has been mentioned in the table of risks above, it is reiterated here that the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic is difficult to predict with 100% certainty. Indeed, not even the occurrence of any other pandemics or outbreaks can be predicted with 100% certainty. Therefore, the social and economic challenges noted above remain valid at the time of the full development of the project proposal even though the rate of infection has gone very low.



*Graph showing more updated COVID-19 in Mauritania*

The graph[4] on the left on November 24, 2022 shows zero cases of new infections. The graph of new cases is also relatively flat (almost zero) from about August 10 through to November 24, 2022.

In the possible event that cases begin to rise, that will pose important threats to certain critical aspects of the project. For example, it will negatively impact the operationalization of the aspects of ecotourism and tourism enterprises, particularly as they are related to component 2.

The war in Ukraine poses a risk to poverty reduction

As Russia and Ukraine are major wheat exporters, this will aggravate the already precarious food security situation in many developing countries by disrupting wheat production and export and by accelerating price hikes in import-dependent developing countries. A 50% reduction in wheat exports by Russia and Ukraine could increase the producers' price of wheat by 15%, which would induce a reduction in wheat consumption and dietary energy intake by at least 8%.[5] Besides food security insecurity concerns, the Russia-Ukraine conflict has bearing on fuel prices on the continent and security and conflict specifically in the Sahel.[6] Mauritania shares in these food insecurity concerns as most other developing countries due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

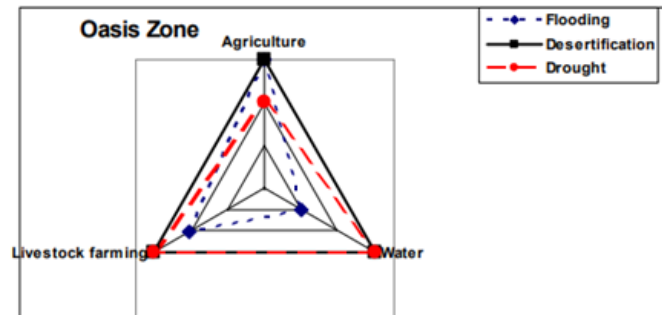
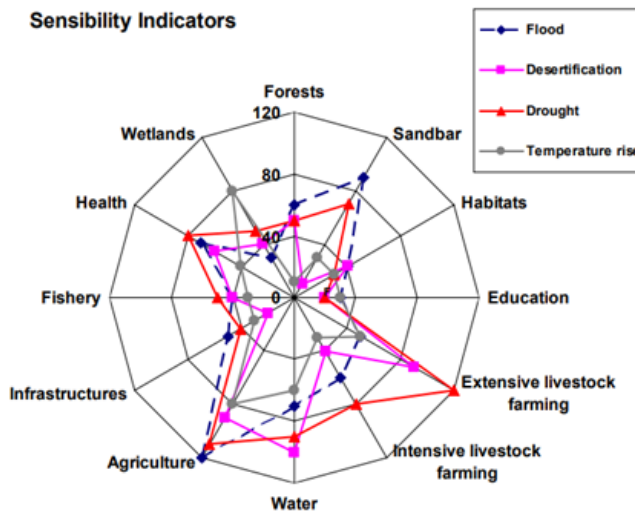
The poverty rate (using the low-middle income poverty line of \$3.2/day in 2017 PPP) has been estimated at 25.9% in 2020 and projected to slightly decline to 25.4% by 2024. The stabilization of inflation and the maturity of the social protection reforms in response to COVID-19 are expected to reduce poverty. However, the Russian-Ukrainian war suggests caution on this perspective. The significant rise in world food prices since the start of the conflict (at least a third of food products are imported) could considerably affect the consumption of Mauritanian households. Food security is a challenge for a sizeable share of Mauritania's population in both rural and urban areas, especially when facing droughts. Furthermore, the recent increase in fuel prices decided by the authorities in July 2022 has led to a negative impact on households' access to basic services and this is not expected to improve over the short-term period. To mitigate this impact and to ensure access to food to the most vulnerable segment of the population, the Government opened a network of stores offering the minimum basic needs throughout the country with fixed prices. The Southern regions, which are expected to benefit from the proposed project, are the most nutrition and food insecure areas in the country.

### **Mauritania's vulnerability to climate change**

Mauritania is at risk to hydro-meteorological hazards and natural disasters. Climate change is expected to increase risks and severity of natural disasters in Mauritania, through more intense temperatures, prolonged heat waves and heightened rainfall variability. While Mauritania is prone to drought and flooding in some areas, human displacement and increased urbanization may become an additional future challenge. Furthermore, damage to crops and increased water stress is likely to result in significant economic losses, damage to agricultural lands as well as human health. Vulnerability is exacerbated due to the country's high level of poverty and high dependence on 'climate change sensitive' sectors, such as agriculture, fisheries, mining and livestock.[7]

The main factors closely linked with climate change are: significant degradation of arable land; degradation of pasture and loss of livestock; degradation, even disappearance, of forests; high risk of collapse of coastal dune bar; and decrease of water resources in Mauritania are. The effects of climate change on the development of the country's economy can be measured through the evolution of the most vulnerable sectors and sub-sectors, i.e: agriculture, livestock farming, forestry, but also the pressure on the water resources both for human needs as well as for others (cattle, irrigation, etc.). These sectors and sub-sectors correspond mainly to the rural areas. Though the rural areas are home to 45% of the country's total population and 56% of the active population, they are home to more than 75% of the poor and they generate only 26% of GDP. In fact, agriculture and livestock farming, both being dependent on climatic conditions, have experienced a strong decline in the recent decades.[8]

The country's northern region is characteristically a desert with annual rainfall of <50mm, as compared to the southern region with the Senegalese river valley. The northern region which includes the proposed project's catchment area, therefore is extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In the same region, and specifically in Adrar, farming of dates in the oases areas, is an important socioeconomic occupation. For example, it is estimated that Adrar as a region contributes 60% to Mauritania's dates basket. The worsening climatic conditions will therefore continue to negatively impact food crop production as well as pastoral activities in Adrar. The figures below summarize the gravity of the impacts of climate change (or climate variability) on important socioeconomic sectors in Mauritania. Complementary information is found in the section below, 'projected climate change in Mauritania'. On the left, the figure presents by sector sensitivity at national-level, and on the right, the figure presents the northern territory impacts of climate change ? it is reiterated the proposed project's catchment area is part of the northern territory.



## Climate change and biodiversity in Mauritania

Climate change has obvious implications on biodiversity and biodiversity-based ecosystem services. This is because climate change has impacts on ecosystem functions, including species composition and loss over time. As loss of biodiversity due to climate change continues to alter the structures and functions of ecological systems, so do the provision of biodiversity-based ecosystem services and the well-being of people that rely on these services.[9] In this regard, climate change in Mauritania is having negative impacts on terrestrial and marine ecosystems. In terms of terrestrial ecosystems, the land in Mauritania is entirely located in the arid zone (Sahara and Sahel) and its biological processes are affected by the water deficit, developing adaptation mechanisms that are being increasingly disturbed by climate change impacts in the country (weather variability).[10] The absence of measures taken to counter the impacts of climate change on biodiversity loss might lead to irreversible shifts in the structure of ecosystems and their services. The risk of local extinction of some of the surviving species.

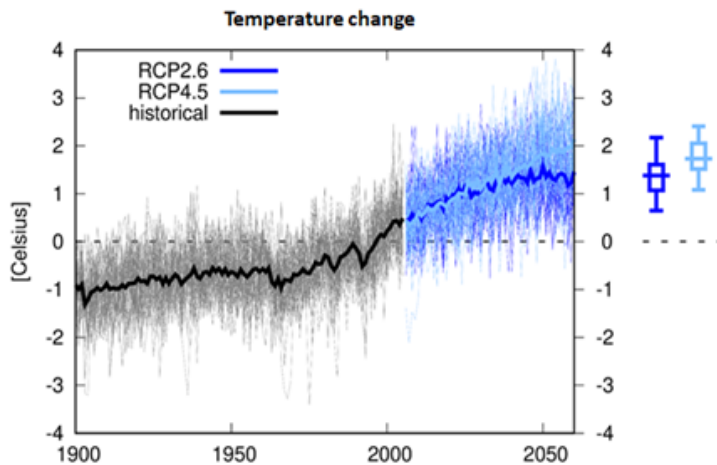


Figure 4: Temperature change (January to December) with regards to 1986-2005 full CMIP5 ensemble. On the left, for each scenario one line per model is shown plus the multi-model mean, on the right percentiles of the whole dataset: the box extends from 25% to 75%, the whiskers from 5% to 95% and the horizontal line denotes the median (50%).

Related to the implications of climate change on biodiversity are dune mobility and encroachment, decrease in water availability, overall reduction in vegetation, and soil degradation and erosion. These impacts have resulted in increased water and food insecurity, increased poverty and reduced income security, as well as heightened social conflicts over the use of natural resources, resulting in turn in increased human pressure on already degraded natural resources, in a vicious circle. Climate change projections suggest that these impacts may worsen in the near future.

#### *Climate Change Projections in the project location in Mauritania (temperature and rainfall)*

Climate change for the project location is assessed using data from the fifth phase of the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project (CMIP5). CMIP5 includes "long term" simulations of twentieth-century climate and projections for the twenty-first century and beyond, and formed the basis for the Fifth Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (see Taylor et al. 2012).[11]

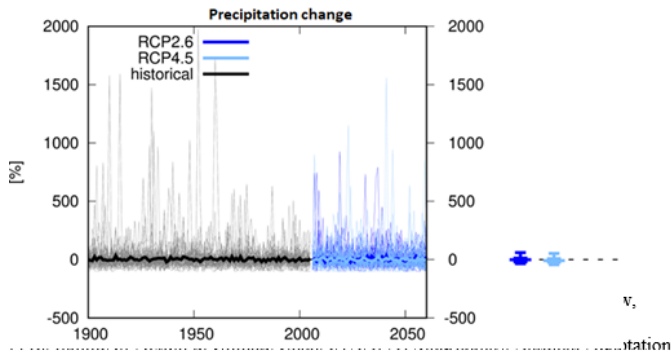


Figure 5: Relative precipitation change (January to December) with regards to 1986-2005 full CMIP5 ensemble. On the left, for each scenario one line per model is shown plus the multi-model mean, on the right percentiles of the whole dataset: the box extends from 25% to 75%, the whiskers from 5% to 95% and the horizontal line denotes the median (50%).

Two key variables for the region were examined: temperature and precipitation change with regards to 1986-2005 full CMIP5 ensemble. The point taken for the assessment is latitude 21.180960, and longitude -11.254555 and for two Representative Concentration Pathways (RCPs). RCPs are greenhouse gas concentration (not emissions) trajectories adopted by the IPCC for climate modeling and research for the IPCC fifth Assessment.

