



Combined Project Information Documents / Integrated Safeguards Datasheet (PID/ISDS)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 04-Jan-2023 | Report No: PIDISDSA34600

**BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

Country Benin	Project ID P178838	Project Name Additional Financing for the Gazetted Forests Management Project	Parent Project ID (if any) P167678
Parent Project Name Gazetted Forests Management Project	Region WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	Estimated Appraisal Date 27-Jan-2023	Estimated Board Date 23-Mar-2023
Practice Area (Lead) Environment, Natural Resources & the Blue Economy	Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Benin	Implementing Agency Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

Proposed Development Objective(s) Parent

To improve the integrated management of targeted Gazetted Forests, to increase access of the main consumption cities to fuelwood produced sustainably, and to strengthen selected non-timber forest product value chains for forest-dependent communities

Components

Support to Forests Governance
Integrated Management of Gazetted Forests
Development of Selected NTFP Value Chains
Project Management

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)**SUMMARY**

Total Project Cost	30.00
Total Financing	30.00
of which IBRD/IDA	30.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS**World Bank Group Financing**



International Development Association (IDA)	30.00
IDA Credit	30.00

Environmental Assessment Category

B-Partial Assessment

Decision

The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

1. This Project Paper seeks the approval of the Country Director to provide an Additional Financing (AF) credit for US\$30 million from IDA to the Republic of Benin Gazetted Forests Management Project (GFM) (P178838). The objective of the AF is to cover the financing gap associated with the cancellation request of US\$ 15 million that took place in July 2020 for COVID-19 relief, as requested by the Government of Benin. Furthermore, a World Bank (WB) supervision mission held in October 2021 revealed a financing gap linked to the rehabilitation of forest tracks, to help transport seedlings to targeted Gazetted Forests and improve working conditions for communities involved in the reforestation works.

2. Under the proposed AF, there will be no change to the Project Development Objective (PDO), which will remain as follows: “To improve the integrated management of targeted Gazetted Forests, to increase access of the main consumption cities to fuelwood produced sustainably, and to strengthen selected non-timber forest product value chains for forest-dependent communities.” Neither will the proposed AF require changes to the institutional, fiduciary, or safeguards arrangements that are currently in place for the Project. No additional safeguards policies will be triggered and there will be no change to the Project’s safeguards category. The overall risk rating will also be kept as Low as per the latest Implementation Status and Results Report (ISR) rating from October 2022.

3. The Republic of Benin Gazetted Forests Management Project (P167678) was approved on May 30, 2019, with an International Development Association Grant No. D477-BJ of US\$75 million. Of this, US\$15 million was subsequently canceled on July 2020 at the onset of the pandemic, as a result of widespread government budget cuts and resource reallocations in support of the fight against COVID-19. The Project became effective on October 1, 2019, and is scheduled to close on November 30, 2026. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (in French: Ministère du Cadre de Vie et du Développement Durable – MCVDD).



C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

4. The PDO remain the same as the parent project which is: “To improve the integrated management of targeted Gazetted Forests, to increase access of the main consumption cities to fuelwood produced sustainably, and to strengthen selected non-timber forest product value chains for forest-dependent communities”.

Key Results

5. The AF in an amount of US\$ 30 million is being proposed to fill the financing gap and reintroduce the activities that were canceled following the project restructuring in 2020 with a cancellation of US\$ 15 million to support COVID-19 relief. These include (a) capacity enhancement for satellite monitoring under sub-component 1.1. *Capacity enhancement of the Forestry Administration*; (b) promote agricultural intensification methods in targeted GFs under sub-component 2.1. *Promotion of agroforestry methods*; (c) activities for the enhancement of conservation zones in targeted GFs, development of biodiversity monitoring, and improving charcoal production efficiency to reduce the impact on natural forests; (d) forest surveillance (e) increase access to incomes and support the implementation of select activities for shea value chain beneficiaries. Furthermore, a WB supervision mission held in October 2021 revealed a financing gap linked to the rehabilitation of forest tracks to facilitate the transport of seedlings to targeted GFs and improve working conditions for communities involved in the reforestation works under Component 2, as it requires substantial effort given adverse weather (heavy rainfall) and relief conditions.

D. Project Description

Sub-component 1.1: Capacity enhancement of the Forestry Administration (Current allocation: US\$ 4.59 million; AF: US\$4 million).

6. Through the AF this sub-component will aim to reintroduce activities to strengthen the capacity of the forestry administration, the forestry inspection, and the Forest Development Technical Units (CTAF) through the establishment of early warning monitoring systems, high-resolution satellite imagery on forest cover, and forest cover change.

Sub-component 2.1: Promotion of agroforestry systems (Current allocation: US\$ 2 million; AF: US\$ 4.67 million).

