

**PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENT
AND INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET
CONCEPT STAGE**

Report No: tbd

Date Prepared/Updated: 05-February-2017

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Sudan	Project ID:	P161304
		Parent Project ID :	P129156
Project Name:	Additional Financing Sudan Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project/ AF GE code P161304		
Region	AFRICA		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	June, 2017	Estimated Board Date:	August 31, 2017
Practice Area (Lead): GENDR	Environment & Natural Resources	Lending Instrument:	Investment Project Financing
GEF Focal Area	Land Degradation; Climate Change		
Sector(s):	General agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (60%), Forestry (40%)		
Theme(s):	Environmental Policies and Institutions (20%), Other Environmental and Natural Resources (50%), Land Administration and Management (10%); and Climate Change (20%)		
Borrower(s)			
Implementing Agency			
Financing (in US\$ Million)			
Financing Source			Amount
Borrower (in kind and cash)			10,000,000
Global Environment Facility (GEF),			5,504,586
Financing Gap			0.00
Total Project Cost			15,504,586
Environmental Category	B-Partial Assessment		
Concept Review Meeting	July 04, 2016		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		
Is this a Transferred project? (Will not be disclosed)			
Other Decision (as needed)			

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. Sudan is situated in northeast Africa with a coastline bordering the Red sea. It is the third largest country in Africa with a population of 39 million, according to World Bank 2014 estimates. The government administrative structure is composed of a federal government, 18 states and 176 local government councils. The federal level has a national assembly and Council of States composed of two representatives of each state. Each state has its own constitution and local governments are governed by the Local Government Act (LGA) enacted by the federal government. The federal and state constitutions as well as LGA stress the principle of autonomy at the different levels of government and the need for mutual respect of this autonomy.

2. Like in other Sahelian countries, livelihoods in Sudan depend heavily on soil, water and vegetation resources. It is estimated that agriculture (crops, livestock and forestry) contributes 35-40% of GDP (with livestock accounting for 50% of the production) and employs more than 80% of the total population. Traditional farming accounts for 60-70% of the agricultural output, and is largely subsistence production based on shifting cultivation and livestock rearing. The wildlife of Sudan presents a rich base of biodiversity of high value. The country is also rich in mineral resources. Oil discovery and oil export had fueled unprecedented growth in the last decade and fed massive public investment, although not in a sustainable way. Agriculture and livestock are thus essential to the country's growth and economic diversification and overall macroeconomic stability especially with the dwindling revenues from oil. Employing over 80% of the total workforce, investments in these two key sectors also provide space for creating jobs and improving livelihoods especially in rural areas, attracting potential private sector investments in soil, land and water management, as well as in human development.

3. Sudan has been in conflict for most of its independent history. While the defining conflict between the north and south was largely resolved by the secession of the latter to form the Republic of South Sudan in July 2011, several other conflicts continue at different stages of intensity, stalemate, or resolution. Most of these conflicts involve competition over ownership and access to natural resources, and are between pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and settled farmers (including commercial farms). This contributes to a localized conflict-prone environment where violence easily erupts in the context of weak institutions.

4. The South's secession has had fundamental repercussions on Sudan as evidenced by significant stresses in the macro-fiscal situation and the structure of the economy. The most important and immediate impact was the loss of oil revenue, made all the more critical as the secession was preceded by several years of oil-export driven growth, extravagant public investments, and expanded public employment. The legacy of the civil war, limited infrastructure and the inequitable distribution of public goods and services, continues to present obstacles to strong and inclusive growth. Sudan's arrears to several bilateral and multilateral creditors, including International Development Association (IDA), severely limit the country's access to concessional development finance.

5. The 2014 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index ranks Sudan at 167 out of 188 countries. Poverty estimates set the average rate of poverty incidence at 46 % (2009 National Baseline Household Survey), indicating that some 15 million people are poor. The poverty rate is significantly higher in rural areas (58%) than in urban areas (26%), and varies markedly across states. The Government has endorsed the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with plans underway for inclusion in national plans and policies including in the Five Year Strategic Plan for Sudan. Gender disparities in Sudan are persistent. Women comprise only 23% of the formal economy, but 70% of the informal economy, with 53% of them focused on agricultural production activities. Displaced populations, nomadic groups, rural populations, children, and girls in particular, are especially vulnerable to higher incidences of poverty. The interaction of high levels of poverty, social exclusion, spatial

inequality and fragile social cohesion underpin ongoing rivalry over scarce resources, mass group mobilization and conflict.