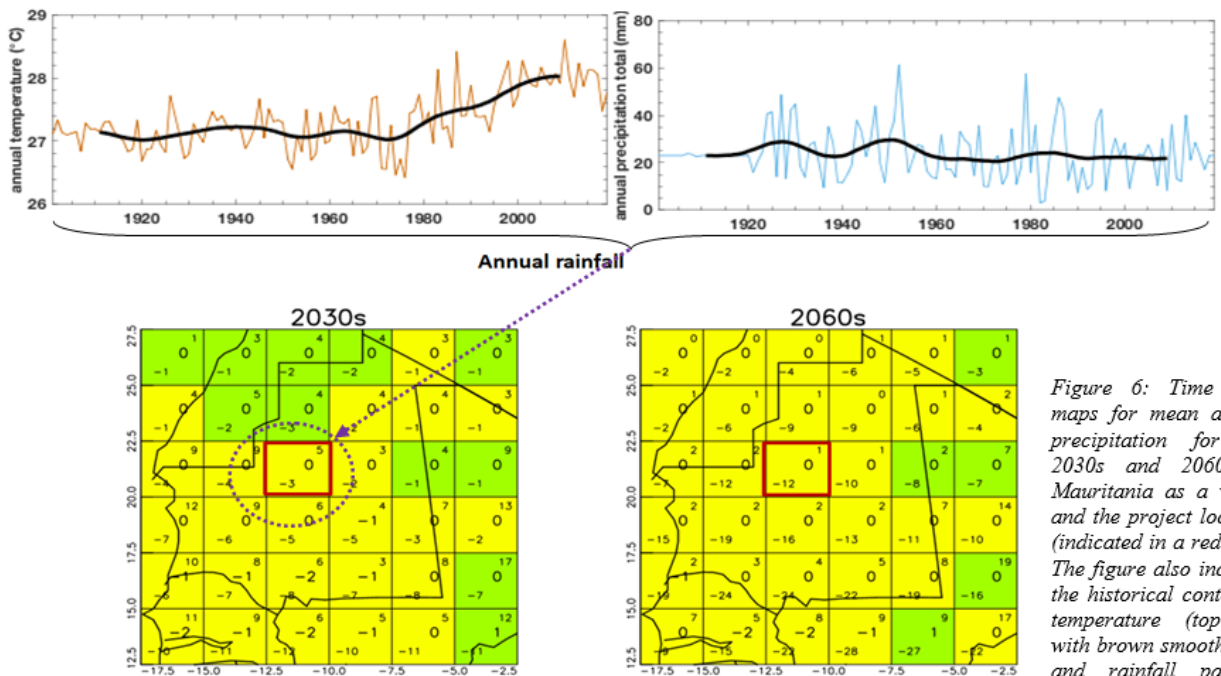


Figure 6: Time slice maps for mean annual precipitation for the 2030s and 2060 for Mauritania as a whole and the project location (indicated in a red box). The figure also includes the historical context of temperature (top left with brown smooth line) and rainfall patterns (top right with blue smooth lines)

The figure 7 shows an increase in temperature of about 1.5 degrees Celsius from the long-term multimodal mean for the project location by 2050 under RCP 2.6, and of about 2 degree Celsius under RCP 4.5. In general, projections of mean annual rainfall averaged over the country from different models in the ensemble project a wide range of changes in precipitation for Mauritania, but tend towards decreases. Projected change range from -65 to +28% by the 2090s, with ensemble means between -7 and +25% (McSweeney et al. 2010).[12] Figure 4 shows relative change for precipitation in the same location. The percentage change in precipitation is small, but with very high variability.

A closer look at the expected changes in precipitation on the project location can be done using the analysis of McSweeney et al. (2010). The value in the centre of each grid box (denoted in red for where the project location is found) gives the median value for the ensemble of 15 models, and the values in the top right and bottom left in a smaller font give the maximum and minimum values of the ensemble. The median values remain consistently near negligible (represented by the zero values).

Historically, the temperature has been increasing while rainfall has been decreasing, as shown in Figure 6 above.[13] Additional data from Climate Analytics shows that between 2000 and 2020, the average temperature in the Wilaya of Adra has been hovering around 29°C (Figure 7.A). This is projected to increase by about 1.08 to 1.12°C[14] (Figure 7.B). In terms of precipitation, the Wilaya of Adra shows that the amount of rainfall during the period 2000-2020 has been between 0 and 60 mm annually (Figure 7.E). Projections are that in the Wilaya, the rainfall pattern will decline by about -15mm annually (Figure 7.F) (quite comparable to the Figures (-12 to 0 mm by 2060) above in Figure). Regional climate model projections for temperature displayed as 20 year running mean. The line represents the ensemble mean while the shaded area represents the model spread. The projections are based on the emission scenario RCP4.5 (Figure 7.C). As the temperature increases, the precipitation reduces ((Figure 7.G))

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[1] UNICEF (2020). MAURITANIA: COVID-19 Situation Report #12. Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs.

[2] World Bank (2020). Preliminary analysis of the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 in Mauritania

[3] UNICEF (2020). MAURITANIA: COVID-19 Situation Report #12. Situation Overview and Humanitarian Needs.

[4] This graph [here](#) is based on COVID-19 Data Repository by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) at Johns Hopkins University found [here](#)

[5] Mottaleb et al. (2022). Potential impacts of Ukraine-Russia armed conflict on global wheat food security: A quantitative exploration. *Journal of Global Food Security*



[6] According to a *commentary* (2022) by Dizolele, P.M of the Center for Strategic and International Studies, Russia and Ukraine are major suppliers of food commodities such as wheat, soybeans, and barley to African countries. In 2020, the combined value of this trade was estimated at \$6.9 billion. Additionally, the focus of countries such as France and the USA of their resources on the war in Ukraine, may reduce their contributions to the robust coalition of Western powers and donor countries to support international stabilization efforts in the Sahel, including the Sahel Alliance - this would further destabilize the Sahel.

[7] World Bank Group. (2021). Climate Change Portal: Mauritania.  
<https://climateknowledgeportal.worldbank.org/country/mauritania/vulnerability>

[8] Islamic Republic of Mauritania (2004). National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change (NAPA) [Mauritania's National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change \(NAPA\) \(unfccc.int\)](https://unfccc.int)

[9] Dejene W. Sintayehu (2018) Impact of climate change on biodiversity and associated key ecosystem services in Africa: a systematic review, *Ecosystem Health and Sustainability*, 4:9, 225-239, DOI: 10.1080/20964129.2018.1530054

[10] Islamic Republic of Mauritania (2004). National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change (NAPA) [Mauritania's National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change \(NAPA\) \(unfccc.int\)](https://unfccc.int)

[11] Taylor E. Karl, Ronald J. Stouffer, and Gerald A. Meehl (2012). An Overview of CMIP5 and the Experiment Design. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, 93:4. pp. 485-498.  
<https://doi.org/10.1175/BAMS-D-11-00094.1>

[12] McSweeney, C., New, M., Lizcano, G. & Lu, X. 2010. The UNDP Climate Change Country Profiles Improving the Accessibility of Observed and Projected Climate Information for Studies of Climate Change in Developing Countries. *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, 91, 157-166.

[13] Harris, I., Osborn, T.J., Jones, P. & Lister, D.H. Version 4 of the CRU TS monthly high-resolution gridded multivariate climate dataset. *Sci Data* 7, 109 (2020). <https://rdcu.be/b3nUI>

[14] Climate Analytics: [Mauritania](#)

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[1] UNICEF. Mauritania COVID-19 Situation [Report](#): 01: January to June 2022

[2] COVID 19 in Mauritania. [Report](#)

[3] Information according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) published on 6 Dec 2019 [here](#)

## 6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

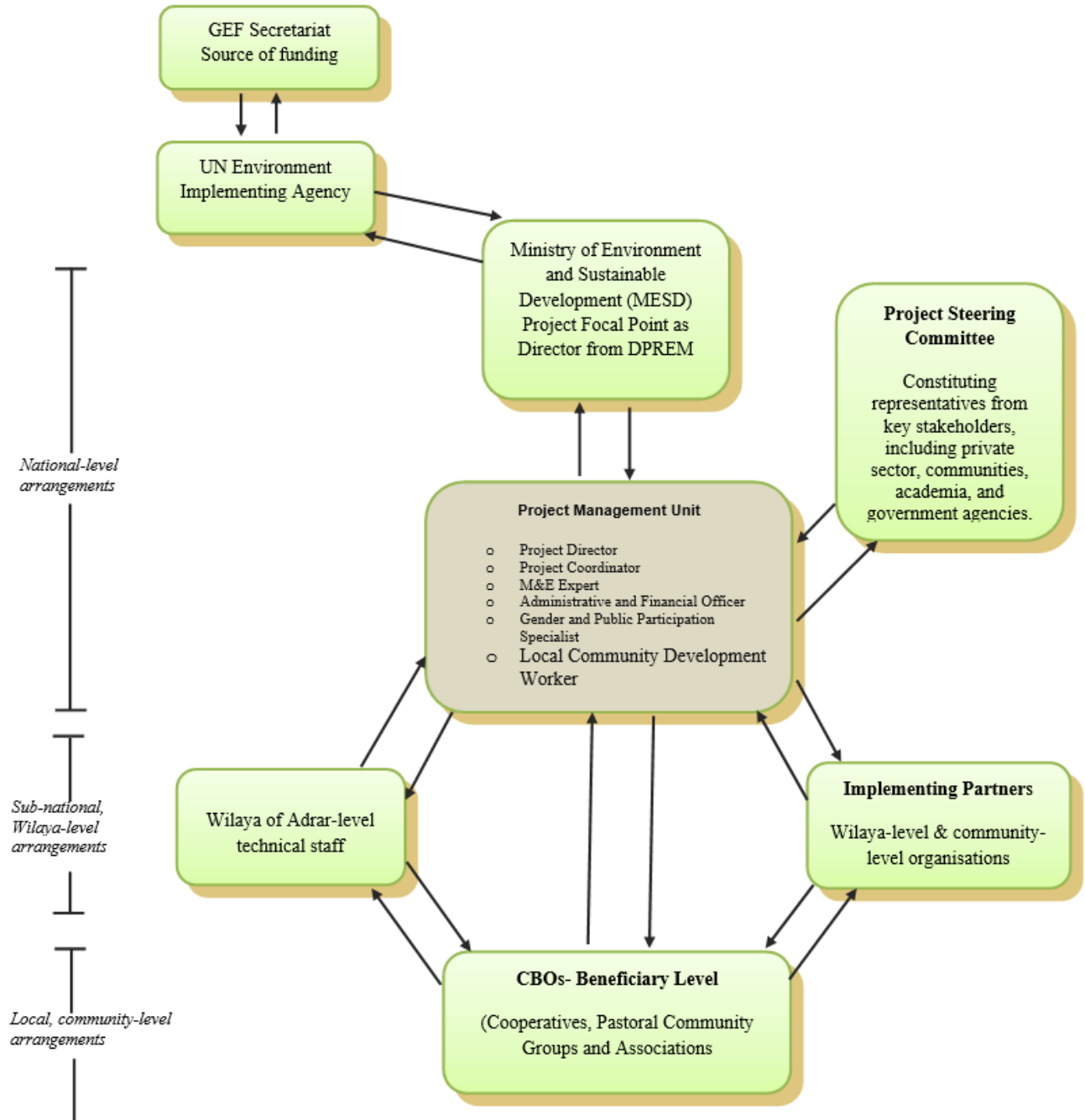
**Describe the institutional arrangement for project implementation. Elaborate on the planned coordination with other relevant GEF-financed projects and other initiatives.**

The project will be implemented by UNEP, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development as follows.

