ESMS Questionnaire & Screening Report - for field projects

This template has been designed for field projects. Another template using a simplified version of the ESMS Questionnaire is available for non-field projects such as projects which support policy making, strategy development or upstream planning processes or provide knowledge through capacity building or knowledge products. Very small projects such as organizing workshops, meeting or conferences, position papers, scientific paper, reports, preparation of scientific materials for subsequent use in conferences or communication are outside the scope of the ESMS and don't require the completion of the ESMS Questionnaire.

Project Data

The fields below are completed by the project proponent

Project Title:	Continental wetlands adaptation and resilience to climate change		
Project proponent:	IUCN		
Executing agency:	Mauritania National Great Green Wall Agency, Direction des Aires Protégées et du Littoral		
Funding agency:	GEF / LDCF		
Country:	Mauritania	Contract value (add currency):	4,449,541 (in $)
Start date and duration:	Project duration 48 months	Amount in CHF:	4.493.950
Has a safeguard screening or ESIA been done before?	☐ yes ☒ no	Provide details, if yes:	

Step 1: ESMS Questionnaire

The fields below are completed by the project proponent; the questionnaire is presented in Annex A

	Name and function of individual representing project proponent	Date
ESMS Questionnaire completed by:	Mohamed Lemine BABA, IUCN country representative Mauritania	14/03/2017
ESMS Screening is *(tick one of the three options)*	**1.** ☒ required because the project budget is ≥ CHF 500,000 **2.** ☐ required – despite being a small project (< CHF 500,000) the project proponent has identified risks when completing the ESMS Questionnaire **3.** ☐ not required because the project budget is < CHF 500,000 and the project proponent confirms that no environmental or social risks have been identified when completing the ESMS Questionnaire	

Step 2: ESMS Screening

To be completed by IUCN ESMS reviewer(s); only needed when the options 1 or 2 above (marked in red) are ticked

	Name	IUCN unit and function	Date
IUCN ESMS Reviewer:	Linda Klare	ESMS Coordinator	3.5.2017
	Awaiss Aboubacar	PACO - Water and Wetlands Program Coordinator	2.5.2017
	Title		Date
Documents submitted at Screening stage:	PIF		12.5.2015
	ESMS Screening Questionnaire		

ESMS Screening Report[1]	
Risk category:	☒ low risk ☐ moderate risk ☐ high risk
Rationale: Summarize findings from the questionnaire and explain the rationale of risk categorization *See the following sections of the questionnaire for details:* ***section A** for findings about the stakeholder engagement process,* ***Section B** on the 4 Standards,* ***Section C** on other E&S impacts and* ***Section D** on risk issues related to Climate change*	The project aims at restoring wetland ecosystems for climate change adaptation and resilience. Because these wetlands are important for pastoralist livelihoods, restoring these ecosystems is expected to generate not only environmental but also social benefits by reducing the vulnerability of pastoralists' livelihood to climate change. Further positive impacts are expected for the local population as the project will promote income generating activities aimed in particular to benefit vulnerable groups, women and young people. The project follows a participatory approach for resource management, evidenced, among others, through its objective to define and implement a participatory wetland management plan. This element was the subject of special consideration during the process of developing the national wetland strategy. The involvement of the communities living in the wetland sites and in particular the pastoral groups in defining the plan will allow addressing their needs and concerns and will also strengthen their ownership . While a few social risks have been identified (see section B and C), it is considered that these are either already addressed by the project or can be readily addressed when finalizing the detailed project design during the PPG phase. It should also be noted that a few issues as specified in sections B and C below deserve further analysis – to be included in the ToR of the PPG consultant(s). Environmental impacts are expected to be exclusively positive with one minor risk related to invasive species which is expected to be readily addressed through appropriate handling procedures (see section B4). Risks related to the project failing to appropriately address impacts from climate change are considered low as it is the project's explicit intention to reduce vulnerabilities to climate change. However, the PPG needs to ensure that climate scenarios and their impacts on water resources are well taken into consideration (see section D).
Required assessments	☐ Full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) ☐ Partial Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) ☐ Social Impact Assessment (SIA) ☒ Other: Socio-economic context analysis including gender
Required actions for gender mainstreaming	The PIF describes the project's intention to promote gender equality and indicates the plan to undertake, as part of project preparation, an assessment of needs of all men and women involved in the project. In order to improve gender responsive project design, the following recommendations are made by the screening team: • Undertake a targeted gender analysis – as integral part of the socio-economic context analysis of the selected intervention sites - to review the project and its context systematically on potential risks of affecting women as well as identifying opportunities for women empowerment. • Ensure ample consultation of women in gender analysis; • Examine gender roles in natural resources management, differences in access to and control over resources and women's representation in governance processes and bodies; • Identify needs, barriers and potential disadvantages women face; • Explore women's skills and knowledge specific to resource management and development opportunities;

[1] For projects below CHF 500,000 where no risks have been identified the screening report is completed by the project proponent; low risk projects don't require assessments - hence only the section on the rationale needs to be completed.

	• Integrate specific gender measures to address identified issues in the project design; this might include
	  o Measures to ensure equitable presence of women in advisory or decision-making bodies set up or supported by the project;
	  o Capacity building in identified technical areas or aiming more generally at empowering women;
	  o Measures to strengthen of women's rights, in particular related to ownership or access to land and other production factors;
	  o Measure to enhance the economic and social benefits to women; component 2 which aims at supporting alternative income generation offers ample opportunities for providing tangible benefits, e.g. related to market gardening, poultry farming, renewable energy for micro-economy, development of local products, ecotourism etc.
	• Provide gender specific indicators for the results framework.