Sectoral and institutional Context

Baseline

6. Sudan faces environmental challenges due to its geographic location within the fragile Sudano-Sahelian and sub-Saharan African zones. Short variable erratic rainy seasons, arid lands, and poor sparse vegetative cover contribute to the country's vulnerability. In addition, the soils are highly susceptible to wind and water erosion. The steady increase of both human and livestock populations puts pressure on natural resources, and has resulted in desertification, land degradation, water pollution, soil erosion and nutrient loss and deterioration of biodiversity across large tracts of the country. Occasional floods, such as the flood in August 2013 which affected more than 300,000 people, further exacerbate the precarious environment.

7. Unplanned, non-sustainable and poorly managed uses of land and water along with natural climate variability and frequently occurring droughts, continue to exacerbate the problems. Degradation of the country's natural resources has caused serious negative impacts on agricultural productivity and the livelihoods of the poor, particularly those that depend on livestock and rain-fed agriculture. Rainfall in some areas of the country has been steadily decreasing over the last 40 years, and the Sahara desert is advancing at a rate of about one mile a year, dwindling the availability of grazing land and water. Forest ecosystems throughout Sudan have been deforested and degraded due to fire, uncontrolled grazing, overcutting, and encroachment by agriculture. Increasing pressure on land by the expansion of mechanized and rain-fed farming, as well as overgrazing, have restricted access to rangelands and increased vulnerability of farmers and pastoralists. In addition, the greatest damage to wildlife has been inflicted by habitat destruction and fragmentation from farming and deforestation.

8. The advancement of the Sahara desert southwards is especially evident in the Northern States of Sudan namely the Northern, River Nile, North Kordofan, North Darfur and the Red Sea States. As a consequence, Sudan continues to be faced with a myriad of climate-induced natural hazards and socioeconomic pressures including localized flooding and drought, crop failure, severe localized food insecurity resulting from reduced early harvests, low food stocks, persistent high prices, civil unrest, strife and insecurity restricting access to agricultural land and food, and an increasing influx of (climate) refugees and internally displaced persons. The persistent vulnerability in this part of the country had led to an alarming rate of displacement to humans, their livestock and the wildlife. In North Kordofan, large tracts of land were cleared of Acacia species forest depriving local poor of a sustainable source of income from the production of Gum Arabic. In the Northern State, the drifting sand dunes have affected viable agricultural lands along the Nile valley and in some places reaching the Nile River. In such fragile conditions, it is very challenging for local communities to withstand climate-induced livelihoods shocks. Biodiversity fauna and flora especially the desert dwellers are also immensely impacted.

9. Challenges resulting from increasing vulnerability to climate change elevate the need to ensure that sectoral planning and interventions in these sectors cater to strengthening adaptive capacity and resilience of both the sectors and the dependent rural communities. Through the AF, the project would provide a window for a win-win situation where the local communities would be involved in sustainable activities to enhance the green cover in these priority areas adopting proven reforestation and afforestation practices, sustainable rangeland management and demarcating wildlife sanctuaries for improved management.

10. Policy and investment responses are fragmented and inadequate. Federal, state and local governments and their constituencies are overwhelmed by the scale and complexity of the problems confronting production and conservation landscapes. Attempts within most tiers of government to address these problems have generally been ineffectual in the face of the following challenges: (a) lack of sufficient financial resources; (b) unclear and overlapping mandates of institutions responsible for various components of the rural landscape; (c) insufficient technical capacity in these institutions; (d) insufficient knowledge and updated data to address such complex issues ; (e) absent or weak land-use planning; (f) limited research capacity; (g) weak regulatory compliance and enforcement; (h) weak community involvement in prevention and restoration activities; (i) insufficient attention to alternative livelihood issues; and (j) insufficient attention to transparent governance, corruption, and local participation. The different challenges are interwoven and require integrated solutions. The fragmentation of institutions, information, and incentives weakens the ability of government institutions and the communities that they serve to address the issues in a strategic and integrated manner.