7. The title of the sub-component “Promotion of agroforestry systems” will be revised to its original title “Promotion of agricultural intensification and agroforestry systems”. Through the AF, this sub-component will reintroduce the promotion of agricultural intensification activities. These will include experimentation with agroforestry and agricultural intensification methods through; the production of improved seeds and agricultural intensification techniques; and training of farmers in the implementation of these techniques.

Sub-component 2.3: Establishment and management of production forests (Current allocation: US\$ 46.3 million; AF: US\$ 16.38 million).

8. The AF will fill the financing gap for the rehabilitation of an average of 6.8km of forest tracks per year and per targeted GFs, for enhanced access to plantation areas during and after the rainy season which will simultaneously contribute to the maintenance of the forest plantations and forest surveillance.



Sub-component 2.4: Sustainable management of conservation forests (*Current allocation: Cancelled; AF: US\$1.64 million*).

9. The AF will reintroduce this sub-component which was canceled following project restructuring. The sub-component will finance: (i) Establishment and sustainable management of conservation zones in GFs, (ii) biodiversity monitoring, and (iii) improving charcoal production efficiency from natural forests.

Sub-component 3.2: Development of shea value chain: (*Current allocation: Cancelled; AF: US\$ 2.9 million*).

10. The sub-component was canceled after project restructuring. The proposed AF aims to reintroduce the sub-component 3.2. and will finance technical assistance to upstream and downstream of the shea value chain and income generating activities. The project will also finance the services of local NGOs, Research, and universities to support the implementation of the sub-component.

Component 4: Project management (*Current allocation: US\$ 3.9 million; AF: US\$ 0.41 million*).

11. The proposed AF would cover the incremental costs related to supporting the overall day-to-day administration of the project, including regular monitoring and evaluation.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

12. Institutional Arrangements remain the same than within the parent project.

13. The Integrated Projects Management Unit (IPMU) is already in place and responsible for the implementation of all WB-financed environment, forestry and NRM projects, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment, and Sustainable Development, including West Africa Coast Areas (WACA) and the GFM project. The current IPMU is composed of the following shared units by all projects under its responsibility: Financial Management, Procurement, E&S Safeguards, Monitoring & Evaluation, Communication and administrative support, as well as a Steering Committee chaired by the Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development. The Steering Committee is already in place. The units are being strengthened in terms of capacity in fiduciary, E&S safeguards, M&E and Communication to support project implementation. A General Project Coordinator and an International Technical Assistant are also in place in the IPMU. The decentralized Technical Forests Management Units (CTAF) in the field will ensure technical execution of project's activities. Headcounts of CTAF employees will be increased by the Government to include personnel fully dedicated to project implementation, especially for timely establishment and management of fuelwood production forests activities.



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

The project targeted areas are located in the south (Dan, Dogo-Kétou, Logozohè, Toffo-Lama Sud), in the center of the country (Agoua, Ouémé-Boukou, Tchaourou-Toui-Kilibo), and in the north (Alibori Supérieur, Ouémé-Supérieur-Ndali, Trois Rivières and Ouénou-Bénou).

G. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Vanessa Retana Barrantes, Social Specialist
Papa Ansoumana Moustapha Mane, Social Specialist
Alphonse Emadak, Environmental Specialist
Moussibaou Tassou, Environmental Specialist
Modestine Victoire Bessan, Environmental Specialist

SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	
Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities OP/BP 4.03	No	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	
Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	
Pest Management OP 4.09	Yes	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	Yes	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	



KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

Overall, the project aims at safeguarding Gazetted Forests as well as restoring degraded areas. Based on that, it will induce essentially positive E&S impacts, such as reducing potential GHG emissions linked to deforestation and forest degradation, generating revenues for communities and safeguarding food security. However, some activities such as the physical demarcation of conservation areas, timber and fuelwood production, the Income Generating Activities(IGA) such as animal husbandry, vegetable gardening, and strengthening the value chains of Non Timber Forest Products(NTFP) could lead to potential adverse impacts, but expected to be moderate, site specific and manageable at an acceptable level. The project is therefore rated as a category B.

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area: The project aims to restore degraded and deforested areas, and increase forest production through participatory approaches with the aim to benefit livelihoods, and conserve forest areas from deforestation and forest degradation in the target 11 forest reserves. The conservation of certain areas in the targeted gazetted forests could involve a reduction of agricultural production areas by stopping the itinerant agriculture. The impossibility to further expand farming in the gazetted forest reserves, in conjunction with demographic increase could lead to risks of land disputes. The project is supporting the update and development of participatory forest management plans of these forest reserves. In addition, communities receive training to improve sustainable agricultural practices, such as agricultural intensification and agroforestry methods. Communities are also able to participate in the reforestation works, which helps them generate revenues.

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.

N/A

4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.