ESMS Standards	**Trigger**	**Required tools or plans**
Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions *(see section B1 for details)*	☐ yes ☒ no ☐ TBD	☐ Resettlement Action Plan ☐ Resettlement Policy Framework ☐ Action Plan to Mitigate Impacts from Access Restriction ☐ Access Restrictions Mitigation Process Framework
Indigenous Peoples *(see section B2 for details)*	☐ yes ☐ no ☒ TBD	☐ Indigenous People Plan
Cultural Heritage *(see section B3 for details)*	☐ yes ☐ no ☒ TBD	☐ Chance Find Procedures
Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Natural Resources *(see section B4 for details)*	☐ yes ☒ no ☐ TBD	☐ Pest Management Plan

Annex A: ESMS Questionnaire

Project summary

To be completed by project proponent - Please summarise the project briefly using no more than one page. The summary can be in form of bullet points. Include goal/objectives, expected results/outcomes, outputs (project deliverables) and main activities.

Mauritanian wetlands ecosystems are facing increased vulnerability to climate variation because of climate variability itself and anthropic pressures. This generates a vicious circle towards the decline of wetlands and increased vulnerability for the related ecosystem and livelihoods. An appropriate response will include an approach encompassing both the restoration of wetlands ecosystem and activities that will reduce the vulnerability of livelihoods. The project will therefore promote an approach that will respond to the two types of causes highlighted above. It will respond to climate change by i) restoring the services wetlands provide to the environment with a special focus on the water resource, and ii) increasing the adaptive capacity of populations and livelihoods. The resilience of the wetlands themselves will provide co-benefits such as the conservation of biodiversity. This resilience of wetlands, which will allow for the maintenance and restoration of a biodiversity vital to a regional ecosystem, will help increase the resilience of pastoral populations and their capacity for adaptation. However, in order to achieve this, it is essential to regulate the use of wetlands by means of the appropriate participatory management plans, which involve all stakeholders concerned.

Project Objective: Restoration of wetland ecosystem for climate change adaptation and resilience		
Project Components	**Project Outcomes**	**Project Outputs**
Restoration and rehabilitation of wetlands	The functions linked to wetland ecosystem services are restored.	Up to 3 wetlands sites are restored taking into account climate change threats.
	Participatory management approaches are implemented.	Participatory management plans are established.
	Capacity building of the key stakeholders facilitates the decentralized management of the selected wetlands.	Key stakeholders at the Government and local communities' level are trained to enable decentralized management of wetlands.
Improvement of the resilience and the capacity for adaptation of populations living near to wetlands	Diversification of the income of local populations and support for activities generating income to benefit vulnerable groups, notably women and young people (small-scale irrigation, drip irrigation, improved fishing and fish transformation techniques on a village scale, fodder production, beekeeping, small-scale renewable energy installations).	Local communities benefit from management plans enabling the diversification of activities and more resilient livelihoods to climate change variations.
	Local populations and stakeholders are aware of the degradation of wetlands, the causes of this degradation, the effect of climate change on wetlands and conservation measures to counter it.	Key stakeholders in local communities are trained to diversified activities.
	Building the capacity of village communities.	Diversified income generating activities are disseminated and adopted by local communities.
Wetland knowledge management and monitoring / assessment	Improved understanding of the status of and trends in the wetlands.	Database sensing all Mauritania wetlands and their key characteristics (including biodiversity status) is functional.
	Use is made of an operational geographic information system and a database for Mauritanian wetlands.	A geographical information system is established and functional.
	Increased understanding of the effects of climate change on wetland biodiversity and ecosystems.	Local communities and stakeholders are involved in training on disseminating climate change knowledge on wetlands.
Project communication, monitoring and assessment	Communication.	At least a six-monthly newsletter informing on project status is prepared and sent (# recipients to be determined).
	Monitoring and assessment of the project and dissemination of the results.	Monitoring and evaluation system is in place and updated with adequate indicators linked to both IUCN and GEF respective M&E tools.

A. Process of stakeholder engagement during project conceptualization

1. Has a project stakeholder analysis been carried out and documented – identifying not only interests, needs and influence of stakeholders but also whether there are any stakeholders that might be affected by the project? Does the stakeholder analysis disaggregate between women and men, where relevant and feasible? It is recommended to add the stakeholder analysis to the documents submitted at screening stage.

To be completed by project proponent

No formal stakeholder analysis has been carried out at this stage of the project design. Once the final project sites are determined, a comprehensive stakeholder analyses will be conducted, taking into account the interests, needs and influence of all stakeholders potentially affected by the project and disaggregated between women and men where relevant.

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It is understood that the analysis will require having first decided on the sites. The analysis should be done at the outset of the PPG phase in order to guide stakeholder consultation and particular needs assessments to be carried out during that phase. It will be important to distinguish the interests, needs and potential negative impacts or risks of women. The proponent is encouraged to involve stakeholders (political decision makers, CSO and local communities etc.) into the site selection process.

2. Has information about the project – and about potential risks or negative impacts – been shared with relevant groups? Have consultations been held with relevant groups to discuss the project concept and risks? Provide details about the groups involved. Have women been consulted (provide details)? Did the consultations include stakeholders that were identified as potentially affected? Has this been done in a culturally appropriate way to allow meaningful engagement of women and of potentially affected groups? Have results from the consultations been taken up and influenced project design?

To be completed by project proponent

Within the framework of this project, IUCN and the Government's executive agency – the National Agency for the Great Green Wall - have held consultation meetings as part of the preparation of this project, with the livestock keepers' associations in eastern Mauritania, nature conservation NGOs that have particular expertise on wetlands (the IUCN Member organizations Naforé and Nature Mauritanie), and technicians from organizations for development and cooperation as well as universities. Since one of the project's objectives was the definition and implementation of a participatory wetland management plan, the involvement of populations living around wetlands and pastoral populations in particular, is a condition for the success of this project. IUCN recognizes the need to involve NGOs and civil society in ecosystem restoration, conservation and management measures. IUCN and the executive agency appointed by the Government for this project agreed on the involvement of NGOs recognized in Mauritania for wetland management. IUCN will also involve Mauritania's civil society through these technical networks (in the field of ecosystem management, or social policies and practices) that cover West Africa. Further information on the civil society actors who may become partners in the project's implementation, will be listed during the project preparation stage, with a view to sending a request for their endorsement to the CEO of the Global Environment Facility (GEF). Moreover, the local groups and livestock farmers' associations will be involved in the preparatory process and the implementation of the project through its components 1 (within the framework of the establishment of the participatory wetland management methods) and 2 (within the framework of the measures to diversify income and raise awareness about the degradation of wetlands).