UNEP ? through its GEF Task Manager (TM) and Funds Management Officer (FMO) - will monitor the implementation of the project, review progress in the realization of the project outputs, and ensure the proper use of GEF funds. The UNEP TM will be directly responsible for: (i) providing consistent and regular project oversight to ensure the achievement of project objectives; (ii) liaising between the project and the GEF Secretariat; (iii) ensuring that both GEF and UN Environment policy requirements and standards are applied and met (i.e. reporting obligations, technical, fiduciary, M&E); (iv) approving budget revisions, certifying fund availability and transferring funds; (v) organizing mid- and end-term evaluations and reviewing project audits; (vi) providing technical, legal and administrative guidance if requested; and (vii) certifying project operational completion. Based from the PPG experience which has demonstrated a very slow administrative process and sometime internal blockage, UNEP will be responsible of recruiting an International Volunteers to act as Project Principal Technical Adviser also in charge of M&E. This approach of bringing an international staff will allow a speedy project implementation and will reduce national influence on the project implementation. The PTA will be also assigning the role of co-signatory of check to allow efficient controle of project resources use.

The Project Steering Committee will be chaired by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MESD) and DPREM as its executing entity. It will also comprise the National Bureau of Tourism and other key stakeholders such as local government, civil society, development partners and research institutes as part of the institutional arrangements of the project implementation. The PSC will provide oversight for project execution, ensuring that the project is implemented in accordance with the agreed objectives, activities and budget, to achieve envisaged project outcomes. **Within the PSC will be members with expertise in gender equality and social inclusion to provide oversight on gender aspects of the project to support and complement the roles of the Gender Specialist. That means, the composition of members of the PSC will deliberately be done to ensure members with expertise in gender equality and social inclusion.** A Project Management Unit (PMU) will be established. It will be based in Nouakchott at the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development with sub-national technical antennae at Wilaya level. This will include a Project Coordinator, an Project Principal Technical Adviser and M&E, **a Gender Specialist, a Local Community Development Worker** and a Project Financial Assistant (see Annex I Terms of Reference of key personnel).

Among other things, the PMU will be in charge of: i) project engineering support and technical assistance; ii) implementation of the recommendations of the Project Steering Committee, iii) monitoring - evaluation and, (iv) financial consolidation of the project's work plan. It will be established by a ministerial order.



1. The baseline scenario has revealed the level of interventions in Mauritania on priorities relevant to IMPADRA. The project will build and compliment recent and ongoing national and regional projects executed in Mauritania. The project will particularly learn and be informed by both country level and

regional projects with objectives related to sustainable land management, natural resource management and biodiversity conservation. This will include initiatives such as the 2012 reforestation program of 19,091 ha to fight siltation in Mauritania.[1] The interventions focus mainly on adaptation, livelihoods and food security, agriculture (both crop and livestock production) and coastal sustainable land management. Little attention has been paid to the window of opportunity for an integrated landscape approach that will address biodiversity and livelihoods in dry Wilaya in a holistic manner. In this regard, the socioeconomic and environmental challenges persist, including low rated environmental performance of Mauritania. The project will build on the experiences and lessons of the on-going initiatives so as not to duplicate efforts, but leverage and sustain their achievements. The interventions will support biodiversity restoration and conservation and sustainable agricultural practices. Projects aligned with this project that have the GEF grants include the following:

? *Development of an integrated system to promote the natural capital in the drylands of Mauritania:* This is a land degradation \$4.3 million GEF-7-IUCN project that has already been approved and will go into implementation in 2020. It is designed around three components: capacity building and governance; land and ecosystem restoration; financing scaling-up of SLM; and project-specific knowledge management and M&E. Some of its activities will be implemented in Adrar Wilaya, therefore, offering the best of coordination of the proposed project which is focused on biodiversity conservation.

? *Climate change adaptation and livelihoods in three arid regions of Mauritania:* This is climate change adaptation \$4.4 million GEF-7-UNEP project that has already been approved for 2021-2024 implementation period. It has been conceived around the following three components: institutional and technical capacity development for the planning and implementation of climate change adaptation in arid ecosystems; Sustainable access to and efficient use of water; Protection, productivity and diversification of local livelihoods; Knowledge for action on climate change and EbA in arid ecosystems; and Monitoring and Evaluation. This project's component 2 is on the Protection, productivity and diversification of livelihoods through EbA in Adrar, Inchiri and Trarza. This proposed project will therefore, coordinate with this proposed project regarding strengthening livelihoods for biodiversity conservation.

? *Strengthening transboundary cooperation for improved ecosystem management and restoration in the Senegal delta (Mauritania and Senegal):* This is a GEF-6 three-year (2018 ? 2021) \$3 million GEF-IUCN project to support improved governance, socio-economic development and ecosystem management in the Senegal Delta Trans-boundary Biosphere Reserve. Its components focus on integrated ecosystem-based management and restoration in the lower Senegal delta, the governance of the Senegal Delta Transboundary Biosphere Reserve, and Scientific cooperation, knowledge acquisition and sharing, and ecosystem monitoring and evaluation.

? *Integrated ecosystem management program for the sustainable human development in Mauritania:* This is a GEF-6 five-year (2017 ? 2022) \$8.2 million GEF-FAO project to increase human sustainable development through the restoration of ecosystem services and an integrated ecosystem management approach in the Wilayas of southern Mauritania. Its components focus on the integrated and participatory planning for the sustainable development of ecosystems; conservation, restoration and sustainable management of the landscape/system; and reduction of pressure on the ecosystems through income generation and funding mechanisms.

? *PSG-Sustainable Landscape Management Project under SAWAP:* This is a three-year (2016 ? 2021) \$4.8 million GEF-5 GEF-World Bank project to expand and strengthen sustainable landscape management in targeted productive ecosystems in Mauritania. Its components focus on sustainable landscape management knowledge, governance and partnerships; sustainable landscape management practice, including integrating sustainable landscape management practices in local development planning.

Other Initiatives

2. In relation to other Initiatives, this project will contribute to the achievements of the commitments that Mauritania aspires to achieve under the Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI) and African Initiative for Desertification Control. At the more regional and local levels, the project provides an opportunity for the country to implement aspects of the GGWI bringing together different stakeholders to implement a mosaic of activities that with positive ripple effects on biodiversity, climate change and restoration of degraded land. It should be noted that the Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW) is headquartered in Mauritania's capital, Nouakchott.

3. The implementation of IMPADRA in Mauritania is consistent with and will support the following three priority areas of the Pan African Agency Priority Investment Plan for 2021-2030:

- ? Sustainable Land Management and Planning, Water Resources and Biodiversity
- ? Resilient Economic Development and Security
- ? Scientific and Technical Capacity Building

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[1] The National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity (2011-2020)

## **7. Consistency with National Priorities**

Describe the consistency of the project with national strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions from below:

NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, INDCs, etc.

Mauritania is an LDC, and has also signed and ratified all Rio conventions, namely the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its protocol, called the Kyoto Protocol, the Biodiversity Convention and the Convention to Combat Desertification. The country is a signatory to the Nagoya Protocol on ABS. In its effort to respond to the challenges of environmental degradation, the country has sought to draw on different multilateral environmental agreements to ensure consistence in the implementation of activities.

Faced with the situation of environmental degradation, the Government has taken various political measures and to strengthen the sustainable management of its natural resources. The development of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (SNDD) and its action plan for the environment (PANE), the promulgation of the Environment Code and the ratification of the various Conventions conferences on

climate change, biodiversity and the fight against desertification, among others, aim to rationalize the management of potential and guarantee sustainability natural capital and ecosystems. The integration of environmental well-being and sustainable development into national development priorities are supported and guided by Mauritania's National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS, 2006) and the National Environment Action Plan (NEAP, 2007-2016). In these national documents, effective environmental policy, economic growth, good governance and poverty reduction are reflected as important national development priorities. Strengthening the institutional capacity in the 2 target regions for effective management of fragile natural resources, promoting the sustainable management of resources, awareness raising and the promotion of integrated and participatory management for sustainable use of natural resources are some of the key areas in which the proposed project will be aligned with the two national document priorities.

Alignment with Mauritania's UNDAF (Partnership framework for sustainable development 2018 - 2022): The proposed project is aligned with the Strategic Priority 1 that focuses on inclusive growth. Mauritania's UNDAF notes that environmental hazards and climate change pose a real threat to the Mauritania's growth and sustainable development, which is threatened particularly by drought and floods, heat waves, locust danger and marine incursion (erosion of the dunes). Agriculture, livestock and artisanal fishing, the main sources of livelihood and income for rural people, are all climate-sensitive activities. The loss due to the misuse of natural resources in Mauritania is very high. The evaluation of the global cost of the degradation of natural resources or their misuse reveals a loss of more than 14% of the national wealth (Gross Domestic Product) corresponding to a direct loss of \$192.2 million dollars and a loss indirect linked to the health effects of \$ 23.4 million, which could have been used directly to fight poverty in the absence of environmental losses.

Additionally, the proposed project is also aligned with the following:

? *National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA)*: The Mauritania acknowledges the close link between the climate change and conservation agenda that the country needs to pursue to for sustainable development. The weather events associated with the rise in sea level brings with it increased flooding in the rainy season, coastal erosion, the infiltration of sea water in the water-tables, the disappearance of low-lying wet lands and all the related biodiversity, major effects on the human habitat and on all the coastal socio-economic infrastructures. The NAPA is linked to all the 17 themes that are present in the National Biodiversity Strategy.

? *Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity*: The strategy was developed on three strategic levers: promoting robust, sustainable and inclusive growth; developing human capital and access to basic social services; and strengthening governance in all of its dimensions. Overall, the strategy seeks a robust, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, aimed at satisfying all citizens' basic needs and enhancing their well-being. The strategy acknowledges that challenges remain with respect to environmental governance, particularly as regards reduction of the risk of disasters and of hazards related to climate change and to the development of off-shore oil and gas projects. IMPADRA is intimately aligned with the strategic area eight under lever three that is focused on better environmental governance, more rational management of natural resources and disaster risk reduction.

? *The Mauritania we want in 2030*: The document promotes the respect for and preservation of the environment and sustainable management of natural resources, as well as managing the impacts of climate change. The proposed project is aligned with the 'Mauritania we Want in 2030' as it contributes to its promotion of environmental preservation and sustainable management of natural resources.

? *The National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity (2011-2020)*: This is an important national document that reflects current government priorities on the biodiversity conservation front. The document articulates Mauritania's current national environmental management priorities defined around sectoral reforms; sustainable environmental management through improved governance mechanisms; preservation and valorisation of natural resources; promotion of natural capital accounting; promotion of renewable energy; sustainable management of urban environments; and environmental education and sensitization. The proposed project is aligned with these some of these national priorities, particularly sectoral reforms; sustainable environmental management through improved governance mechanisms; and environmental education and sensitization.

? *The National Action Plan for the Environment (NAPE) 2012-2016*: The Plan aims to provide Mauritania with a coherent framework of actions for good environmental governance in general, and for the fight against degradation of natural resources, in particular. Through components 1 and 2, the proposed project contributes to NAPE's objectives;

? *Environmental Code (2000)*: The Code indicates that forests, protected areas, flora and fauna need to be managed rationally and balanced, taking into account, in particular, the need to avoid overexploitation or extinction, to preserve the genetic heritage and to ensure the maintenance of ecological balances in accordance with the texts in force (Article 25). Additionally, the Code instructs that endangered animal or plant species, as well as their natural habitats need enhanced protection (Article 28). Thus, the proposed project is closely aligned with the Environment Code of Mauritania.