Institutional context for forest and rangelands conservation in Sudan

11. Federal level ministries and specialized agencies: The Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Physical Development (MoENRPD), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MoAF), and the Ministry of Animal Resources, Fisheries and Range (MoARFR) are the main federal actors managing natural resources in Sudan. The key roles of these ministries are policy formulation, planning and monitoring of development, research and extension services for agriculture, livestock, forestry, fisheries, pastures and overall natural resources protection, and conservation and development. A number of research centers are associated with various ministries, related to agriculture; animal resources; wildlife; and forestry. Other key agencies include the Higher Council for Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR), Forest National Corporation (FNC), the Range and Pasture Administration (RPA), and the Wildlife Conservation General Administration (WCGA).

12. At the State level: each of the 18 States has executive (Governor and Council of Ministers), legislative and judicial branches. The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has State presence with extension services. The Sudan Forest National Corporation (FNC) has regional technical divisions reporting to FNC headquarters, while the HCENR has branches in some States (Kassala, Gezira; North Kordofan, River Nile and Northern states respectively) in order to monitor the implementation of development programs related to natural resources and collect data and information on changes in the environment, under the chairmanship of the State Governors (Wali).

13. At the local level: Local associations, farmer/producer and grassroots groups are involved with natural resources management, such as the farmers associations, village councils, agricultural cooperatives, women's groups, youth groups, vocational training centers, market vendors, livestock producer associations, unions and service providers.

Project Alternative

14. The proposed Additional Financing (AF) will provide incremental financing to scale up and enhance the impact of the ongoing Sudan Sustainable Natural Resources Management Project that forms part of the GEF-5 Sahel and West Africa Program (SAWAP) supporting the Great Green Wall Initiative. With incremental fund allocation from the current GEF-6, this project will expand the adoption of sustainable landscape based soil, land and water management across the three northern states in the desert front line, namely North Kordofan, River Nile and Northern States respectively.

15. The AF will expand the project's activities in the three new States. Specifically: (i) in Northern State it will support the preparation of integrated land management plans for rehabilitation of the

shelterbelts in Al Seleim Basin, and establishment of village windbreaks in Al Afad Area, (ii) in the River Nile State, the AF would support the reforestation of River Atbara reserve forests, identification of a biosphere reserve and preparation of a wildlife conservation and management Plan in Jebal Al Hassania area, and (iii) in North Kordofan State, the AF will support the rehabilitation of Gum Arabic belt, rehabilitation of rangelands and setting up of a Wildlife Management and Conservation Plan for a biosphere reserve in Al Baja area (an area that is shared with the White Nile State).

16. The Funds under this component will be used towards building adaptive capacity of project beneficiaries in further identification and scaling up of priority community based interventions aimed at strengthening Sudan's overall response to climate induced natural disasters such as the use of drought tolerant crop varieties and adaptive local breeds of livestock¹ and reforms for the sustainable natural resources management..

17. The ongoing project and the incremental GEF AF will build specifically on various donor initiatives related to the project scope, including: Capacity Development Project for Provision of the Services for Basic Human Needs in Kassala supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the World Bank Sustainable livelihoods for displaced and vulnerable communities in Eastern Sudan. The proposed project will coordinate with the Butana Integrated Rural Development Project by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and GEF; and two adaptation projects on Resilience in the Agriculture and Water Sectors; and Climate Risk Finance for Rain fed Farming and Pastoral Systems (GEF-UNDP). REDD+ Readiness: Sudan has undertaken the REDD+ initiative to tackle the threat of climate change by addressing the impacts of deforestation and forest degradation. The project will enhance the sustainable management of Sudan's forest resources as well as support sustainable land use management. It seeks to do so by developing effective strategies for reducing emissions from deforestation and simultaneously promoting activities that will improve livelihoods complementing the AF in this regard. The REDD+ is expected to be completed by February 2019. The GEF fund will be complimentary as REDD+ readiness Funds may be used for capacity development, analytical work and training, which are to lay the basis for future investment financing for REDD+ interventions.