The project will be defined and implemented in line with the gender integration procedures used by IUCN in all its projects and activities. The project will be prepared by analyzing the needs of all the men and women involved in the implementation of the project. The actions implemented are aimed at favoring equality between men and women, both with regard to the project's expected benefits and in its implementation on a daily basis. Numerous consultations will be carried out in order to define the characteristics and requirements that will need to be taken into account to ensure gender equality in this project.

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Consultation of stakeholders is important for good project design; however, for the ESMS stakeholder engagement comes yet with another angle: to ensure that groups that might be affected by the project (e.g. by promoting changes of resource management regimes) are appropriately involved so that they can voice their concerns at an early stage of project design and that measures are identified to mitigation potential negative impacts. It is understood that so far no negative social impacts have been identified, but the PPG team should ensure that the social context is appropriately analysed, potential concerns are perceived and that affected groups, if any, are involved in the design of relevant project activities. The intention for mainstreaming gender is well received. During the PPG these intentions need to be concretized through focussed activities and clear indicators.

B. Potential impacts related to ESMS standards			
B1: Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions			
	Project proponent		**IUCN ESMS Reviewer**
	Yes,no, n/a,TBD	*Answer question, provide further detail where relevant*	*Comments, additional considerations*
1. Will / might the project involve relocation or resettlement of people? **if yes, answer a-b below**	TBD	*Shaded cells do not need to be filled out*	
a. Describe the project activities that require resettlement?		The populations' transition towards a more sedentary way of life, which is happening without adequate planning, has had negative impacts on the ecosystem functioning of the wetlands and their natural resources. Depending on the choice of the final project sites, some of the projects' restoration activities might demand an improved spatial planning and thus, a relocation of people may become necessary. However, the project will not cause any major physical displacement of people. In addition to that, any relocation will be for the benefit of the population in order to reduce the vulnerability of their livelihoods and to increase their adaptation capacity to cope with the effects of climate change.	In general projects should be designed in a way to avoid relocation of people by all means given that such process require managing comprehensive and complex processes involving extensive stakeholder consultation, FPIC and planning and implementation of compensation processes. It should also be pointed out that not infrequently what supposedly seems as beneficial change might be ambiguous and also perception might change over time; physical places where people live are deeply rooted in people's livelihoods, culture, and identity and implementation of relocation process is often challenged by a number of challenges (e.g. problem of available land, dissatisfaction with compensation package, expectations not materialized etc.). Hence, relocation should be the last resort.
b. Have alternative project design options for avoiding resettlement been rigorously considered?		TBD during the project preparation phase and the identification of the final project sites.	
2. Does the project include activities that involve restricting access to land or natural resources? (e.g., establishing new restrictions, strengthening enforcement capacities through training, infrastructure, equipment or other means, promoting village patrolling etc.); **if yes, answer a-g below**	Yes		
3. Does the project include activities that involve changes in the use and management regimes of natural resources? **if yes, answer a-g below**	Yes		
4. Does the project create situations that make physical access more difficult to livelihood resources (e.g. to multiple use zones, to schools or medical services etc.)? **if yes, answer a-g below**	TBD		
Answer only if you answered yes to items 2, 3, or 4.			
a. Describe project activities that involve restrictions.		The project will allow a participatory wetland management system to be set up with validated development plans and for it to be implemented in the selected sites (zoning, setting up of decision-making bodies, local regulations, management measures to deal with wetland use conflict). Such participatory management systems will enable the relevant stakeholders to plan and effectively manage in a sustainable way the use and access to wetlands and their natural resources. Any restrictions on access to land or natural	Project trigger the access restriction element of the Standard mostly in situations where restrictions are established under formal and statutory frameworks (e.g. legal framework for protected area) and peoples and communities are then obliged to adhere to these land-use rules. Situations where communities establish resource use regimes themselves for the purpose of sustaining long-term use of the resources, are usually not considered under this Standard; this is because the restrictions are based on own decisions and are not