? *National Gender Strategy (2006)*: The national strategy is conceived around an integrating vision that seeks the development of equal rights and dignity for all citizens to promote the equitable sharing of resources and responsibilities between women and men. The proposed project will advance the vision of the gender strategy by ensuring an equal representation of women and men in the decision making processes in capacity development, definition and prioritisation of livelihoods activities, and all other activities for the project.

? *Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper 2011-2015 (PRSP)*. This PRSP is centred on five pillars: i) accelerating economic growth; ii) anchoring growth in the economic environment of the poor by developing the growth potential and productivity of the poor; iii) developing human resources and facilitating access to basic infrastructure; iv) promoting real institutional development supported by good governance; and v) efficient and effective implementation of the PRSP.[4] The proposed project through components 1 and 2 will contribute to particularly pillars ii (livelihoods of local communities in Adrar Wilaya), iii (capacity development) and iv (through co-management plans).

The proposed project is conceived to meet regional development priorities, regulations and policy directions applicable to the project catchment area. Thus, the design of IMPADRA is aligned with the Regional Program to Combat Poverty in the Wilaya of Adrar[5] and the Ministry of Housing, Urban and National Planning of Mauritania (2017). Overall, the proposed project will contribute to SDGs 1, 2, and 15 and towards Aichi Targets 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 11 and 14.

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[1] Islamic Republic of Mauritania (2004): National Adaptation Programme of Action to Climate Change (NAPA-RIM)

[2] Islamic Republic of Mauritania (2000). LOI N° 2000-045/Portant Code de L'Environnement.  
<https://www.wipo.int/edocs/lexdocs/laws/fr/mr/mr0111fr.pdf>

[3] Islamic Republic of Mauritania (2006). National Gender Strategy.  
[https://www.masef.gov.mr/IMG/pdf/strategie\\_nationale\\_d\\_institutionnalisation\\_du\\_genre.pdf](https://www.masef.gov.mr/IMG/pdf/strategie_nationale_d_institutionnalisation_du_genre.pdf)

[4] Islamic Republic of Mauritania (2011). Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper.  
<https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/scr/2011/cr11252.pdf>

[5] UNDP-Mauritania. (2015). Regional Program to Combat Poverty in the Wilaya of Adrar

## **8. Knowledge Management**

**Elaborate the "Knowledge Management Approach" for the project, including a budget, key deliverables and a timeline, and explain how it will contribute to the project's overall impact.**

1. IMPADRA recognises that effective approaches to knowledge management can help project stakeholders in identifying good practices and solutions for the environmental issues and in their replication and scaling up, thus increasing the project's impact within its catchment area and beyond. It is also noted that lack of effective approaches to knowledge management can lead to duplication of effort, missed opportunities in addressing pressing environmental problems, and failure to learn from the experiences from other projects and programs ? missing the opportunity for synergies and complementarities.
2. Thus, knowledge management is critical to the project's innovative approach to improving the use and management of natural resources among competing land uses in the two target regions. The knowledge management strategy includes learning from relevant projects and initiatives in the country and beyond. The strategy will also include the documentation of lessons learned and best practices from the implementation of the proposed project and will include a dissemination plan on experiences and the definition of key elements of success that can be replicated and scaled up. Best practices and lessons learned will be communicated through different channels. Some of these platforms, such as the UNCBD COP side events, can be leveraged for cross-country exchange, to drive replication of successful approaches, and as a means of accessing complementary technical and financial support. Other means of knowledge management and dissemination will include flyers, and media programmes (e.g TV and Radio programs).
3. The project will include a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation component, which will be informed by the results of the context assessment and project theory of change. The project's Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) plan will, first and foremost, provide reliable evidence to track progress, facilitate management decisions, and inform adaptive management decisions during the life of the project. Lessons learned from the project will also be shared within community members (crop producers and pastoralists),



development partners, biodiversity and land managers, political decision-makers and civil society organizations through organization of exchange visits, and participation to national, regional and international conferences on sustainable forest and land management. Additionally, knowledge resources developed by the project will be shared with CSOs to facilitate reaching out to a broader base of people, particularly local communities who are the direct custodians of land and forest.

4. Overall, in terms of improving its knowledge management, IMPADRA will be deliberate about capturing knowledge management data, lessons, and good practices and to present them in a usable and accessible format for all relevant stakeholders (primarily those mentioned in the paragraph above) and secondarily those stakeholders who will seek to develop other interventions in other areas who will need to be informed by IMPADRA ? thereby serving as a platform for synergies, complementarities, scaling up and knowledge exchange. At the level of knowledge exchange, IMPADRA will tailor its activities drawing on the GEF guidelines - Art of Knowledge Exchange.[1]

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[1] The [GEF Art of Knowledge Exchange](#) identifies five important steps to guide knowledge exchange. These steps are: i) anchor; ii) define; iii) design and develop; iv) implement; and v) measure and report the results

## **9. Monitoring and Evaluation**

### **Describe the budgeted M and E plan**

Monitoring and evaluation will be part of the project management to assess its relevance, efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the interventions. The M&E plan is part of component 3, and will therefore be funded with resources allocated to component 3 of the project. IMPADRA's evaluation will support efforts to provide evidence-based information that is credible, reliable, and useful, enabling the timely incorporation of findings, recommendations, and lessons into decision-making processes to ensure IMPADRA achieves its 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. Evaluation therefore, plays an important role in the generation of knowledge about good practices (including bad practices or what is not working well) and organizational learning. In this regard, evaluation serves as a driver of change and plays a critical role in supporting accountability, but also to improve the design and performance of IMPADRA.

In its conducting of monitoring and evaluation, IMPADRA will follow standard processes and procedures for monitoring, reporting and evaluation. The conditions and reporting templates are integral part of the related legal instruments that must be signed. The project monitoring and evaluation plan is in line with GEF monitoring and evaluation policy. The project outcome framework includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome as well as end-of-project objectives. These indicators in Results Framework

constitute the main basis for the assessment of the progress accomplished in project implementation and determination of whether the project results are achieved or not. The monitoring-evaluation costs are also presented in the costed monitoring - evaluation plan and are fully integrated into the overall project budget. The monitoring - evaluation plan will be reviewed and revised as necessary during the project's launching workshop to ensure that the stakeholders understand their roles and responsibilities in the processes of monitoring and evaluation.

The proposed indicators and their means of verification will be reviewed and validated at the launching workshop. The project management team will manage the day-to-day monitoring of the project, but other project partners will be assigned to collect specific information allowing indicators monitoring, including engaging consultants where deemed necessary. The Project Coordinator will inform UNEP as the Implementing Agency of any delays or difficulties encountered during implementation so that appropriate support or corrective measures can be taken in a timely manner. The Project Steering Committee will periodically submit reports on progress achieved and make recommendations to Implementing Agencies on the need to revise any aspects of the outcomes in the framework or the monitoring - evaluation plan. Project supervisions to ensure the project's compliance with UNEP and GEF policies and procedures are assigned to the Task Manager of the Implementing Agency. The Task Manager will also review the quality of preliminary project results, provide feedback to project partners and establish peer review procedures to ensure adequate quality of the outputs and scientific and technical publications.

Project supervision will adopt an adaptive management approach. The Task Manager will develop a project supervision plan at the beginning of the project, which will be communicated to the project partners during the launching workshop. The UNEP Task Manager will ensure the monitoring of outcomes as well as the financial management of the project and the implementation project activities. Progress made in achieving the overall environmental benefits of the project will be assessed with the Steering Committee at agreed intervals. Risks and assumptions of the project will be regularly monitored by the project partners and UNEP, as the Implementing Agency. Risk assessment and rating will be fully integrated in the project implementation review (PIR). The quality of project monitoring and evaluation will also be reviewed and rated in the framework of PIR. Key financial parameters will be monitored quarterly to ensure cost-effective use of financial resources. A mid-term review will be carried out at the end of the second year of the project, as indicated in the project stages. The review will include all the parameters recommended by GEF Evaluation Office for the final evaluations and verify the information collected through GEF monitoring tools, as appropriate.

The review will be conducted using a participatory approach. This will entail consulting the potential project beneficiaries or the parties affected by the project. These parties are identified during the review and mapping of stakeholders.

The project steering committee will be involved in the mid-term review and will prepare the management response to the recommendations of the evaluation as well as an implementation plan. Also, the Task Managers of Implementing Agencies will have the responsibility to monitor the implementation of agreed recommendations.

The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and will be followed by a recommendation compliance process. The evaluation recommendations will be entered into a Recommendations Implementation Plan template by the Evaluation Office. Formal submission of the completed Recommendations Implementation Plan by the Project Manager is required within one month of its delivery to the project team. The Evaluation Office will monitor compliance with this plan every six months for a total period of 12 months from the finalisation of the Recommendations Implementation Plan. The compliance performance against the recommendations is then reported to senior management on a six-monthly basis and to member States in the Biennial Evaluation Synthesis Report.

Type of Monitoring & Evaluation activity	Responsible	Budget US\$*	Frequency
M&E Associate activities, including annual progress technical reports, publications and dissemination	PMU and UNEP	15,000	Monthly and according to the periodicity of production
Steering Committee Meetings	MESD and other relevant Ministries, UNEP, PMU and other stakeholders	16,000	Every year, after reception of the annual progress report
M&E Expert	PMU and UNEP	40,700	Monthly
Mid-term evaluation of the project	PMU/ MESD / UNEP / Steering/ Committee/ External Evaluator	10,000	Midway of the project implementation
Conferences and other meetings for learning from national and international events/processes and Knowledge Management	PMU / UNEP / Steering Committee	15,000	As needed and according to opportunities
Terminal Evaluation	PMU/ MESD / UNEP / Steering/ Committee/ External Evaluator	29,000	Once at the end of the Project
Total Indicative Costs		125,700	

\*excluding staff time

It should be emphasized that consistent with the GEF Monitoring Policy as well as the Evaluation Policy requirements, during the process of IMPADRA monitoring, UNEP as the Implementing Agency, will duly engage with GEF Operational Focal Point in Mauritania.

### **Joint Supervision Missions (JSM)**

JSM will be undertaken every year. They will be conducted in collaboration with the beneficiary institutions, regions and municipalities, the NGOs and the private sector to monitor and support the regular implementation of the project. The supervision will provide an opportunity to not only evaluate the results and lessons learned based on a participatory and inclusive approach, but also to jointly carry out reviews allowing to improve the implementation and impacts of the program. Specifically, the supervision missions will aim at: (i) assessing the overall performance of the approaches adopted on strategic and operational basis; ii) measuring progress in terms of physical and financial achievements and contribution to the realization of the objectives of the project and their relevance to the country's public development policies; (iii) ensuring the effective implementation of technical and financial activities; (iv) identifying actions to further strengthen the achievements and address identified shortcomings (from a technical and fiduciary perspective); v) carrying out an overall institutional analysis (adaptation to the context, constraints, shortcomings and lessons to be learned for the future); (vi) formulating relevant and realistic recommendations and proposals for the continuation of the program and its technical, organizational and fiduciary development. In a nutshell, JMS will be an opportunity to evaluate the performance of the project in its totality on an annual basis, and based on the evaluation, provide remedial measures where that will be necessary.