18. Overall the project is expected to bring benefits both globally and locally through supporting the adoption of integrated land and water management practices and climate risk mitigation technologies, all of which will allow sustained flow of environmental services in agro-ecosystems and improved management of existing protected areas. These will help reverse land degradation, and increase resilience of rural livelihoods in target project areas and to achieve the land degradation neutrality targets (as stated in the Sustainable Development Goal 15.3) in the intervention areas. The environmental services provided to the project communities through Sustainable Forest Management, soil and water conservation would improve the natural capital assets.

Strategic Context

19. Both the original and proposed additional grant activities are consistent with the Vulnerability and Resilience pillar of the World Bank Africa Strategy, Africa's Future and the World Bank's Support to it, and the focus on Enhancing Resilience of Dryland Areas; the Bank's conflict and fragility agenda as

¹ Should LDCF funds become available in future, the supplemental funds will be used to support developing and disseminating knowledge and awareness on climate change; supporting climate resilient livelihoods alternatives; and strengthening implementation of national and state level climate adaptation policies and reforms. It will also support capacity needs for value chain addition of target forest/agroforestry products.

reflected in the 2011 World Development Report on Conflict, Security and Development, which emphasizes action on internal and external stresses that burden countries with low response capability. They also contribute to the World Bank FY13-14 Interim Strategy Note (ISN, September 2013, Report No. 80051-SD) for Sudan and specifically responds to the priorities under Pillar 2 on addressing the socioeconomic roots of conflict, which includes sustainable natural resource management, using community-driven development. The project will also contribute to the cross-cutting theme of Governance and Gender that aims to mainstream gender to improve women's access to public resources and opportunities. The project complements ongoing poverty reduction efforts in the drought stricken less resilient areas of the country.

20. The proposed activities also align with the priority sectoral and geographical areas in the Sudan NAPA. The project² will furnish investments and capacity development in two most vulnerable sectors – forest and agriculture, and water - with inherent health benefits through increased agri-productivity and access to water. In line with the NAPA priority ecological zones, the AF will expand the SSNRMP in North Kordofan, Northern and River Nile States.

Rational for AF and Sustainability

21. The ongoing SSNRMP is part of the GEF-5 SAWAP supporting the Great Green Wall Initiative. The Project and AF's principal motivation is improved sustainability of land and water management, and contribution to climate change, through a community based approach. Under the GEF-6 replenishment, the Government of Sudan will expand coverage of the current SLWM activities to more areas and will increase the adoption of these landscape practices across the desert frontline in the Northern part of the country. The Government of Sudan requested the use of part of its GEF-6 allocation resources, in the amount of US\$5.50 million, to expand the coverage of the ongoing SSNRMP practices in the most vulnerable areas to sustain their productivity. The AF will help capture the efficiencies and economies of scale by expanding SSNRMP in the Northern State, River Nile State (in the fringes of the desert) and North Kordofan State under a landscape approach to enrich the original menu of SLWM interventions within the (GGWI) and their extension across the country from the East to the West frontiers. This expansion in the SLWM practices through integrating the various land-uses would improve livelihood of communities along targeted landscapes across the country, amplify benefits from rangeland management practices, and optimize project impacts and benefits to communities within vast areas of the semi-desert climate. The AF would enhance resilience of the targeted communities to withstand climate induced natural hazards by improving the natural resources base on which their livelihoods depends.

22. The participating communities would be supported by the project to invest in many climate adaptive activities such as the use of drought-resistant seed varieties, poultry and fish production varieties, Introduction of new water harvesting/spreading techniques making use of intermediate technologies, diversified crops and livestock breeds, energy conserving technologies, food processing and preservation, drinking water supply and control of livestock diseases. The AF would directly support the sustainable natural resources management by introducing and expanding rainwater harvesting technologies and restoration of degraded lands by using green shelterbelts, improved rangelands through palatable specie's seed collection and distribution and agro-forestry. The AF will help address these issues by scaling-up activities in current and newly designated communities.