		resources will therefore jointly be determined by the relevant stakeholders with the objective to restore the biodiversity and maximize the benefits of the use of the natural resources of the wetlands.	imposed on them by third parties. However, the ESMS still requires that project management can ensure that such community decisions process is adequate and reflects voluntary, informed consensus, and that appropriate measures have been put in place to mitigate adverse impacts, if any, on the vulnerable members of the community.
b. Explain the project's level of influence: will it define restrictions, put in place restrictions, strengthen enforcement capacities or promote restrictions indirectly (e.g., through awareness building measures or policy advice)?		Participatory wetland management system with validated development plans will be set up and implemented in the selected sites (zoning, setting up of decision-making bodies, local regulations, management measures to deal with wetland use conflict). In addition to that, the project will allow the introduction of a legislative framework regulating wetlands on a national level (establishing that each zone should have its own development plan), whilst increasing the local stakeholders' capacity and knowledge of wetland management. Key stakeholders at the Government and local communities' level will therefore be trained to enable decentralized management of wetlands. The project will also help raise the awareness of local populations and stakeholders about the degradation of wetlands, the causes of this degradation and conservation measures (involving local populations and know-how), in order to create a citizen movement in favor of the sustainable use of wetlands in Mauritania.	
c. Has the existing legal framework regulating land tenure and access to natural resource (incl. traditional rights) been analysed, broken down by different groups including women, if applicable?		The project will be developed within the framework of the implementation of the national strategy for the conservation of wetlands, prepared thanks to the technical advice by IUCN Mauritania and financed by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and approved by the Government in October 2014. The project will help to develop a legislative framework to manage wetland ecosystems in a participatory way including all groups involved.	To be addressed by the PPG consultant(s).
d. Explain whether the country's existing laws recognise traditional rights for land and natural resources; are there any groups at the project site whose rights are not recognised?		TBD with the final selection of the project sites.	To be addressed by the PPG consultant(s).
e. Have the implications of access restrictions on people's livelihoods been analysed, by social group? Explain who might be affected and describe the impacts. Distinguish social groups (incl. vulnerable groups, indigenous peoples) and men and women.		TBD with the final selection of the project sites. However, any possible restrictions will be jointly developed by all stakeholders concerned. In addition to that, the project is helping to diversify the income of local populations and supporting activities generating income for the benefit of vulnerable groups, notably women and young people.	Assessing the implications of use restrictions should be addressed by PPG consultant(s), including assessing local uses of natural resources.
f. Will the project include measures to minimise adverse impacts or to compensate for loss of access? If yes, specify measures. Are they feasible, culturally appropriate and gender inclusive?		TBD with the final selection of the project sites. In order to reduce the pressure of the surrounding communities in the wetlands, the project promotes the	To be addressed by the PPG consultant(s).

		diversification of income for the local communities as well as the promotion of sustainable practices related to the management and use of forest and water resources specifically. The project will help implement activities leading to the diversification of income for local populations through support for income-generating activities through the promotion of alternative production (market gardening, poultry farming, renewable energy for the micro-economy, etc.) and the improvement of other traditional crops as well as the enhancement and development of local products (e.g.: timber products, market garden produce, fish, the promotion of ecotourism, etc.) and local crafts (local production of improved cooking stoves). Special focus is given on activities generating income for vulnerable groups, notably women and young people (small-scale irrigation, drip irrigation, improved fishing and fish transformation techniques on a village scale, fodder production, beekeeping, small-scale renewable energy installations).	
g. Has any process been started or implemented to obtain free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) from groups affected by restrictions?		TBD with the final selection of the project sites. However, the project design implies a participatory approach involving all stakeholders concerned.	FPIC is only required when the standard is triggered.
5. Is there a risk that the project might negatively affect current land tenure arrangements or community-based property rights to resources, land, or territories through measures other than access restrictions?	No	The project is taking into account good practices of current land use management regimes to develop participative and sustainable management plans.	
6. Has any project partner in the past been involved in activities related to forced eviction, resettlement or access restrictions?	No		

Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer[2] on the Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions		
Standard triggered? Yes / No / TBD - Explain why	NO	The Standard is not triggered as the project does not involve involuntary resettlement or access restrictions established under formal and statutory frameworks. However, as communities might themselves establish resource use regimes for the purpose of sustaining long-term use of the resources, care has to be taken by the project to avoid that this leads to adverse social impacts. Hence, it needs to be ensured that such community decisions process is adequate and reflects voluntary, informed consensus, and that appropriate measures have been put in place to mitigate adverse impacts, if any, on the vulnerable members of the community. This should be appropriately reflected in the project concept through the formulation of project activities and/or principles or by providing explicit methodological guidance.
Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assesed? Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient?		

[2] If the project budget is < CHF 500,000 this field (and the equivalent fields below) needs to be completed by the project proponent (instead of the IUCN ESMS Reviewer).

B2: Standard on Indigenous Peoples[3]			
	Project proponent		**IUCN ESMS Reviewer**
	Yes,no, n/a,TBD	*Answer question, provide further detail where relevant*	*Comments, additional considerations*
1. Is the project located in an area inhabited by indigenous peoples, tribal peoples or other traditional peoples or to which these groups have a collective attachment? **If yes, answer questions a-j**	No		To be on the safe side this should be addressed by the PPG consultant(s).
2. If indigenous peoples do not occupy land within the project's geographical area, could the project still affect their rights and livelihood? **If yes, answer questions a-j**	No		
Answer only if you answered yes to 1 or 2 above.			
a. Name the groups; distinguish, if applicable, the geographical areas of their presence and influence (including the areas of resource use) and how these relate to the project site.			
b. What are the key characteristics that qualify the identified groups as indigenous groups?			
c. How does the host country's Government refer to these groups (e.g., indigenous peoples, minorities, tribes etc.)?			
d. How do these groups identify themselves?			
e. Is there a risk that the project affects indigenous peoples' livelihood through access restrictions? While this is covered under the Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions, if yes, please specify the indigenous groups affected.	No	No indigenous groups will be affected.	
f. Is there a risk that the project affects indigenous peoples' material or non-material livelihoods in ways other than access restrictions (e.g., in terms of self-determination, cultural identity, values and practices)?	No		
g. Is there a risk that the project affects specific vulnerable groups within indigenous communities (for example, women, girls, elders)?	No		
h. Does the project involve the use or commercial development of natural resources on lands or territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No		
i. Does the project intend to promote the use of indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge?	No		
j. Has any process been started or implemented to achieve the free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) of indigenous peoples to activities directly affecting their lands/territories/resources?			
k. Are some of the indigenous groups living in voluntary isolation? If yes, how have they been consulted? How are their rights respected?	No		

[3]The coverage of indigenous peoples includes: (i) peoples who identify themselves as "indigenous" in strict sense; (ii) tribal peoples whose social, cultural, and economic conditions distinguish them from other sections of the national community, and whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws or regulations; and (iii) traditional peoples not necessarily called indigenous or tribal but who share the same characteristics of social, cultural, and economic conditions that distinguish them from other sections of the national community, whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions, and whose livelihoods are closely connected to ecosystems and their goods and services

l. Explain whether opportunities are considered to provide benefits for indigenous peoples? If yes, is it ensured that this is done in a culturally appropriate and gender inclusive way?			

Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on the Standard on Indigenous Peoples		
Standard triggered? Yes / No / TBD - Explain why	No	An initial assessment has not indicated any conditions that would trigger the Standard. However, once the project intervention sites are selected the PPG consultant(s) should verify whether there is any presence of indigenous peoples, tribal peoples or other traditional peoples as defined in footnote 3. If presence was confirmed, potential impacts on their social or economic livelihood should be assessed and, where relevant, addressed by mitigation measures.
Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assesed? Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient?		

B3: Standard on Cultural Heritage[4]			
	Project proponent		**IUCN ESMS Reviewer**
	Yes,no, n/a,TBD	*Answer question, provide further detail where relevant*	*Comments, additional considerations*
1. Is the project located in or near a site officially designated or proposed as a cultural heritage site (e.g., UNESCO World Cultural or Mixed Heritage Sites, or Cultural Landscapes) or a nationally designated site for cultural heritage protection? **if yes, answer a-d below**	No		
2. Does the project area harbour cultural resources such as tangible, movable or immovable cultural resources with archaeological, historical, cultural, artistic, religious, spiritual or symbolic value for a nation, people or community (e.g., burial sites, buildings, monuments or cultural landscapes)? **if yes, answer a-d below**	No		
3. Does the project area harbour a natural feature or resource with cultural, spiritual or symbolic significance for a nation, people or community associated with that feature (e.g., sacred natural sites, ceremonial areas or sacred species)? **if yes, answer a-d below**	No		To be on the safe side this should be addressed by the PPG consultant(s).
a. Will the project involve infrastructure development or small civil works such as roads, levees, dams, slope restoration, landslides stabilisation or buildings such as visitor centre, watch tower?			
b. Will the project involve excavation or movement of earth, flooding or physical environmental changes (e.g., as part of ecosystem restoration)?			
c. Is there a risk that physical interventions described in items a. and b. might affect known or unknown (e.g., buried) cultural resources?			
d. Does the project plan to restrict local users' access to known cultural resources or natural features with cultural, spiritual or symbolic significance?			

[4] Cultural heritage is defined as tangible, movable or immovable cultural resource or site with paleontological, archaeological, historical, cultural, artistic, religious, spiritual or symbolic value for a nation, people or community, or natural feature or resource with cultural, religious, spiritual or symbolic significance for a nation, people or community associated with that feature.

4. Will the project promote the use or development of economic benefits from cultural resources or natural features with cultural significance?	No		

Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on the Standard on Cultural Heritage		
Standard triggered? Yes / No / TBD - Explain why	TBD	The project does not intend to reduce access to cultural sites or develop benefits form cultural resources but there is a small risk that civil works/ infrastructure might affect physical cultural resources. To be on the safe site the existence of such resources or potential or encountering buried ones will be determined during the PPG phase.
Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assesed? Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient?		

B4: Standard on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources			
	Project proponent		**IUCN ESMS Reviewer**
	Yes,no, n/a,TBD	*Answer question, provide further detail where relevant*	*Comments, additional considerations*
1. Is the project located in or near areas legally protected or officially proposed for protection including reserves according to IUCN Protected Area Management Categories I - VI, UNESCO Natural World Heritage Sites, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands? **If yes, provide details on the protection status and answer questions a-d**	Yes	The only protected area on the preliminary list of potential project sites is the Ramsar site: Lake Gabou and the hydrographic network of the Tagant plateau.	
2. Is the project located in or near to areas recognised for their high biodiversity value and protected as such by indigenous peoples or other local users? **If yes, provide details and answer questions a-d**	No		
3. Is the project located in/near to areas which are not covered in existing protection systems but identified by authoritative sources for their high biodiversity value[5]? **If yes, provide details and answer questions a-d**	Yes	Mauritanian inland wetlands are havens of biodiversity due to the habitat they provide to both the fauna (aquatic, terrestrial and migratory) and flora found there. These sites are of vital importance for the trans-Saharan migration of certain Palearctic migratory species. They are also important wintering areas for a number of rare threatened European species such as the Egyptian vulture and storks. The survival of relict populations of the West African crocodile (threatened species according to IUCN Red List of Threatened Species) and a number of other species of reptiles and large mammals, from the Sudanian domain, largely depends on the management of the wetlands.	
Answer only if you answered yes to items 1, 2, or 3 above.			

[5] Areas important to threatened species according to IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, important to endemic or restricted-range species or to migratory and congregatory species; areas representing key evolutionary processes, providing connectivity with other critical habitats or key ecosystem services; highly threatened and/or unique ecosystems (e.g. to be determined in future by the evolving IUCN Red List of Ecosystems); areas identified as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) and subsets such as important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs), important Plant Areas (IPAs), important Sites for Freshwater Biodiversity or Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites.