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[1] GEF (2019). GEF Monitoring [Policy](#)

[2] GEF (2019). GEF Evaluation [Policy](#)

### **10. Benefits**

**Describe the socioeconomic benefits to be delivered by the project at the national and local levels, as appropriate. How do these benefits translate in supporting the achievement of global environment benefits (GEF Trust Fund) or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF)?**

1. The proposed project will support biodiversity conservation efforts to generate Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) by creating and improving the management effectiveness of a new PA in an arid Wilaya of Adar. The global benefits associated with the Biodiversity focal area are the creation of and improved management effectiveness of 200,000 ha for conservation and sustainable natural resource use and 100,000 ha under sustainable land management in production systems in landscapes adjacent to the new PA. The 35,000 ha of El Ghallouya KBA will be extended towards the south-west where the KBA has the same

contiguous landscape with the Guelb er Richatt Nature Reserve to create a 200,000ha terrestrial protected area. This will contribute to improving the conservation of the bird species in El Ghallouya KBA in Adrar Wilaya. The project will support conservation actions through changes in local community behavior and by improving and changing production practices in arid areas to be more biodiversity-positive with a focus on sectors that have significant biodiversity impacts such as agriculture and tourism, through technical capacity building and implementation of financial mechanisms. This approach will be scaled up to other areas in Mauritania, particularly the arid zones of the country. Socio-economic benefits from the project will include the improved livelihoods and reduced vulnerability of at least 1,775 community members. Furthermore, the project's communication strategy will aim to reach at least 135,316 people through radio environmental education/awareness programs on the value of biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management.

2. Embedded in the principles of an integrated natural resource management approach, the generation of the aforementioned GEBs will consider the environmental conditions of the arid landscapes in Adrar Wilaya. The project will also consider existing production practices (including pastoral practices), how communities interact with the environment and the limited institutional frameworks, insufficient regulations and current land uses in Adrar. The rationale is based on an integrated approach to more holistically address underlying drivers of environmental degradation while simultaneously, addressing socio-economic concerns of local communities. In this regard, an integrated natural resource management approach will be valuable in ensuring economic, social and ecological sustainability in a resource-constrained and climate-impacted environment[1] as in Mauritania.

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[1] Sara J. Scherr, Seth Shames and Rachel Friedman. (2013). Defining Integrated Landscape Management for Policy Makers

## 11. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

### Overall Project/Program Risk Classification\*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
Medium/Moderate	Low		

**Measures to address identified risks and impacts**

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

**Supporting Documents**

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
<b>Mauritania_IMPADRA_SRIF_rv Sept 20</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	
<b>Mauritania_SRIF</b>	<b>CEO Endorsement ESS</b>	
<b>GEF-7 Mauritania IMPADRA ESERN CRC_revised March 2021</b>	<b>Project PIF ESS</b>	

**ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).**

<i>Project title: Integrated Management of Protected Areas in the Arid Regions of Mauritania (IMPADRA)</i>						
	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>Project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
<b>Project objective</b>						-Political stability and will continue to support the implementation of IMPADRA
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>Component 1: Establishment of a new Protected Area (PA) in Adrar Wilaya</b>						
Outcome 1.1. Improved conservation status through the creation and effective management of a terrestrial 200,000 ha PA in Adrar	GEF Core Indicator 1: Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use  <i>Terrestrial protected areas coverage increased by the creation of a new IUCN Category VI 200,000 ha PA</i>	No IUCN Category VI PA	<i>Processes, including stakeholder consultations finalized leading to the gazetting of 100,000 ha for an IUCN Category VI PA</i>	<i>Fully fledged IUCN Category VI 200,000 ha PA</i>	Project progress and evaluation reports, list of participants technical support missions	i). Government as a key stakeholder maintain their interest and engagement in the project, particularly in the establishment of the new Protected Area in Guelb Er Richat  ii). At Wilaya level, the development priorities mainstream the operationalization of the PA  iii). Established capacities,

<i>Project title: Integrated Management of Protected Areas in the Arid Regions of Mauritania (IMPADRA)</i>						
	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>Project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
	<i>% of women participating in technical support and capacity development for MESD and other strategic partners to carry out scientific research and to prepare documentation for the creation of the PA in Adrar</i>	None	<i>Women inclusion plan in technical support and capacity development for MESD and other strategic partners is in plan and at least 20% of participants constitute women.</i>	<i>42% of women participating in technical support and capacity development.</i>	Project progress report, periodic participatory monitoring, reports	particularly human capacity to manage the PA are maintained to minimise disruptions and loss of institutional memory in the Regional Office
	<i>Number of ha of degraded habitats and ecosystems restored</i>	0	1,250	2,500	Project progress report and Evaluation report	
	<i>Number of land use plans (LUPs) developed and number of hectares under land use plans around the PA</i>	No LUPs within the project area	<i>2 land use plans developed and implemented on 50,000 ha in production landscapes around the PA</i>	<i>4 land use plans developed and implemented on 100,000 ha in production landscapes around the PA</i>	Project progress report and Evaluation report	
	<i>Number of long-term monitoring and enforcement systems in place</i>	No monitoring system currently in place to enhance the conservation of key species within IMPADRA catchment area.	<i>Processes, including procurement finalized for establishing the monitoring and enforcement system</i>	<i>One (1) long-term monitoring and enforcement system in place</i>	Project progress and evaluation reports, technical support missions	



<i>Project title: Integrated Management of Protected Areas in the Arid Regions of Mauritania (IMPADRA)</i>						
	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>Project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
	<i>Number of platforms for information sharing and intelligence gathering established between PA authority and the local communities and supported to be fully functional</i>	No platforms for information sharing and intelligence gathering within IMPADRA catchment area.	<i>Processes, including consultations with key stakeholders, including women finalized for establishing platform for information sharing and intelligence gathering</i>	<i>One (1) platform for information sharing and intelligence gathering established between PA authority and the local communities and supported to be fully functional</i>	Project progress and evaluation reports, list of participants technical support missions	
	<i>Number of Regional Offices to ensure the management of the new PA.</i>	No Regional Office exist within IMPADRA catchment area for PA management	<i>Processes, including consultations that involve women, procurements finalized for Office establishment</i>	<i>One (1) Regional Office fully capacitated established for the new PA.</i>	Project progress and evaluation reports, technical support missions.	
	<i>Number of long-term ecological monitoring system established for the PA and adjacent areas</i>	No ecological monitoring system currently in place to enhance the conservation of key species within IMPADRA catchment area	<i>Processes, including stakeholder consultations that duly include women, procurements finalized for Office establishment</i>	<i>One (1) long-term ecological monitoring system established for the PA and adjacent areas</i>	Project progress and evaluation reports, list of participants technical support missions	
	<i>Number of PA management plans developed, board-approved and under implementation</i>	No management plan currently exists for the PA to be created to enhance the conservation of key species within IMPADRA catchment area	<i>Processes, including stakeholder consultations that duly include women, procurements finalized for Office establishment</i>	<i>One (1) a PA management plan developed, board-approved and under implementation</i>	Project progress and evaluation reports, list of participants technical support missions	

<i>Project title: Integrated Management of Protected Areas in the Arid Regions of Mauritania (IMPADRA)</i>						
	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>Project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
Output 1.1.1: Collection of detailed biodiversity data and technical support provided to MESD to enable the KBA assessment, designation and registration process of the entire new PA in line with current Global KBA criteria.						
Output 1.1.2: Technical support and capacity development provided to MESD and other strategic partners to carry out scientific research and to prepare documentation for the creation of the PA in Adrar.						
Output 1.1.3: Land use plans to facilitate the identification and demarcation of priority areas for conservation in compliance with the gazetting process and for 100,000ha for sustainable land management in production systems in the surrounding landscape developed and under implementation.						
Output 1.1.4: Enforcement and surveillance system strengthened in the new PA in Adrar through (i) a long-term monitoring and enforcement system in place and a platform for information sharing and intelligence gathering established between PA authority and the local communities and supported to be fully functional, and (ii) appropriate mechanisms and incentives in place to report illegal activities						
Output 1.1.5: Established operational capacity at the new PA in Adrar through (i) a newly established Regional Office for the newly created PA with deployed and capacitated staff; (ii) an established long-term ecological monitoring system for the protected and adjacent areas; and (iii) a board-approved management plan under implementation in the PA.						
<b>Component 2:</b> Establishing financial sustainability mechanisms for sustainable and effective management of the PA						
Outcome 2.1 Financial sustainability mechanisms improve and strengthen the sustainable management effectiveness of the PA beyond the life of the project	<i>Level of management effectiveness in terms of METT for the new PA</i>	No existing data on management effectiveness within the Guelb Er Richat	25% METT increase from the established value at creation	50% increase management effectiveness in terms of METT achieved for the new PA	Project progress and Evaluation reports, technical support missions	i). The political will that IMPADRA has generated among politicians, policy makers, academia, development partners and other stakeholders will be sustained to contribute to improving the management effectiveness of the PA.
	<i>Number of national level PA platform established to showcase best PA management practices, eco-tourism potential, investment potential and biodiversity status</i> Indicator 4: Area of landscapes under improved practices	No national level PA platform currently exists.	<i>Stakeholder consultations that duly include women, data collection tools of best PA management practices and data for eco-tourism and biodiversity status finalized, and PA platform under way.</i>	<i>One (1) national level PA platform established to showcase best PA management practices, eco-tourism potential, investment potential and biodiversity status</i>  100,000 ha under sustainable land management in production systems in landscapes adjacent to the new PA	Project progress and evaluation reports, list of participants technical support missions	ii). Awareness-raising campaigns trigger interest from local community members, including women who in turn, participate in the project activities, especially community-

<i>Project title: Integrated Management of Protected Areas in the Arid Regions of Mauritania (IMPADRA)</i>						
	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>Project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
	<i>Number of direct beneficiaries of Community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities for local communities</i> GEF Core Indicator 11: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment	None currently within IMPADRA catchment area	<b>5,000</b> direct beneficiaries of Community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities for local communities	<b>10,000</b> direct beneficiaries of Community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities for local communities	Project progress and evaluation reports, list of participants technical support missions	based enterprises and those related to halting poaching.  iii). COVID-19 will continue to be at bay so as not to disrupt the implementation of project activities
	<i>Number of female direct beneficiaries of Community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities for local communities</i>	None currently within IMPADRA catchment area	500 female direct beneficiaries of Community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities for local communities	1,000 female direct beneficiaries of Community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities for local communities	Project progress and evaluation reports, list of participants technical support missions	
Output 2.1.1: Financial mechanisms established and operational with necessary institutional capacity and processes in place for the financial sustainability of PA conservation.						
Output 2.1.2: One national level PA platform established showcasing best PA management practices, eco-tourism potential, investment potential and biodiversity status to be managed by the National Tourism Office of Mauritania						
Output 2.1.3: Community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities for local communities identified and supported in line with sustainable agricultural and livestock practices identified in the land use plan for the PA and adjacent landscape.						
<b>Component 3: Ensuring knowledge management and gender mainstreaming</b>						

