

TERMINAL EVALUATION

Project ID:	5580
Project Name:	Development of an Improved and Innovative Management System for Sustainable Climate-resilient Livelihoods in Mauritania
Countr(ies):	Mauritania
Implementing Agency:	UNEP

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Development of an Improved and Innovative Management System for Sustainable Climate-resilient Livelihoods in Mauritania

Country

Mauritania

GEF ID

5580

Implementing Agency

UNEP

Executing Entity

Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
(MDEDD)

Trust Fund

LDCF

Project Type

FSP

Objective

To reduce the vulnerability to climate change of national government and local communities in the forests and rangelands of the Sahelian Acacia Savanna Ecoregion

B. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

1/26/2017

Agency Approval

1/26/2017

Implementation Start

9/15/2017

First Disbursement

10/16/2017

Expected MTR

12/31/2021

MTR Submission

1/13/2026

Actual MTR

3/31/2022

Expected Completion

6/30/2022

Actual Completion

6/30/2022

Actual TE

1/5/2026

TE Submission

1/13/2026

Final Disbursement

C. Disbursements

Project Financing
5,475,000.00

Cumulative Disbursement
4,934,535.00

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Main Terminal Evaluation Findings

The project has demonstrated strong performance in contributing to the development of climate-resilient livelihoods in Mauritania, in particular through the overall successful implementation of EbA interventions generating socio-economic benefits for rural communities and supporting the conservation of ecosystems. These interventions, including restoration of degraded watersheds, forest restoration, set-aside, and stabilization of dunes, were reported during the Terminal Review field mission to generate benefits for local communities. The various microprojects benefitted all local populations but in particular women. The project also managed to increase awareness and knowledge on EbA through capacity-building activities on EbA approaches in the four wilayas of the project, from regional DREDDs to local management committees and civil society organizations.

Overall, the EbA interventions and IGAs are likely to continue to benefit the local populations in the four wilayas. The field mission conducted more than one year after the technical completion of the project found that ecosystem restoration works were well maintained and that IGAs were still running, due to substantive social ownership, availability of technical knowledge, the profitability of the businesses and the establishment of a saving rule in IGA-related businesses. The establishment and training of local associations further contributed to strengthening the community ownership and sustainability of project interventions.

Several aspects of the project have the potential to be replicated, both within Mauritania and outside of the country. Examples of non-target communities replicating the project's interventions, both autonomously and with external support, were identified during the review mission.

The project management structure and execution arrangements ensured effective and efficient project implementation. Close links and fluid communication between the national and regional levels, through the DREDDs, were crucial in this regard. The involvement of subnational stakeholders in the provision of technical advice and in project monitoring and supervision was important, as the distances are long and infrastructure limited. The full engagement of subnational partners also contributed to the cost-effectiveness of the project.

Weaknesses identified by the review include the limited implementation of activities in the policy and knowledge management domains; the focus on socio-economic IGAs rather than environmental IGAs generating benefits for biodiversity and ecosystems; and the geographic dispersion and the small scale of EbA interventions throughout the four wilayas, instead of concentrating interventions to ensure their long-term impact and ownership.

B. Stakeholder Engagement

During implementation, the project ensured the participation of all relevant stakeholders, in particular at the regional and local levels. The regional authorities were capacitated to monitor the implementation of project activities, and local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) were also engaged in supporting the DREDDs in their functions and building their technical capacities in the fields of intervention of the project. During

implementation, key stakeholders were consulted intensively to ensure the project answered their needs, and to clarify few activities, e.g. the role of DREDDs in the project.

Local stakeholders were widely engaged in the project activities especially under Component 2, as local communities were the main beneficiaries of EbA interventions and IGAs, and local NGOs played a major role in implementation. Local knowledge, skills and experience were incorporated in the implementation of EbA interventions such as dune fixation or set-aside plots. The project called on the skills of the communities to set up, manage and supervise the maintenance of community shops and other IGAs.

C. Gender Equality

Overall, the project was aligned with the UN's Guiding Principles of Human Rights, Social Inclusion and Gender Equality, UNEP's policy guidance on Gender and Human Rights and UNDP's Gender equality strategy 2018-2021.