a. If the project aims to establish or expand the protected area (PA), is there a risk of adverse impacts caused by the project on natural resources on areas beyond the PA?	n/a		
b. If the project aims at changing management of a PA, is there a risk of adverse direct and indirect impacts on other components of biodiversity?	No		
c. If the project plans any infrastructure for PA management or visitor use (e.g., watch tower, tourisms facilities, access roads), is there a risk of adverse impacts on biodiversity (consider the construction and use phases)?	No		
d. If the project promotes ecotourism, is there a risk of adverse impacts to biodiversity, e.g., due to water/waste disposal, disturbance of flora/fauna, overuse of sites, slope erosion etc.)?	No		The project might promote ecotourism; however negative impacts on biodiversity related to tourist frequenting place of high biodiversity value (e.g. disturbance of nesting areas) seem very low.
4. Will the project introduce or translocate species as a strategy for species conservation or ecosystem restoration (e.g. erosion control, dune stabilisation or reforestation)? **If yes, provide details and answer questions a-d**	Yes	Measures will be taken to reduce silting up and erosion and to stabilize dunes. Finally, based on IUCN's work, in particular the Red List of Threatened Species and actions undertaken elsewhere in Mauritania (Diawling National Park) and in the Sahel region, actions will be carried out aimed at regenerating flora and plant cover by means of the reintroduction of local, indigenous plants to wetlands, and afforestation with local species, which are more resilient to climate change.	
5. Does the project involve plantation development or production of living natural resources (e.g., agriculture, animal husbandry or aquaculture)? **If yes, provide details and answer questions a-d**	Yes	The project promotes the diversification of income for the local communities through the promotion of alternative production (market gardening, poultry farming, etc.).	
Answer only if you answered yes to items 4 or 5 above.			
a. Does this project involve non-native species or is there a risk of introducing non-native species inadvertently?	No	In order to restore flora and plant cover, local, indigenous plants to wetlands are reintroduced and afforestation with local species which are more resilient to climate change. Market gardening activities will be supported by the improvement of traditional crops.	To be on the safe side the project should establish a protocol to guide species selection and should not promote permanent, stagnant water regimes. While it is understood that the project generally favors native species, in case where non-native species are deemed beneficial, the project must establish a technical protocol allowing the introduction of the non-natives species. This should be done in cooperation with the national research and academic institutions for better monitoring and surveillance of the process. In the field, technical services will need to justify this choice of the species and to control the context of their production and their introduction. Given the pastoral needs, particular attention will be given by the project to the regime of the concerned wetlands.
b. If a.is yes, is there a risk that these species might develop invasive behaviour?	No		
c. Is there a risk that the project might create other pathways for spreading invasive species (e.g. through creation of corridors, introduction of	No		

faciliatory species, import of commodities, tourism or movement of boats)?			
d. Is there a risk that species introduction causes adverse impacts on local people's livelihood?	No		
6. Is there a risk that the project negatively affects water flows on-site or downstream (including increases or decreases in peak and flood flows and low flows) through extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water (e.g., through dams, reservoirs, canals, levees, river basin developments, groundwater extraction) or through other activities?	No	The project aims at maintaining and restoring water flows.	
7. If the project involves civil works or infrastructure development outside areas of high biodiversity value, is there a risk of significant impact on biodiversity?	No		
8. Is there a risk that the project negatively affects water dynamics, river connectivity or the hydrological cycle in ways other than direct changes of water flows (e.g., water infiltration and aquifer recharge, sedimentation)? Also consider reforestation projects as originators of such impacts.	No		
9. Is there a risk that the project affects water quality of waterways (e.g., through diffuse water pollution from agricultural run-off or other activities)?	No		
10. Is there a risk that the project affects ecosystem functions and services not covered above, in particular those on which local communities depend for their livelihoods?	No	The project will promote an approach that will respond to anthropogenic and climate change induced pressures by i) restoring the services wetlands provide to the environment with a special focus on the water resource, and ii) increasing the adaptive capacity of populations and livelihoods. The resilience of the wetlands themselves will provide co-benefits such as the conservation of biodiversity. This resilience of wetlands, will allow for the maintenance and restoration of a biodiversity vital to a regional ecosystem, which will help increase the resilience of pastoral populations and their capacity for adaptation.	
11. In case the project promotes the use of living natural resources (e.g., by proposing production systems or harvest plans), is there a risk that this might lead to unsustainable use of resources?	No		
12. Does the project intend to use pesticides, fungicides or herbicides (biocides)? **If yes, provide details and answer questions a-b**	No		
a. Have alternatives to the use of biocides been rigorously considered or tested?			
b. Has a pest management plan been established?			
13. In case the project intends to use biological pest management techniques, is there a risk of adversely affecting biodiversity?	n/a		
14. Is there a risk that the project will cause adverse environmental impacts in a wider area of influence (landscape/ watershed, regional or global levels)	No		

including transboundary impacts?			
15. Is there a risk that consequential developments triggered by the project will have adverse impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services? Is there a risk of adverse cumulative impacts generated together with other known or planned projects in the sites?	No	The project is in line with the national strategy for the conservation of wetlands in Mauritania approved in October 2014. It will be the first project to be approved within the framework of this strategy. Coordination will abe held with relevant projects active in areas related to wetland conservation and management. First, project activities will be coordinated with all the wetland protection and conservation projects implemented on the Mauritanian coastline, as well as all the technical and financial partners working on the wetlands or on a subject that has an impact on their evolution. This will help ensure that the appropriate procedures are put in place for dealing with the coastal and continental wetlands in an integrated manner. This coordination among coastal and inland initiative will contribute to ensure that species conservation through the enhanced resilience of wetlands ecosystems to climate change is made in coherent manner. Also, the project will be prepared in collaboration with the following projects: “Development of an improved and innovative delivery system for climate resilient livelihoods” (LDCF/UNEP) and “Improving climate resilience of water sector investments with appropriate climate adaptive activities for pastoral and forestry resources in Southern Mauritania” (LDCF/AfDB), “Support to the adaptation of vulnerable agricultural production systems in Mauritania” (LDCF/IFAD), the “Mauritania Sustainable Land, water and forest management project “ (GEF/World Bank). Close coordination will be established between the project and the MAVA Foundation, which is one of the Mauritanian Government’s key partners in the conservation of the biodiversity of these wetlands, in particular those located on the coastline. The MAVA Foundation will be associated with the project through a specific initiative on sustainable management and conservation of the biodiversity of continental wetlands.	Agreed, but we should see what the PPG phase will come up with in terms of other current or planned activities taking place by other institutions at the sites. PPG consultant(s) should recommend the local coordination and partnerships needed for each site, to ensure that all actions will be mutually reinforcing (and not mutually contradicting) or triggering adverse cumulative ecological impacts.

Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on the Standard on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources		
Standard triggered? Yes / No / TBD - Explain why	No	The Standard is not triggered as impacts on biodiversity are expected to be exclusively positive. There is a low risk of minor impacts related to restoration/reforestation (invasive species), which can be readily addressed through appropriate handling to be described in the project document.
Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assesed? Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient?		

C. Other social or environmental impacts			
C1: Other social impacts			
	Project proponent		**IUCN ESMS Reviewer**
	Yes,no, n/a,TBD	*Answer question, provide further detail where relevant*	*Comments, additional considerations*
1. Is there a risk that the project affects human rights (e.g., right to self-determination, to education, to health, or cultural rights) – other than those of indigenous peoples which are dealt with in the previous standard? Differentiate between women and men, where applicable.	No		
2. Is there a risk that the project creates or aggravates inequalities between women and men or adversely impacts the situation or livelihood conditions of women or girls?	No		While it is understood that the project intends to promote gender equality, it is nevertheless recommended that the potential of unintended impacts on women is looked at in detail once the sites are selected - as part of a targeted gender analysis. This should include analysing roles played by women and men in natural resources use and management and gender differences in access to, use of and control over resources, women's representation in governance processes and potential barrier to participation (general but specifically to project activities).
3. Explain whether the project use opportunities to secure and, when appropriate, enhance the economic, social and environmental benefits to women?		Special attention is given to activities generating alternative income for vulnerable groups, notably women and young people (small-scale irrigation, drip irrigation, improved fishing and fish transformation techniques on a village scale, fodder production, beekeeping, small-scale renewable energy installations).	When designing income generating activities, the PPG team needs to ensure appropriate involvement of women and other targeted groups.
4. Explain whether the project provide, when appropriate and consistent with national policy, for measures that strengthen women's rights and access to land and resources?			The project is in line with its objectives in the implementation of the national wetland conservation strategy and more particularly in its priority actions where the right of access to resources is a guarantee of success for any action aimed at improving the livelihoods of local populations.
5. Is there a risk that the project benefits women and men in unequal terms that cannot be justified as affirmative action?[6]	No		
6. Is there a risk that the project might negatively affect vulnerable groups[7] in terms of material or non-material livelihood conditions or contribute to their discrimination or marginalisation (only issues not captured in any of the sections above)?	No		To be addressed by the PPG consultant(s).
7. Is there a risk that the project would stir or exacerbate conflicts among communities, groups or individuals? Also consider dynamics of recent or expected migration	Yes	The measures for the regulation and use of wetland ecosystem services risk generating frustration in some users. However, the projects' participative approach for the development,	There might be a low risk in case benefits provided by the project might be distributed in a way that is considered by some groups as not fair. The project should avoid any

[6] Affirmative action is a measure designed to overcome prevailing inequalities by favouring members of a disadvantaged group who suffer from discrimination. However, if not designed appropriately these measures could aggravate the situation of ä previously advantaged groups leading to conflicts and social unrest.

[7] Depending on the context vulnerable groups could be landless, elderly, disabled or displaced people, children, ethnic minorities, people living in poverty, marginalised or discriminated individuals or groups.

including displaced people.		adoption and implementation of the management plans will enable a joint understanding and help to prevent conflicts among stakeholders.	conflicts arising from such perceptions by informing relevant stakeholders about the grievance mechanism. To be added as note to the ToR of the PPG phase.
8. Is there a risk that the project affects community health and safety (incl. risks of spreading diseases, human–wildlife conflicts)?	No		
9. Is there a risk that a water resource management project could lead to an outbreak of water-related disease?	No		To be addressed by the PPG consultant(s).
10. Might the project be directly or indirectly involved in forced labour and/or child labour?	No		
11. Is the project likely to induce immigration or significant increases in population density which might trigger environmental or social problems (with special consideration to women)?	Yes	The restoration of the wetlands is expected to enhance the services they provide to the environment itself but also to human related activities. This may generate of risk of increased migration towards wetlands and therefore increased pressure. The projects' component 1 will therefore specifically enable the creation of management plans that are specific to the management and use of wetlands. Such management plans will integrate this risk into their recommendations and will contribute to ensuring that use and access to wetlands is managed according to relevant stakeholders' need and considering environmental limits and the socio-economy of the zone.	To be addressed by the PPG consultant(s).
12. Is there a risk that the project could negatively affect the livelihoods of local communities indirectly or through cumulative (due to interaction with other projects or activities, current or planned) or transboundary impacts?	No		The project works at two angles, promoting approaches to restore wetlands ecosystem and activities that will reduce the vulnerability of livelihoods. In fact, one criterion for selecting the final sites is high population level combined with high livelihoods dependence on natural resources. Despite the intention to improve vulnerabilities, social impacts might occur inadvertently, e.g due to a lack of comprehensive knowledge of social systems. Therefore the need for a diligent analysis of the socio-economic context during the PPG phase.
13. Is there a risk that the project affects the operation of dams or other built water infrastructure (reservoirs, irrigation systems, canals) e.g., by changing flows into those structures? If yes, has an inventory of existing water resources infrastructures in the project area been compiled and potential impacts analysed?	No	The project activities will help to restore the water flow in the wetlands.	To be looked at by the PPG consultant(s).
14. Are there any statutory requirements for social impact assessments in the host country the project needs to adhere to?	No		
15. Is there a risk that the project might conflict with existing legal social frameworks including traditional frameworks and norms?	No	All stakeholders concerned will be involved in the development of participatory management plans.	The PPG team need to provide an overview of relevant legislation, if any.