<i>Project title: Integrated Management of Protected Areas in the Arid Regions of Mauritania (IMPADRA)</i>						
	<i>Indicator</i>	<i>Baseline</i>	<i>Mid term target</i>	<i>Project target</i>	<i>Verification sources</i>	<i>Risks and assumptions</i>
Outcome 3.1 Gender equality and knowledge management effectively support sustainability and inform up-scaling	New PA gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan developed and implemented across components	None currently exists as the PA itself is not yet established.	Stakeholder consultations that duly include women finalized and development of the gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan under way	One (1) new PA gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan developed and implemented across components	Project progress and evaluation reports, list of participants technical support missions	i) Awareness-raising campaigns will interest women participation, and socio-cultural practices will be enabling enough for women participation
	Number of communication strategies and tools developed	No communication strategies and tools currently exist relevant to the PA to be created.	Two (2) communication strategies or mechanisms and tools developed	Four (4) communication strategies or mechanisms and tools developed	Project progress and Evaluation reports	ii). COVID-19 does not prevent physical meetings
	Number of biodiversity conservation awareness campaigns conducted	No biodiversity conservation awareness campaigns to enhance conservation in IMPADRA catchment area.	Two (2) biodiversity conservation awareness campaigns	Four (4) biodiversity conservation awareness campaigns	Project progress and Evaluation reports	iii). Community continued engagement in the project
	Number of Knowledge management plans developed and implemented	None in the project area	Stakeholder consultations that duly include women finalized and development of the knowledge plan under way	One (1) knowledge management plan developed and implemented	Project progress and evaluation reports, and list of participants in consultations	iv). Community continued engagement in the project activities
Output 3.1.1: Gender mainstreaming strategy and action plan implemented across project components						
Output 3.1.2 M&E plan implemented in a timely fashion to facilitate adaptive management and lesson learning						
Output 3.1.3: 3.1.3 Knowledge management and communication strategy, including toolkits and radio programs developed to raise awareness about biodiversity conservation						

**ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).**

		Responses at PPG
-Carry out thorough consultations as these have been limited at PIF stage due to COVID-related constraints;		Addressed, the consultations have been carried out and minutes of these consultations included in the package.
- Refine the ToC, especially with regards to the livelihoods interventions designed to foster behavior change and with regards to ways to efficiently address hunting pressure;		Addressed, see details on the theory of change and behavior change detailed in response below.
-Design the project to avoid physical displacement or relocation of people		Addressed: It should be noted that consultations that were undertaken during PPG included consultations with nomadic communities (see pictures of consultations) who showed excitement at the prospects of ecotourism in the area. Given the IUCN category of the project, and based on consultations with nomadic communities, the impacts, if any, will be low.
- if the idea of exploring species reintroduction is pursued and proves necessary, carry out an in-depth technical and financial feasibility and viability analysis.		Addressed. As per review guidance species reintroduction has been removed from the proposal.

<p>? Be more clear about geographic components and their contribution to the project. It is not always clear whether the outputs and outcomes are focused only on the 200,000ha El Ghall?ou?ya and landscapes linking up to Guelb er Richat or the entire area of 2 200 000 ha. This seems to be dealt with differently in component 1 (only the ?new? PA ) &amp;2 (? entire PA) or at least it is not certain which areas are being referred to. The narrative and TOC identify poor governance across the Waliya as a barrier but the responses imply that the focus on the 200,000ha will solve this. It should be clear throughout whether the focus is only on the 200,000 ha and the 50,000 ha buffer (about 10% of the Guelb er 2 Richat reserve) or the entire area. This will be particularly important for the GEBs (see below).</p>	<p>Many thanks for your request for clarification. Indeed, the outputs and outcomes are focused only on the project target area, i.e. the 200,000ha El Ghall?ou?ya and landscapes linking up to Guelb er Richat. This will be clearly stated in the CEO submission to avoid further confusion. It is important to note however, that the project will build on best practices and collaboration with existing development interventions and the conducive policy space in the country to support integrated management of protected areas in Adrar Wilaya more generally, on the basis of its target area. Ultimately, and as reflected in the potential for scaling up section, the project proposes a suite of interventions to support sharing of lessons, awareness-raising and informing conservation strategic decisions in arid zones beyond Adrar Wilaya.</p>	<p>The comment has been noted. Based on additional consultations and baseline studies, the Guelb-Richat (the heart) will sit as a fully protected area on 200,000 ha, and the 100,000 ha will constitute the peripheral rings (two rock rings) as a buffer zone where sustainable land management activities and biodiversity will be developed (mainly ecotourism, and relevant land use plans). The wadis and dune formations (ergs) from the outside where plant formation is most important will be in peripheral areas. The extension of the area includes the rocky plateau north of the central site, El beyed, the area of El Ghalawiya and Ouadane. Outside the ?heart? zone, community participation will be most critical for their socioeconomic benefits from the project but also direct and active involvement in project-supported activities.</p>
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? Provide more measurable outcomes for the expected GEBs from the addition of the 200,000 ha PA. The proposal notes that the inventory of biodiversity at this stage is too limited to provide baselines and targets for specific ecosystems or species that may be under threat. However, the proposed improvement in the status of only 4 unspecified animal species does not represent a significant contribution to GEBs since many of the taxa listed are widespread and not threatened, and a 10% increase in local population size may not provide any meaningful GEB. The PPG will need to provide more precise baselines and targets. If the important water sources and associated vegetation in El Ghall?ou?ya are critical for the survival of some of the taxa found in the area it should be possible to identify the affected taxa and propose how the improved management of this area will affect conservation in the much bigger combined area of Guelb er Richat and El Ghall?ou?ya.

Thank you for your comment. The PPG is indeed envisaged to enable the collection of information to provide more precise baselines and targets, with emphasis on the critical water sources and associated vegetation in El Ghall?ou?ya.

The comment has been noted, and was duly taken into account at PPG. Given the approach taken to collect additional information to under baselines, it was only possible to get ?qualitative baselines? to confirm the presence of animals in the combined area of Guelb er Richat and El Ghall?ou?ya. Indeed, the presence of the following animal species have been confirmed during baseline studies: Addax; Ostriches; Dorcas gazelle; Bighorn sheep; Dama gazelle; Oryx dammah; Rock damans. The approach used also drew on participatory engagement of local communities. The presence of the animals has been described in qualitative terms as ?very, rare, very frequent, frequent.? To improve their population, the project proposes land use planning to ensure that areas such as water points and associated vegetation are protected. Throughout the project implementation, the population will be monitored with full participation of communities ? and assessed to see the impact of conservation efforts in terms of change in abundance from ?rare to frequent or very frequent.? Additional efforts might be required to carry out a quantitative assessment at, for example, mid term.

<p>? Component structure: our review concluded that for a project of this size, scope and duration three components were imply not enough, also we suggest that component 3 is restructured and rationalized (see comments below).</p>	<p>Thank you for your comment. We acknowledge and agree that the component structure is likely to be reorganized as more measurable outcomes for the expected GEBS are clarified during PPG.</p>	<p>At the full proposal development stage, we reviewed the comment in light of the proposed components at PIF, proposed activities at PPG and the available financial envelop ? in our judgement, three components with the proposed activities are sufficient to consolidate results that the project seeks to achieve. If the project is structured around four or more components, the resources would be too thinly spread to consolidate results. We think three components are optimal for this size of the project.</p>
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? Risk assessment: our assessment found that the PIF included a good range of risks and that the analysis of their likelihoods and potential impact on project operations was sound. However, for some reason, this was not translated into what we thought would be the correct risk levels for a number of categories. We also found that some of the mitigations for the risk categories highlighted below could be improved and that risk analysis should stretch beyond the very narrow scope of the project activities to cover project durability and sustainability over time (i.e. beyond the life cycle of GEF initial funding) - (see further comments below).

1. Lack of technical and institutional capacities? should be medium.
2. Local socio-cultural practices prevent the inclusion of women? should be high because this is a factor that has a significant potential to effectively derail or hamper the success of project activities for the very 11 reasons that were identified in the analysis provided in the PIF;
3. COVID-19 pandemic? should be high, in 2020 the WHO rated Mauritania as a high risk country in terms of Major Infectious Diseases, in addition slow vaccination rates and the emergence of new variants continue to create a very uncertain and risk

Thank you for the suggested changes to risk levels. As a preliminary response:

1. We agree to change to medium
2. Indeed this seems to be high and will be confirmed during PPG.
3. Indeed this seems to be high and will be confirmed during PPG.
4. We agree to change to high.
5. We take note and agree that terrorism risk is a reality in Mauritania as member of G5 Sahel. However, there is no recent record of terrorism activities in Mauritania when compared to the situation in other G5 Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Chad). Furthermore, given the recent treat of French Republic to withdraw its soldiers from Barkhane Operation, one can imagine that security situation can become complicated. Meanwhile, it is worth to indicate that Mauritania has a very tight security infrastructure in project area with military camps surrounding the project area. In any case, a thorough security situation analysis will be conducted during the PPG and realistic level of security risk will be identified and mitigation measures provided.
6. We agree with this assessment and the COVID risk will indeed be revised in detail during PPG in the context of component 2 in particular as updated and more reliable information is collected during consultations.

Comment has been noted, and in response:

1. Changed to medium
2. Change to high with additional justification included
3. Changed to high as recommended, particularly that there is 100% certainty regarding the evolution of the pandemic.
4. Additional analysis based on Climate Analytics data at PPG has been done, and the rating has been scaled up to high.
5. Information has been provided to rate the risk regarding terrorist attack at low ? the information is based on an assessment by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
6. The point on COVID-19 is well noted, and has been considered at PPG. More updated information has been included, while remaining alert to the negative impacts of COVID-19 on the project, directly and indirectly. The rating is high, not necessarily because the COVID-19 pandemic infections are high, but because there is precedence regarding the impacts of the pandemic, and that the evolution of the pandemic cannot be foretold with 100% certainty.

environment for most countries in SSA ;

4. Climate change? should be medium/high, especially as IPCC scenario RPC 2.6, which was used in combination with RPC 4.5 to assess climate risk, is now highly unlikely to happen.
5. However, we noticed that there was no mention of any potential risk to project operations from terrorism activities in the region. Even though this is currently assessed as being relatively low, we felt this aspect should have been included in the risk section, especially because of its potential to affect tourism, which is an important factor in the medium to long-term success and durability of project activities.
6. In addition, the COVID related risks focused mostly on project level risks such as restrictions on meetings and the need for social distancing. It did not look at the more systematic risks on tourism and how this will impact on ecotourism based enterprises that form part of Component 2.

6.

Higher risk levels per se should not be eschewed or considered to be a negative factor in project design,

<p>provided that adequate risk mitigation measures are design and put in place. STAP colleagues would welcome additional discussion on this point if necessary</p>		
<p>? Behavior change: The success of this project will be in considerable part tied with the achievement of changes in behavioral patterns by a range of stakeholders on the ground (e.g. around gender issues, which were also identified as one of the risk factors). However, we could find only one mention of this in the ToC. It would be our advice that the implementing agencies develop a behavior change strategy or plan during the inception phase of the project to include objectives and/or expectations for the full range of key stakeholders that have been identified. In addition, behavior change will require significant social facilitation given the existence of long-established lifestyles and practices and the importance of the area as a water source for pastoralists and agriculture. Component 2 relies on financial incentives and new biodiversity-based enterprises to drive changes in behavior but seems to require more actions relating to social processes. The proposal refers to other projects focusing on alternative livelihoods and should build on lessons learned from these projects for uptake and acceptance of different lifestyles and livelihoods.</p>	<p>We agree that behavior change is key to the project and will consider the most appropriate approach during PPG based on best practice in similar contexts, to ensure an adequate behavior change strategy or plan, including in the context of the Gender Plan and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.</p>	<p>The comment regarding behaviour is noted. The project acknowledges behaviour change plays a key role in addressing human-induced environmental degradation while inspiring pro-environmental behavior. However, the project is not under illusion that it will change human behaviour which is built in complex human social context including demographic factors, external factors (e.g. institutional, economic, social and cultural) and internal factors. Having acknowledged this complexity, the project will deliberately engage communities in pro-environmental behaviours in component 3 through serious environmental campaigns. This will be important and useful for both direct and indirect project beneficiaries. Under output 3.1.2, the project will develop campaign strategies to reach out to project beneficiaries to inspire behaviours, attitudes toward the environment.</p>

Comments from Canada

1) This project makes sense for biodiversity (the focus on creating new PAs when Mauritania has so little of its areas conserved proportionally) and links well to the work of the CBD in this regard. There were some earlier improvements made to the project which strengthen the clarity on what the outcomes of this project will be (e.g. link to mainstreaming).