23. For sustainability linking adaptive measures (both structural and vegetative) to livelihood assistance activities, to generate livelihood benefits and participatory SLM are expected to provide the

² The project has applied for LDCF and the overall concept is technically cleared, but due to unavailability of sufficient funds in the LDCF TF, this concept does not reflect the LDCF amount and its related activities. As funds become the project currently in the pipeline will secure supplemental financing to add adaptation activities.

right incentives to gradually attract community expansion to the safer expansion areas through other sources and government programs as they evolve. Besides, the environmental services provided by the project communities through watershed management, soil and water conservation, good farming practices could be converted into commodities that contribute to environmental sustainability and improve natural capital assets at the local level.

24. Key outcomes for the proposed AF include adoption of sustainable integrated land and water management practices by target communities, adoption of the climate risk mitigation technologies by the participating communities, sustained flow of environmental services in agro-ecosystems and improved management of existing protected areas. These will help reverse land degradation, and increase resilience of rural livelihoods in target project areas and to achieve the land degradation neutrality targets (as stated in the Sustainable Development Goal 15.3) in the intervention areas. The environmental services provided to the project communities through sustainable forest management and soil and water conservation, and biodiversity conservation would improve the natural capital assets at the local level. Financing from the GEF is being targeted at the incremental costs of landscape level conservation to ensure sustainability and a good exit strategy.

25. Lessons learnt from project implementation that inform the design of the AF activities and are already being addressed through the ongoing project include the need for early community engagement in identification and implementation of project activities; the need to develop strategies on how to effectively engage all stakeholders, particularly communities, in project implementation; and that natural resources management in the dry areas is challenging and dependent on availability of rain. Alternative sources of water should be explored to make rehabilitation activities more reliable and sustainable.

C. Proposed Global Environment Objective(s)

Proposed Global Environment Objective(s)

26. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to increase adoption of sustainable land and water management (SLWM) practices in targeted landscapes of selected States of Sudan.

27. Key Results:

- Effective Implementation and Management Plans incorporating SLWM measures and practices are built.
- Institutional Capacity for formulation, monitoring, and enforcement of SLWM policies is strengthened.
- Awareness is increased on climate change impacts and vulnerability through improved access to information and knowledge on adoption of SLWM practices.
- Management planning and subsequent reforestation interventions will facilitate outcomes including (i) strengthened ownership through community participation in planting and maintenance of planted sites and in the selection of tree species; (ii) enhanced overall resilience of native species to climate induced natural hazards ; (iii) increased non forest incomes and reduced unsustainable dependence on forests by supporting alternative livelihood activities while targeting vulnerable groups of population, and (iv) generated replicable lessons and new knowledge on forests and livelihoods resilience.
- M&E system is functioning and providing accurate and on-time data.

D. Concept Description

28. The proposed Additional Financing would finance the costs associated with scaling-up the geographical scope of the SSNRMP project activities in three new additional states and enhance project impacts. It will involve expanding the project pilot areas to the Northern, River Nile, and North Kordofan States which have similar climatic conditions to Kassala, Gezira and White Nile States where the project is currently being implemented. The AF grant will (i) scale up soil, land and water management (SLWM) interventions from the original target of 27,000 ha to an estimated 60,000 ha in the three new States to bring about 15,000 ha of land under forest and range management which would result in a net carbon absorption of (an estimated 2 million Metric Tonnes of carbon dioxide per annum, to be confirmed during appraisal); (ii) promote community rehabilitation of degraded lands and forests, including establishment of wind shelterbelts; (iii) support the participating communities with improved seeds that are drought tolerant as a coping mechanism against climate change. In the North Kordofan State, activities would include supporting range and pasture development in Al Baja. Overall, enrichment planting and natural regeneration in the new project areas would be instrumental in enhancing resilience of the rural communities.

29. The current project closing date of June 30, 2019 will be extended to June 30, 2022 and Board approval is expected in October 2016.

30. The proposed project is structured around the following three components:

31. (1) Institutional and Policy Framework; (2) Community-based Sustainable Management of Rangelands, Forests and Land Degradation, and (3) Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation.

32. **Component 1:** Institutional and Policy Framework (\$1 million GEF AF).