C2: Other environmental impacts			
	Project proponent		**IUCN ESMS Reviewer**
	Yes,no, n/a,TBD	*Answer question, provide further detail where relevant*	*Comments, additional considerations*
1. Will the project lead to increased waste production, in particular hazardous waste?	No		
2. Is the project likely to cause pollution or degradation of soil, soil erosion or siltation?	No	Measures will be taken to reduce silting up and erosion and to stabilize dunes in order to maintain and restore water flows.	
3. Might the project cause pollution to air or create other nuisances such as dust, traffic, noise or odour?	No		
4. Will the project lead to significant increases of greenhouse gas emissions?	No	The project will help to reduce GHG emissions	
5. Is there a risk that the project triggers consequential development activities which could lead to adverse environmental impacts, cumulative impacts due to interaction with other projects (current or planned) or to transboundary impacts (consider only issues not captured under the Biodiversity Standard)?	No		
6. Are there any statutory requirements for environmental impact assessments in the host country the project needs to adhere to?	No		
7. Is there a risk that the project might conflict with existing environmental regulations?	No		
Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on other Social or Environmental Impacts			
Are any significant negative environmental or social risks expected?	no	The project is expected to have environmental and social impacts that are highly positive overall. Some areas, however, deserve a more detailed examination to be undertaken during the PPG phase when analysing the environmental and socio-economic context of the selected sites (see comments above). The context analysis should include a special focus on gender which will allow identifying specific needs or risks; it will also provide the basis for addressing potential disadvantages and historical gender biases assuring a gender responsive project design.	
Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assesed? Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient?			

D. Climate change risks (Risks caused by a failure to adequately take the effects of climate change on people and ecosystem into consideration)			
	Project proponent		**IUCN ESMS Reviewer**
	Yes,no, n/a,TBD	*Answer question, provide further detail where relevant*	*Comments, additional considerations*
1. Have the historical, current, and future trends in climate variability and change including climate sensitivity[8] been analysed in the project area?	No	Climate variability is a key element of the decline of inland wetlands in Mauritania. The main direct and indirect impacts of climate variability and change on Mauritania's major development sectors were identified during the vulnerability and adaptation studies conducted as part of the preparation of the CNI, PANA, SCN and TCN (May 2014). These impacts were identified through the combination of objective and factual observations, consultations and information sources from local knowledge in the field and a few presumptions of causality backed by current scientific knowledge.	
2. Is the project area prone to specific climate hazards (e.g., floods, droughts, wildfires, landslides, cyclones, storm surges, etc.)?	Yes	Droughts, bush fires, desertification, erosion, land degradation, lags in the commencement and ending of the rainy season, pockets of drought during the rainy season, decrease in the length of both the rainy season and farming season	
3. Are changes in biophysical conditions in the project area triggered by climate change expected to impact people's livelihoods? Are some groups more susceptible than others (e.g., women or vulnerable groups)?	Yes	In Mauritania, wetlands and pastoralist livelihoods are intimately related. A decline in the environment status of wetlands affects livelihoods. Since wetlands are a key determinant of pastoralist livelihoods, the decline of these ecosystems due to climate change has direct consequences on the life of pastoralists who are therefore extremely vulnerable to climate change. It is estimated that direct impact of climate change on pastoral resources includes a decrease in the production of fodder, which constitutes the basic cattle feed and is heavily dependent on climatic conditions, particularly on rainfall. Also, ponds may dry-up as a result and prose problems for livestock watering. Grasslands are likely to decrease and access to livestock feed may be difficult, due to pastures degradation and insufficiency. The indirect and socio-economic impacts of climate change on pastoral resources will be reflected by high cattle and meat prices resulting from reduced supply stemming from livestock mortalities caused by droughts/floods; the conversions of a large number of nomadic herders into settlers breeders; a decline in the incomes of stockbreeders; and a change in the composition of herds through the gradual replacement of cattle by small ruminants and camels.	

[8] Sensitivity is the degree to which a system can be affected, negatively or positively, by climate-related stimuli. IPCC, 2001

		The project's focus on wetlands will contribute to ensure that these ecosystems are maintained through some specific activities as a response to the climate change threats they are subject to. The project is also additional to the work on wetlands in Mauritania overall (inland and continental) where the response to climate change is limited and concentrated to coastal areas. Without the project, there would be no responses to climate change threats in inland Mauritania.	
4. Is there a risk that climate variability and changes might affect the effectiveness of project activities or the sustainability of intended changes?	Yes	The project's objective is to restore wetland ecosystems for climate change adaptation and resilience. However, existing water resources are vital to achieve the projects outcomes.	The PPG consultant(s) should review available information about different climate scenarios and their impacts on water resources and analyse risks or implications for project activities.
5. Could project activities potentially increase the vulnerability of local communities to current or future climate variability and changes?	No	The project helps to improve the resilience and the capacity for adaptation of populations living near to wetlands.	
6. Could project activities potentially increase the vulnerability of the local ecosystem to current or future climate variability and changes?	No	The project's objective is to restore wetland ecosystems for climate change adaptation and resilience.	
7. Is there a risk that the project might lead to climate maladaptation[9] through yielding short-term benefits while increasing longer-term climate risks?	No		
8. Explain whether the project seek opportunities to enhance the adaptive capacity of communities and ecosystem to climate change?		This project, focusing on inland wetlands adaptation and resilience considers biodiversity and ecosystem conservation in order to generate adaptation benefits. In fact, maintaining water flows in wetlands is essential for biodiversity conservation. This biodiversity is essential to ensure co-benefits to local communities and their livelihoods. In addition to that, the project will promote the diversification of activities generating income for the local communities.	

Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on the Climate Change Risks		
Are negative impacts expected from the project?	No	The impacts are expected to be largely positive as it is the project's explicit intention to promote livelihood options that are more resilient to climate change. However the PPG consultant(s) need to take impacts of different climate scenarios on water resources into consideration when developing project activities.
Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assesed? Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient?		

[9] Maladaptation is a business-as-usual development, which by overlooking climate change impacts, inadvertently increases exposure and/or vulnerability to climate change. OECD, 2008