2) This project, through its location and scope, is well aligned with Aichi Strategic Goals and the GEF-7 Biodiversity Focal Area. Hence, it will contribute to two objectives identified in the Convention Biological Diversity (CBD) COP 13 Guidance to the GEF, meaning: o Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species; o Further develop biodiversity policy and institutional frameworks.

3) This PA also fulfils the mandate of GEFs International Water Focal Area, which role is to support the work accomplished under the UN Water Courses Convention and the UNECE Water Convention. In particular, it aims to cover an important freshwater ecosystem, and thus reaching the target of objective GEF-7 IW 3) Enhancing water security in freshwater ecosystems.

4) However, Canada believes that the project, as presented, does not include nor mention any preparation related to an Environment and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). Desired outcomes are well articulated, but the description of the process leading to those outcomes, which would include and use a risk evaluation based on ESG as a foundational work, is missing. Such an addition would have clearly helped anticipate an effective implementation of the project, in accordance with the GEF's policy on Environmental and Social Safeguards.

5) Furthermore, as outlined in the STAP Chair's report of the GEF 60th

Response 1: Noted with thanks

Response 2: Noted with thanks

Response 3: Noted with thanks

Response 4: The comment is well and appreciated. The project activities have been thoroughly screened using Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF), UNEP tool for screening project activities against environmental and social impacts. The overall Environmental and Social Safeguard risk level is **Low**. A paragraph of this has been added under the table of risks ? indicating that ?Given that the Environmental and Social Safeguard risk is Low, it means that the negative impacts are minimal or negligible, therefore, no further study or impact management required.?

Response 5: Please, refer to response to STAP comment on behavioural change above.

	<p>Council Meeting, the success of this project and the durability of its outcomes will depend on the ability to initiate behavioral changes in the local communities and make them sustainable over time. A systemic approach to environmental sustainability that is not only focusing on biodiversity, but rather integrate biodiversity conservation into multiple use landscapes, would assure, even enhance, the effectiveness of the project.</p>	
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Comments from Germany

1) The proposed project area is of high importance from a geologically, biodiversity and cultural heritage point of view. Provided that ecotourism can be re-developed and regional development strategies be implemented, the project can contribute to biodiversity conservation, local development and create jobs and income for local communities. The project area is not yet covered by international development organizations; thus, a well-developed project could contribute significantly.

2) However, the project proposal seems to be outdated. CNOZEA, the main Mauritanian institution, has been closed down due to corruption related issues. This is mostly the same case for the DAPL. Thus, the strategical reorganization of the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and presidential initiatives (ProPEP) is not reflected in the proposal. Furthermore, the Guelb er Richat area for the time being does not have the status of a natural reserve. The proposal needs to be restructured accordingly and consider the correct institutions to be involved. In addition, risks of corruption and nepotism need to be addressed clearly.

3) The proposal mentions GIZ projects as partners to the project, including GIZ activities in the past. For the time being, this cannot be confirmed. Germany requests that the proposal clarifies the envisioned partnership or otherwise refrain from including it in the proposal.

4) The proposal states that the project is to be set up with the

Response 1: Comment noted with thanks.

Response 2: This has been adjusted in the document following changes that happened between PIF and PPG.

Response 2.1 on corruption and nepotism: Acknowledging the deep-rootedness that these two social ills, the Implementing Agency will closely support this project, particularly during recruitment. It should be mentioned here that the UNEP Task Manager is based in Nouakchott, and this will present an opportunity to have regular meetings and benefit from the TM's technical support to keep chances of corruption and nepotism to the minimum. The project has been updated, and corruption and nepotism have been included as project risks.

Response 3: Given that GIZ prospective interventions in the area cannot be confirmed for the time being, contrary to discussions held during project preparations, references to GIZ have been deleted from the document

involvement of local communities. However, a clear description of the mechanism for such involvement is missing. The GIZ approach of user's co-operatives is mentioned, yet no specifics of how to apply it. Germany requests a clear strategy for the equitable and transparent involvement of local communities in the design and implementation of the project.

5) The proposals further states that the Government has committed to conservation through planning infrastructure developments towards eco-tourism and issuing a decree for the creation of a Regional Office for the PA in year 2 of the project. Given that governmental priorities may change due to currently unforeseen circumstances, Germany would like to suggest that the project seeks to either ensure that the governmental commitment is translated into action (by e.g. issuing the decree at a much earlier stage) or develops an alternative scenario in case infrastructure investments are not carried out as foreseen or the decree cannot be issued as planned.

6) Overall, the project layout does not seem feasible at this stage. Germany therefore requests that the points above are taken into account and the proposal is reformulated and restructured accordingly.

Response 4: Comment noted. Under section on alternative scenario, the explanation of community involvement has been strengthened, indicating that stakeholder consultations, community meetings and participatory planning processes will continue throughout the project. To ensure more effective community engagement, IMPADRA will consider open communication, trust-building, and a willingness to listen and respond to the concerns and ideas of communities.

Response 5: The comment is appreciated. In the document, it is noted that the project will build on the recent relaunch of the National Tourism Office and commitment of the Government to issue a decree towards the creation of a Regional Office for the PA in year 2 of the project. Decrees are policy but also political processes over which the project may not have control ? however, with the momentum the government has created in even preparing the decree, it can only be hoped that in year 2 of the project, this will be done. In the event of change of government priorities and or delays, IMPARA will continue to seek partnerships and engaging development partners for technical, policy advocacy but also financial resources to inform adaptive project management.

Response 6: Responses to questions have been provided, including making changes and providing additional information for more clarity but also to strengthen its technical soundness ? this has gone through various iterations with

		different reviewers, including the government.
Comments from United States of America	1) We recommend extra consideration be given to the potential impacts of this project on nomadic populations.	Response 1: It should be noted that consultations that were undertaken during PPG included consultations with nomadic communities (see pictures of consultations) who showed excitement at the prospects of ecotourism in the area. Given the IUCN category of the project, and based on consultations with nomadic communities, the impacts, if any, will be low.

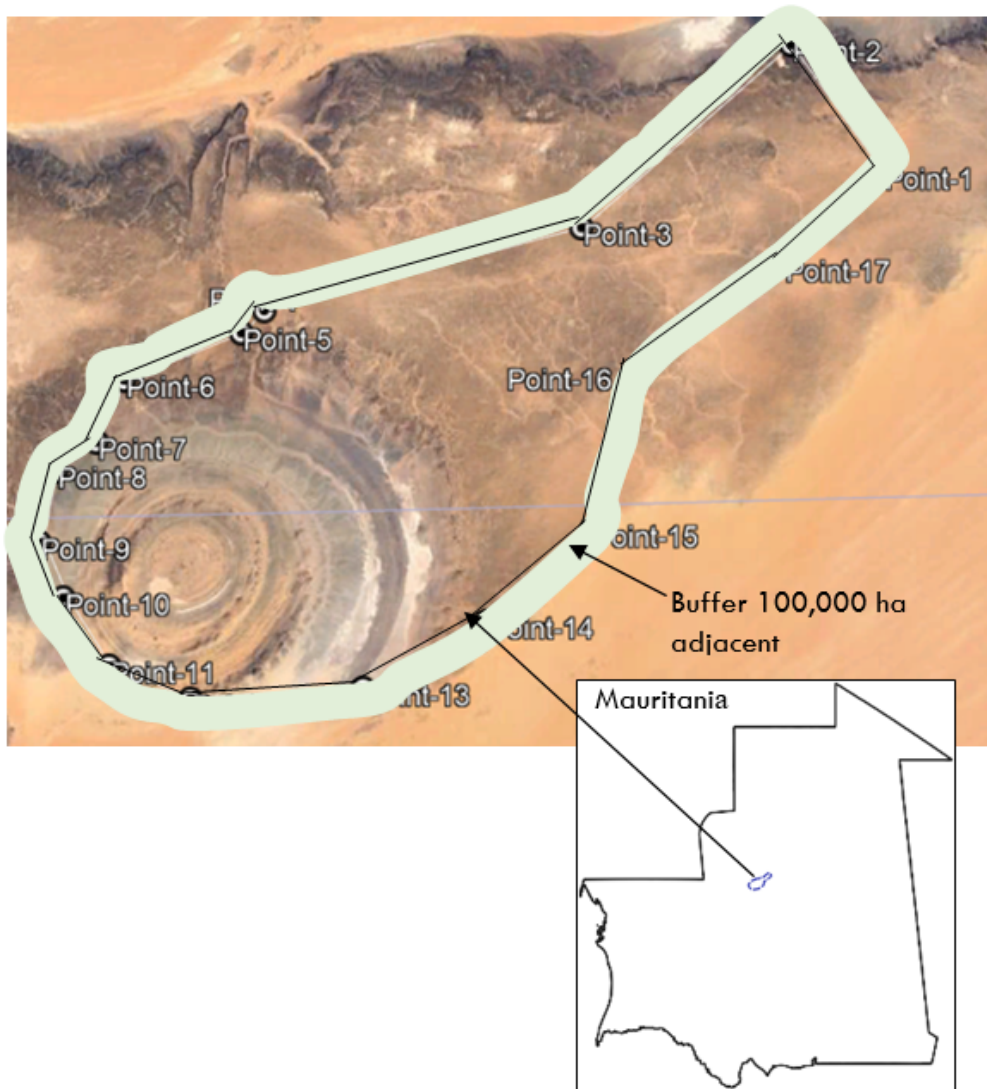
**ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG).  
(Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:**

PPG Grant Approved at PIF: <b>\$100,000</b>			
<i>Project Preparation Activities Implemented</i>	<i>GETF/LDCF/SCCF Amount (\$)</i>		
	<i>Budgeted Amount</i>	<i>Amount Spent To date</i>	<i>Amount Committed</i>
Consultancies to collect additional baseline data and information to develop project options.	25,000	25,000	
Travel costs for local experts for consultations and discussions with interested parties and stakeholders, and local participation where warranted in project design	15,000	15,000	
Local consultations, national hearings and/or workshops to inform about GEF purposes and procedures	35,000	35,000	
Assistance in preparing national and/or sectoral plans and programs	5,000	5,000	
Validation workshop	20,000	20,000	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>	