The project design did not adequately integrate gender equality. The ProDoc did not include a gender analysis and a gender action plan and the results framework did not systematically include gender-disaggregated indicators (see section above in Relevance section). To compensate this, a technical gender report was elaborated after project start, in March 2019, one year after the beginning of the project, which was a bit late. The study analyzed the socio-economic conditions of women in the country, assessed capacity-building needs of women in the project intervention zone and proposed gender-disaggregated indicators to be integrated in the project, at the activity level. However, although some of the gender report's recommendations were considered in project implementation, in particular in livelihood diversification and income-generating activities, a stronger use of these indicators could have been made, to inform some revisions to the outcome indicators or to support closer tracking of gender integration in activities.

During implementation, strong attention was given to women's participation in the project, in particularly regarding EbA interventions and local socio-economic development through IGAs. However, the project did not meet its targets on the engagement of women in the more formal trainings related to EbA, in particular at the regional and local levels. Under Component 1, women's participation in formal training events did not exceed 15% of the participants, far from the 30% female representation rate targeted. Some efforts were made to organize more trainings at the community level, but the design had budgeted regional workshops, leaving limited flexibility in that regard.

Without quotas, it was also difficult to involve women in decision making bodies. Although women make up more than 50% of the members of the six new natural resource management associations, and represent 55% of women participants in trainings for associations, they remain inadequately represented in the executive decision-making bodies of these associations, with most of them only having 1-2 women on their boards out of 7-9 members in total.

D. Knowledge Management

The knowledge management strategy to capture and share information on the benefits of adaptation practices to rural communities (Output 3.1) was not developed as planned. As an adaptation knowledge management strategy was included in the GCF NAP project, it was omitted from the workplan of this project to avoid duplications. Several studies and knowledge-sharing activities were conducted to raise awareness on the benefits of an EbA approach and associated climate-resilient livelihoods. The long-term strategy to upscale

and sustain best practices (Output 3.3) was not elaborated as not considered necessary, considering the close linkages of this project with the NAP process.

III. Core Indicators

EXTRACTED INDICATORS

Please provide cumulative total achieved from the inception, if available in the implementation document.

Following the GEF guidance on results and indicators, please provide the whole results from the GEF project, which is made up of GEF financing as well as co-financing.

	LDCF
Total number of direct beneficiaries	18,000
Ha of land better managed to withstand the effects of climate change	1,490.00
No. of risk and vulnerability assessments, and other relevant scientific and technical assessments carried out and updated	1
No. of people trained to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and/or evaluate adaptation strategies and measures	175
No. of regional, national and sub-national institutions with strengthened capacities to identify, prioritize, implement, monitor and/or evaluate adaptation strategies and measures	0
Contribute towards public awareness of climate change impacts, vulnerability and adaptation (Tick if relevant)	true
Expand access to improved climate information services	false
Expand access to improved climate related early-warning information	false
No. of regional, national and sector-wide policies, plans and processes developed or strengthened to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures	0
No. of sub-national plans and processes developed or strengthened to identify, prioritize and integrate adaptation strategies and measures	0

IV: Co Financing

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Anticipated at CEO(\$)	Materialized at MTR(\$)	Materialized at TE(\$)

Recipient Country Government	Government of Mauritania	Grant	Investment mobilized	8,000,000.00	7,200,000.00	8,755,000.00
Recipient Country Government	Government of Mauritania	Grant	Recurrent expenditures	500,000.00	500,000.00	508,000.00
Total Co-financing				8,500,000.00	7,700,000.00	9,263,000.00

Comments

V: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
		Medium/Moderate	Not available at this stage

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

The physical interventions were informed by best practices in the region. However, as noted, the scale was in some cases limited. Furthermore, there could be risks related to water availability, especially in the more arid areas. Although the scale of the interventions is small, their promotion was not informed by a water availability feasibility study. Moreover, the target ecosystems and populations are extremely fragile and are greatly exposed and sensitive to climate change, and projections foresee severe changes. Although the project has increased their resilience, climate risks are still significant, which could affect the sustainability of the project's results.

VI. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category M and E Document	Title Terminal Review Report
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