33. The project will continue to support key institutions involved in natural resources management such as the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources and Physical development (MoENRPD), Forest National Corporation (FNC), Range and Pasture Department of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Range and Pasture (MoLFR), and Wildlife Conservation General Directorate (WCGD) of the Ministry of Interior (this specifies the implementing agencies for the project) by strengthening their capacity to formulate, implement and monitor programs and projects geared towards the sustainable management of natural resources and biodiversity conservation, based on a capacity enhancement plan. This support will be used to: (i) develop effective inter-agency collaboration mechanisms at the central and state level; (ii) assist communities in preparing and implementing investments under integrated land management plans; and (iii) manage, monitor, and maintain soil and water conservation structures in collaboration with Village Development Committees (VDCs).

34. Under this component, the AF, through the land degradation funds, will help address key barriers to information and knowledge access related to broader adoption of SLWM practices at the community levels within the newly selected three states; support mechanisms that promote inclusion and community participation in forest ecosystems and livelihoods resilience; promote social mobilization through group formation and economic empowerment; and promote social accountability. The proposed new biosphere reserves are Jebel Al Hasaanyia Game Reserve (River Nile State) and the Jebel Al Dayir Game Reserve (North Kordofan State) (see map). The AF for this component will help deepen the work started in the three existing states and address key institutional and policy barriers, through active participation of stakeholders and knowledge generation, to broader adoption of SLWM practices at the community levels within all the six states.

35. **Component 2.** Community based sustainable management of rangelands, forests and land degradation (\$3.57 million GEF AF)

36. This component will focus on soil and water conservation measures as well as on land use activities through the gazetting of forest reserves; restoration of native vegetation by reforestation (which can help in improving soil and vegetation carbon stocks), enrichment planting, natural regeneration, and effective implementation of sustainable forest and rangeland management plans. The project so far has been supporting the preparation of integrated land management plans for the gazetted Wad Bugul reserve in the Butana area in the Rufaa locality of Gezira State, Telkuk Forest Reserve in Kassala State, and the rangelands of Aum Rimta including sites such as Al Baja and Um Jar in White Nile State.

37. Deforestation and forest degradation contribute to land degradation. The activities related to rehabilitating degraded forests and rangelands include, among others, the use of enclosures as a pasture seed bank for valuable pasture varieties; planting seeds of palatable pasture varieties that are on the verge of extinction due to arid environmental conditions; practicing of agro-forestry to increase tree cover and produce food crops; and enrichment planting, would play a crucial role in addressing land degradation. The project will aim at reducing pressures on forest resources and generate sustainable flows of forest ecosystem services. The project will follow the landscape approach, which integrates people's livelihood objectives in the management of the different ecosystems within the landscape..

38. The AF will expand the above activities in the three new States. Specifically: (i) in Northern State it will support the preparation of integrated land management plans for rehabilitation of the shelterbelts in Al Seleim Basin, and establishment of village windbreaks in Al Afad Area, (ii) in the River Nile State, the AF would support the reforestation of River Atbara reserve forests, identification of a biosphere reserve and preparation of a wildlife conservation and management Plan in Jibal Al Hassania area, and (iii) in North Kordofan State, the AF will support the rehabilitation of Gum Arabic belt, rehabilitation of rangelands and setting up of a Wildlife Management and Conservation Plan for a biosphere reserve in Al Baja area (an area that is shared with the White Nile State). Management planning and subsequent reforestation interventions will facilitate climate resilient outcomes including (i) strengthened ownership through community participation in planting and maintenance of planted sites and in the selection of tree species; (ii) matching of native species to site conditions to improve survival and overall resilience to withstand climate induced natural hazards; (iii) supporting priority alternative livelihoods activities targeting vulnerable groups that increase incomes and reduce unsustainable dependence on forests, and (iv) generating replicable lessons and new knowledge on forests and livelihoods resilience. Proposed plans will be implemented through forest ecosystem rehabilitation and restoration mainly under irrigation with some rainfed areas especially in North Kordofan State. Sustainable forest and rangeland management coupled with support to livelihoods improvement have intrinsic climate resilience benefits.

39. Funds under this component will be used towards building adaptive capacity of project beneficiaries in further identification and scaling up of priority community based interventions aimed at strengthening Sudan's overall response to climate induced natural disasters such as the use of drought tolerant crop varieties and adaptive local breeds of livestock..