**ANNEX D: Project Map(s) and Coordinates**

**Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.**





Map point	Latitude
Point-1	21°26'54.14"N
Point-2	21°33'17.62"N
Point-3	21°24'8.34"N
Point-4	21°20'1.14"N
Point-5	21°18'54.85"N
Point-6	21°16'34.39"N
Point-7	21°13'30.55"N
Point-8	21°12'4.84"N
Point-9	21° 8'33.57"N
Point-10	21° 5'50.46"N
Point-11	21° 2'30.56"N
Point-12	21° 0'54.60"N
Point-13	21° 1'26.93"N
Point-14	21° 4'44.45"N
Point-15	21° 9'14.02"N
Point-16	21°16'57.45"N
Point-17	21°22'18.92"N

## GEO LOCATION INFORMATION

The Location Name, Latitude and Longitude are required fields insofar as an Agency chooses to enter a project location under the set format. The Geo Name ID is required in instances where the location is not exact, such as in the case of a city, as opposed to the exact site of a physical infrastructure. The Location & Activity Description fields are optional. Project longitude and latitude must follow the Decimal Degrees WGS84 format and Agencies are encouraged to use at least four decimal points for greater accuracy. Users may add as many locations as appropriate. Web mapping applications such as [OpenStreetMap](#) or [GeoNames](#) use this format. Consider using a conversion tool as needed, such as: <https://coordinates-converter.com> Please see the Geocoding User Guide by clicking [here](#)

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	Geo Name ID	Location & Activity Description
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## ANNEX E: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

	Technical Adviser&M&E Expert				0	40,700		40
	Administrative and Financial Officer						30,000	30
	Gender Specialist						34,000	34
	Local Community Development Worker						0	
<b>Trainings, Workshops, Meetings</b>								
	Improve the capacity of the PA allied institutions and stakeholders to develop sustainable financing through fiscal incentives, environmental services and other instruments as deemed feasible		30,000		30,000			30
	Capacity development, including tourism market literacy for community-based organisations (co-operatives and associations)		25,000		25,000			25
	Provide training for community-based organizations, private sector and civil society representatives in the areas relevant to economically viable and socially responsive value chains		23,500		23,500			23
	Capacity development of key stakeholders in the creation of the PA	20,000			20,000			20
	Strengthen the capacities of institutions to establish cross-sectoral collaboration for protected area management at the regional, national and local levels			29,400	29,400			29
	Increase technology transfer and cooperation to improve protected area management.			44,400	44,400			44
	Staff training for effective PA management	20,000			20,000			20
	Annual technical progress reports, publications and dissemination				0	15,000		15
	Steering Committee Meeting					16,000		16
	Conferences and other meetings					15,000		15

Project title: Integrated Management of Protected Areas in the Arid Regions of Mauritania (IMPADRA)								
Appendix A: Indicative Project Budget Template								
Expenditure Category	Detailed description	Component (USDeq.)						Total (USDeq.)
		Component 1	Component 2	Component 3	Sub- Total	M & E	P M C	
		Outcome 1.1	Outcome 2.1	Outcome 3.1				
<b>Works</b>							0	
<b>Goods</b>								
	Communication equipment to facilitate information collection and dissemination, computers, printers etc	21,000			21,000			21,000
	Establishment and use of new technologies including geographic information system and remote sensing tools for monitoring protected areas	55,000			55,000			55,000
	Surveillance system for PA management	45,000			45,000			45,000
<b>Grants/ Sub- grants</b>								
<b>University of Nouakchott and Ecole Normale de l'Enseignement Superieur</b>	Participatory process, involving local communities and relevant stakeholders, as part of site-based planning and creation of the PA	59,000			59,000			59,000
<b>University of Nouakchott and Ecole Normale de l'Enseignement Superieur</b>	Interdisciplinary research, to improve understanding of the ecological social and economic aspects of PA, including methods and techniques for valuation of goods and services from the PA	35,000			35,000			35,000
<b>University of Nouakchott and Ecole Normale de l'Enseignement Superieur</b>	Develop and adopt appropriate methods, standards, criteria and indicators for evaluating the effectiveness of the new PA management and governance	35,000			35,000			35,000
<b>Regional Department of Amenagement du Territoir</b>	Engage local communities and relevant stakeholders in participatory planning and governance	25,000			25,000			25,000
<b>Sub-contract to Ministry of Agriculture</b>	Community-based biodiversity enterprises as alternative income generating activities for local communities identified and supported in line with sustainable agricultural and livestock practices identified in the land use plan for the PA and adjacent landscape.(Output 2.1.3)	469,300			469,300			469,300
<b>Sub-contract DPREM</b>	Develop and implement an efficient, long-term monitoring system of the outcomes being achieved through protected area systems in relation to the goals and targets of this work programme	34,000			34,000			34,000
<b>Regional Department of Environment</b>	Promote an enabling environment (legislation, policies, capacities, and resources) for the involvement of local communities and relevant stakeholders in decision making, and the development of their capacities and opportunities to establish and manage the PA.	35,000			35,000			35,000
<b>Sub-contract with DPREM</b>	Support the regular provision of information on the PA financing to relevant institutions and mechanisms within Mauritania and other regional and international		30,000		30,000			30,000
<b>Sub-contract with DPREM</b>	Development of land use plans for the PA and adjacent landscape		50,000		50,000			50,000
<b>Sub-contract with DPREM</b>	Integration of biodiversity conservation strategies into sectoral planning and budgeting in Adrar Wilaya		35,000		35,000			35,000
<b>sub-contract with DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AFFAIRS</b>	Adoption of gender-responsive budgeting to reflect the specific needs and interests of both women and men when conceiving and implementing budgets at Adrar Wilaya level			65,000	65,000			65,000
<b>Sub-contract with DPREM</b>	Establish effective mechanisms to document existing knowledge and experiences on protected area management, including traditional knowledge			50,000	50,000			50,000
<b>Sub-contract with DPREM</b>	Document and make available to different stakeholders and partners appropriate technologies for conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity			40,000	40,000			40,000
<b>Contractual Services – Individual International Consultants</b>								
	Conduct the PA capacity needs assessments, and establish capacity building programmes on the basis of these assessments including the creation of curricula, resources and programs for the sustained delivery of PA management training.	35,000			35,000			35,000

	Development of tools of ecological connectivity, such as ecological corridors, linking together water and grazing points within the PA to support wildlife conservation	21,000			21,000			21
	Develop a knowledge management plan and implement it with lessons disseminated to relevant stakeholders			45,000	45,000			45
	Support the establishment and implementation of country-level sustainable financing plan that will render support to the new PA in Adrar, including necessary regulatory, legislative, policy, institutional and other measures.	138,800			138,800			138
	Identifying economic opportunities and markets at local, national and international levels for goods and services produced by the new PA	25,000			25,000			25
	Integration of protected areas needs into national and, where applicable, regional development and financing strategies	27,000			27,000			27
	Assess needs for relevant technologies for protected area management involving local communities and stakeholders			40,000	40,000			40
<b>Local Consultants</b>								
	Comprehensive assessment of the site-planning process, including identification of appropriate measurable BD conservation targets and effective management opportunities	35,500			35,500			35
	Assessment of key threats to the new PA and develop and implement strategies to prevent and or mitigate such threats	15,000			15,000			15
	Stakeholder consultations for the development of Land use plans to facilitate the identification and demarcation of priority areas for conservation	15,000			15,000			15
	Develop necessary mechanisms for institutions with responsibilities for conservation of biological diversity at the regional, national and local level to achieve institutional and financial sustainability	20,000			20,000			20
	Harmonize sectoral policies and laws to ensure that they support the conservation and effective management of the protected area system	15,000			15,000			15
	Conduct a national-level study of the effectiveness in using existing financial resources and of financial needs related to the national system of protected areas		50,000		50,000			50
	Encourage integration of PA needs into Adrar Wilaya, regional and national (as applicable) development and financing strategies and development cooperation programmes		25,000		25,000			25
	Establishing information mechanisms directed at target groups such as the private sector, policy makers, development institutions, community-based organizations, the youth, the media, and the general public		100,000		100,000			100
	Conduct assessment to identify economically viable and socially responsive and acceptable community-based biodiversity enterprises and their value chains		377,525		377,525			377
	Carry out a participatory review of the status, needs and context-specific mechanisms for involving stakeholders, ensuring gender and social equity			30,000	30,000			30
	Establish mechanism and evaluate the impacts of communication, education and public awareness programmes on biodiversity conservation			25,000	25,000			25
	Develop and strengthen working partnerships with appropriate organizations and institutions			35,000	35,000			35
					0			
	Mid Term review				0	10,000		10
	Terminal Evaluation				0	29,000		29
<b>Salary and benefits / Staff costs</b>								
	Project Coordinator						50,000	50

	Technical Adviser&M&E Expert				0	40,700		40
	Administrative and Financial Officer						30,000	30
	Gender Specialist						34,000	34
	Local Community Development Worker						0	
<b>Trainings, Workshops, Meetings</b>								
	Improve the capacity of the PA allied institutions and stakeholders to develop sustainable financing through fiscal incentives, environmental services and other instruments as deemed feasible		30,000		30,000			30
	Capacity development, including tourism market literacy for community-based organisations (co-operatives and associations)		25,000		25,000			25
	Provide training for community-based organizations, private sector and civil society representatives in the areas relevant to economically viable and socially responsive value chains		23,500		23,500			23
	Capacity development of key stakeholders in the creation of the PA	20,000			20,000			20
	Strengthen the capacities of institutions to establish cross-sectoral collaboration for protected area management at the regional, national and local levels			29,400	29,400			29
	Increase technology transfer and cooperation to improve protected area management.			44,400	44,400			44
	Staff training for effective PA management	20,000			20,000			20
	Annual technical progress reports, publications and dissemination				0	15,000		15
	Steering Committee Meeting					16,000		16
	Conferences and other meetings					15,000		15
<b>Travel</b>								
	Travel		15,500	11,200	11,200	37,900	0	37
<b>Office Supplies</b>								
	Office supplies, computers, other equipment..				0		7,201	7
<b>Operating Costs</b>								
	Audit						4,500	4
<b>Grand Total</b>			1,025,300	948,025	415,000	2,388,325	125,700	2,639

#### ANNEX F: (For NGI only) Termsheet

Instructions. Please submit an finalized termsheet in this section. The NGI Program Call for Proposals provided a template in Annex A of the Call for Proposals that can be used by the Agency. Agencies can use their own termsheets but must add sections on Currency Risk, Co-financing Ratio and Financial Additionality as defined in the template provided in Annex A of the Call for proposals. Termsheets submitted at CEO endorsement stage should include final terms and conditions of the financing.

#### ANNEX G: (For NGI only) Reflows

Instructions. Please submit a reflows table as provided in Annex B of the NGI Program Call for Proposals and the Trustee excel sheet for reflows (as provided by the Secretariat or the Trustee) in the Document Section of the CEO endorsement. The Agency is required to quantify any expected financial return/gains/interests earned on non-grant instruments that will be transferred to the GEF Trust Fund as noted in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy. Partner Agencies will be required to comply with the reflows procedures established in their respective Financial Procedures Agreement

with the GEF Trustee. Agencies are welcomed to provide assumptions that explain expected financial reflow schedules.

**ANNEX H: (For NGI only) Agency Capacity to generate reflows**

Instructions. The GEF Agency submitting the CEO endorsement request is required to respond to any questions raised as part of the PIF review process that required clarifications on the Agency Capacity to manage reflows. This Annex seeks to demonstrate Agencies' capacity and eligibility to administer NGI resources as established in the Guidelines on the Project and Program Cycle Policy, GEF/C.52/Inf.06/Rev.01, June 9, 2017 (Annex 5).