The project targeted areas are located in the south (Dan, Dogo-Kétou, Logozohè, Toffo-Lama Sud), in the center of the country (Agoua, Ouémé-Boukou, Tchaourou-Toui-Kilibo), and in the north (Alibori Supérieur, Ouémé-Supérieur-Ndali, Trois Rivières and Ouénou-Bénou). The Borrower has developed two environmental and social safeguards instruments, namely an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) including a Pest Management Plan, in compliance with the triggering of OP/BP 4.01 (Environmental Assessment) and OP 4.09 (Pest Management) and a Process Framework(PF) as per OP/BP 4.12 (Involuntary Resettlement) triggering.

Further to that, the ESMF includes two chapters focusing on Natural Habitats and Forests safeguarding. Both chapters make the project fully in compliance with the OP4.04 and OP4.36. Additionally, a section related to a procedure of “chance find” was also included in the ESMF in line with the triggering of the OP4.11.

The ESMF lays out procedures for screening and mitigating impacts from construction and operation of the irrigation schemes, and includes the following: (a) checklists of potential environmental and social impacts and their sources; (b) procedures for participatory screening of proposed sites and activities and the environmental and social



considerations; (c) procedures for assessing potential environmental and social impacts of the planned project activities; (d) institutional arrangements for mitigating, preventing, and managing the identified impacts; (e) typical environmental management planning process for addressing negative externalities in the course of project implementation; (f) a system for monitoring the implementation of mitigation measures; and (g) recommended capacity building measures for environmental planning and monitoring of project activities.

The Pest management's section deals with safeguard measures to be taken in the case of the use of pesticide to fight against agriculture predators. However, organic fertilizers and biological technics are supplies recommended to be use first. Moreover, that section sets up guidance and guidelines with the aim of protecting population health and environment integrity in promoting best practices.

Specific ESIA's will be prepared for relevant activities before project implementation along with Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP's). The ESIA's will provide mitigation measures for all the potential impacts as a result of the triggering of the above-mentioned safeguard policies. To date, Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA's) and related ESMP's are being prepared to mitigate risks and impacts related to rehabilitation activities. The PF guides new modalities of gazetted forest as well as restored areas access and use of their resources. It is currently being properly implemented, and its execution will continue to be closely monitored.

Current E&S implementation progress of the parent project reveals that reforestation activities carried out so far have not resulted in any displacement of people or loss of income. Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM's) are in place at the local levels, and information regarding how to raise a grievance has been disseminated to project stakeholders. There are six grievances that have been recorded in the parent project, which calls for strengthening the GRM operationalization and ensure its full access to all project stakeholders. No grievance about GBV and SEA-SH have been received so far. Based on this progress, the capacity of the PIU will continue to be further strengthened on E&S aspects

Responsibility and oversight of the Project's overall compliance with national legislation and Bank safeguard policies will rest with the environmental and social specialists in the PIU, as the main persons in charge of project implementation and monitoring of safeguard aspects. They will be working in close collaboration with the national entity responsible for ensuring the compliance of the project's activities with the national legislation namely ABE(Beninese Environment Agency). That government's body will conduct periodic monitoring of project's compliance with proposed mitigation. It also receive guidance and technical support from bank's environmental and social safeguard specialist during implementation support missions or through sessions of training.

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.

The populations who will be impacted by the project activities are mainly rural communities, such as farmers, hunters, the charcoal producers and forest loggers. During the project preparation, these various socio-professional layers have been consulted. In addition, these consultations have concerned the Civil Society Organizations (CSO) such as the NGOs opening in the environmental management and the natural resources fields , producers organizations, associations, private operators, deputies, etc. These meetings are held in the form of workshops, of meetings, meetings of work. The Safeguard instruments have been prepared , validated in country with the participation of the ABE, and approved by the Bank.



B. Disclosure Requirements (N.B. The sections below appear only if corresponding safeguard policy is triggered)

Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other

Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure	For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors
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"In country" Disclosure

Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Policy Process

Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure
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"In country" Disclosure

Pest Management Plan

Was the document disclosed prior to appraisal? Yes	Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure
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"In country" Disclosure

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level (to be filled in when the ISDS is finalized by the project decision meeting) (N.B. The sections below appear only if corresponding safeguard policy is triggered)



CONTACT POINT

World Bank

Salimata D. Follea
Senior Natural Resources Management Specialist

Manuela Ravina da Silva
Environmental Specialist

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Benin

Implementing Agencies



Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
Severin NSIA
Director General
severin_nsia2002@yahoo.fr

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 473-1000
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Salimata D. Follea Manuela Ravina da Silva
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Approved By

Safeguards Advisor:	Nathalie S. Munzberg	26-Jan-2023
Practice Manager/Manager:	Maria Sarraf	27-Jan-2023
Country Director:	Atou Seck	27-Jan-2023