40. In addition, Local communities will receive direct support to acquire the capacity to conduct the selected activities above, including training to support the organization of communities in associations (cooperatives) around specific NRM livelihood initiatives. This component will also promote institutional mechanisms for scaling up adoption of efficient water harvesting, and irrigation technologies including enabling environment for private sector and other service providers to participate especially in facilitating the provision of underground water in such a water scarce parts of the country.

41. **Component 3. Project management, Monitoring and Evaluation (\$0.93 million GEF AF)**

42. Provides project management, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and coordination support encompassing procurement, financial management, environmental and social safeguards, annual work plans and organization of supervision missions. The project provides support for operating an M&E system for tracking the project results, including those registered in the GEF tracking tools for Land Degradation and Climate Change. The M&E system currently works in coordination with the SAWAP Program and will continue to receive complementary support from the BRICKS3 project.

43. Under the AF, the project will provide additional resources for this component strengthening the M&E and coordination across the various states in close collaboration with the BRICKS project.

II. SAFEGUARDS

A. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

44. The existing project locations are East Gazira forest reserves, including the already gazetted *Wad Bugul* reserve in the *Butana* area in the *Rufaa* locality of Gezira State, the *Telkuk* Forest Reserve in Talkuk locality of Kassala State, and the rangelands in *Aum Rimta* locality of White Nile State. The new States that will be included as part of the AF are Northern, River Nile, and North Kordofan States. Fluctuation in rainfalls, land degradation and decline in productivity, accompanied by socio-economic problems are challenges that all the six project locations share. One of the defining characters of the rangelands and forest reserves in these locations is the severe degradation mainly caused by encroachment of agricultural production and over grazing.

B. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

45. The country capacity to implement World Bank safeguard policies is weak. As a result, the ongoing project hired a safeguards consultant for ensuring environmental and social sustainability of the project. It is envisaged that the safeguard consultant will provide support to the proposed project. Further, regular training on safeguards will be provided to project implementers at the national and local level. Regular support by Bank's safeguards specialists will also be used to contribute to strengthen borrower's safeguards compliance and capacity.

C. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Tamene Tiruneh
Haddy Jatou Sey

D. POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
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Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	The SSNRMP is a category B project. Rangeland and forest rehabilitation activities will have positive environmental and social impacts. However, this policy is triggered because the Project will finance establishment of nurseries, and small scale irrigation, among others, that would have some adverse environmental and social impacts. This ESMF is prepared to ensure that negative impacts are avoided or reduced with appropriate mitigation measures. Further, the framework suggests some recommendations to ensure sustainability of rangeland and forest rehabilitation activities.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	Sub-projects in SSNRMP may have minor adverse impacts on protected areas, conservation sites, and critical ecosystems. Sub-projects will be screened based on the ESMF and appropriate mitigation measures will be implemented if any negative impacts are anticipated.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	Project will not finance any activities that could result in the clearance of forests of any nature. However, there will be sub-projects, particularly livelihood related activities, which will be implemented in the forest reserves. Hence, it is necessary to reflect this OP/BP in the ESMF and ensure that these sub-projects are screened against this OP/BP and that appropriate preventive or mitigation measures are formulated and executed.
Pest Management OP 4.09	Yes	This policy is triggered by the SSNRMP, particularly for those activities targeted to improve the livelihood of communities by investing on small-scale irrigation and nurseries. Such investment can encourage the use of agrochemicals (e.g. insecticides and herbicides). The project will promote Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and safe utilization of pesticides among the targeted communities. However, the project will not finance the procurement of any agrochemicals.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	No	Since the project will mainly implement activities to rehabilitate rangeland and forests, impacts on physical cultural resources is not anticipated.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	A process framework has been prepared and will be used to ensure that marginalized and vulnerable people are consulted and engaged in sub-projects implementation. Vulnerable and marginalized people would be identified during the social assessment, which would be conducted, before implementation of project activities (see the Process Framework (PF) for more details)
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	Under SSNRMP, activities related to rehabilitation and reforestation sub-projects will not involve involuntary land acquisition and displacement of people since they will be implemented in communal rangelands and forest reserves. However, such activities trigger this policy during enclosure of areas for rehabilitation and natural regeneration since it may restrict access to humans and livestock. If a sub-project is found to cause such negative impacts, it would be addressed by the guiding principles and mitigation measures described in the PF.

Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	Although there will possibly be construction of Haffir (small pond) under SSNRMP, particularly for irrigation, these may not require special procedures to follow, as provided in the Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37. Haffirs are small water collection and storage ponds which do not involve construction of dams. Thus, the project does not trigger OP 4.37
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	None of the project activities will adversely change the quality or quantity of water flows to the White and Blue Nile and their tributaries. In addition, based on the fact that the small investments under the Project are unlikely to affect the overall hydrological balance of any of the international waterways or tributaries, this policy is not triggered under the SSNRMP.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	The policy is not triggered, as the project will not be implemented in disputed area.

E. Project Risks and Risk Mitigation

46. **Benefits and Risks.** Implementation risks are minimized overall due to the existing well-established institutional arrangement and capacities built under the SSNRMP. Project benefits are related to improved soil and water conservation practices and improved livelihood. Lessons learnt from project implementation that inform the design of the AF activities and are already being addressed through the ongoing project, but include the need for early community engagement in identification and implementation of project activities; the need to develop strategies on how to effectively engage all stakeholders, particularly communities, in project implementation; and that natural resources management in the dry areas is challenging and dependent on availability of rain. Alternative sources of water should be explored to make rehabilitation activities more reliable and sustainable.

Systematic Operations Risk-rating Tool

Risk Category	Rating
Political and Governance	Substantial
Macroeconomic	Substantial
Sector Strategies and Policies	Moderate
Technical Design of Project or Program	Moderate
Institutional Capacity for Implementation and Sustainability	Moderate
Fiduciary	Substantial
Environment and Social	Moderate
Stakeholders	Moderate
Other	--
Overall	Substantial

47. **Political and Governance.** The GoS's vision for reform and improved management of the sector is sound but complex and involves multiple levels of government and society, which need to work together

to address key priorities. The project will need to deliver tangible results to communities to sustain support for the overall change process.

48. *Proposed Mitigation Actions.* The issues of governance, vested interests and distorted incentives will be addressed by using technical criteria and technically-sound established institutional frameworks for making decisions on allocation of project support at project sites and including the project main stakeholders with special attention to the targeted communities.

F. Safeguard Preparation Plan

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ISDS:

May 15, 2017

Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing should be specified in the Appraisal-stage ISDS.

Between February 2017 and May 2017

G. Contact point

World Bank

Contact: John Bryant Collier

Title: Senior Natural Resources Mgmt. Spec.

Borrower/Client/Recipient

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Physical Development (MoEFPD)

H. Implementing Agencies

49. Ongoing implementation arrangements in the current project states will be adopted for the three new states – North Kordofan, White Nile and River Nile States respectively.

50. The MoENRPD will continue to have overall responsibility for the project's implementation. Through Memoranda of Understanding (MoU), certain specialized functions will be provided by partner organizations in coordination with MoENRPD. Partner organizations comprise RPA, WCGA, and FNC.

51. *Implementation at Federal Level:* The **Project Coordination Unit (PCU)**, based in the MoENRPD, will be responsible for carrying out the daily activities and overall supervision and coordination of the project implementation at all levels, including procurement and financial management. It will report to the PNSC and will be supported by relevant staff from the existing government agencies, hired consultants and others.

52. *Implementation at State and Community Level:* The **State Project Coordination Unit (SPCU)** will work *closely* with all the stakeholders at the State, local and community levels during the project implementation. The SPCU will report directly to the PCU based at MoENRPD. The composition of this unit will be tailored for each of the selected States: In Gezira and Kassala, the technical work will be headed by the State-level FNC Forest Director, while the State Director for Range and Pasture Administration will coordinate activities in White Nile State. These units will draw on technical, administrative and financial staff, as required, and be supported by a project State M&E coordinator. The Village Development Committees (VDCs) will assist to liaison the SPCU with the larger communities.

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Approval

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¹ Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.