

Annex 6 – Environmental and social management framework

Project: “Improving climate resilience in the steppes and dry forest areas of the Algerian Green Dam”

Prepared as the project’s ESMF aligned with GCF funding proposal requirements and the FAO Framework for environmental and social management (FESM).

This version integrates the corrective actions identified in ‘Gaps – Annex 6-ESMF’

Overall Project/Programme Environmental and Social Risk Category (proposed): Moderate / Category B

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Annex 6: Environmental and Social Management Framework

DISCLAIMER

This Annex should be read as the project-level Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). A Project specific ESMP which takes into account the type, severity and magnitude of risks and impacts for each implementation site will be developed.

This ESMF shall be read together with Annex 6A – Pastoralist Groups Planning Framework

FAO's Framework for Environmental and Social Management (FESM) establishes environmental and social performance requirements for FAO programming and implementation. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) currently applies its interim environmental and social safeguards based on the IFC Performance Standards, alongside the GCF Environmental and Social Policy and related guidance.

Overall Project/Programme Environmental and Social Risk Category (proposed): Moderate / Category B (will be developed under ES risk screening checklist of FAO)

Executive Summary

The project “**Improving Climate Resilience in the Steppes and Dry Forest Areas of the Algerian Green Dam**” aims to strengthen the resilience of rural communities, restore degraded agro-sylvo-pastoral landscapes and promote sustainable livelihoods across six wilayas and twelve target communes.

The project includes three components:

1. strengthening governance, climate information and institutional capacity;
2. restoring rangelands, forests, soils and water systems; and
3. supporting climate-resilient livelihoods, value chains, clean energy and access to finance

Consultation inputs gathered during the project formulation phase influenced project design, the concerns expressed by pastoralists and agro-pastoral households regarding pasture degradation, seasonal mobility, access to water and market opportunities have been reflected in Activity 2.1.2 on pasture rehabilitation and rotational grazing; Activities 2.2.3 and 2.2.4 on water access and efficient irrigation; Activity 1.1.4 on the participation of pastoral associations in governance and land-use planning; Activity 1.2.6 on climate advisory services for farmers and herders and Activities 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 on pastoral and non-timber forest product value chains.

This Environmental and Social Management Framework establishes the procedures for screening, assessing, managing and monitoring environmental and social risks associated with project activities. Site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans and other safeguard instruments will be prepared once intervention locations and technical designs are confirmed.

The project is classified as **Moderate Risk / Category B**. Potential impacts are expected to be localized, reversible and manageable. The main risks relate to biodiversity disturbance, water-resource pressure, soil erosion, pollution, occupational and community safety, temporary restrictions on grazing or natural-resource access, land-use conflicts and exclusion of women, youth, pastoralists and other vulnerable groups from project benefits.

The project will not finance involuntary physical displacement or activities presenting high or irreversible risks. Land and resource-access impacts will be addressed through participatory screening, consultation, negotiated arrangements and livelihood-protection measures.

Specific attention will be given to vulnerable pastoral and agro-pastoral communities whose livelihoods depend on seasonal mobility, grazing lands, water points and natural resources.

Annex 6A – Pastoralist Groups Planning Framework establishes the procedures for group identification, social assessment, participatory mapping, culturally appropriate consultation, FPIC, mitigation, equitable benefit sharing, grievance management and monitoring. A detailed Pastoralist and Vulnerable Pastoralist Groups Plan will be prepared during project inception

The General Directorate of Forests will lead implementation, supported by the Project Management Unit, wilaya-level services and dedicated environmental, social, gender and grievance focal points. FAO will provide safeguard oversight and quality assurance.

Environmental and social performance will be monitored through field supervision, stakeholder consultations, grievance records, incident reporting and periodic reviews. An accessible Grievance Redress Mechanism will allow communities, workers and beneficiaries to raise concerns throughout project implementation.

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviation	Full term
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
AGD	Algerian Green Dam
ANADE	National Agency for Support and Development of Entrepreneurship
ANCC	National Climate Change Agency
ARC-BVA	Project acronym used for the Algerian Green Dam climate-resilience project
ASAL	Algerian Space Agency
BADR	Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development
BNEDER	National Bureau for Rural Development Studies
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIU	Country Implementation Unit
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
DGF	General Directorate of Forests
DSA	Directorate of Agricultural Services
E&S	Environmental and Social
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EM	Ethnic Minority
ERW	Explosive Remnants of War
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESS	Environmental and Social Standard
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FESM	FAO Framework for Environmental and Social Management
FP	Funding Proposal
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GBV	Gender-Based Violence

GCF	Green Climate Fund
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
HCDS	High Commission for the Development of the Steppe
IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IoT	Internet of Things
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
LMP	Labour Management Procedures
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MADRP	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NPIU	National Project Implementation Unit
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
OHSG	Occupational Health and Safety Guidelines
OHSP	Occupational Health and Safety Plan
OIG	FAO Office of the Inspector-General
ONM	National Meteorological Office
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PMU	Project Management Unit
PPE	Personal Protective Equipment
PS	IFC Performance Standard
SEAH	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SHEA	Sexual Harassment, Exploitation and Abuse
UN	United Nations

UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
USD	United States Dollar
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure
PGPF	Pastoralist Groups Planning Framework
PGP	Pastoralist Groups Plan

1. Introduction

1.1 Context

The project ‘Improving Climate Resilience in the Steppes and Dry Forest Areas of the Algerian Green Dam’ seeks to strengthen resilience of rural households, restore degraded agro-sylvo-pastoral landscapes, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from land-use change through an integrated package of policy reforms, ecosystem restoration investments, and climate-resilient livelihood support in six wilayas and twelve communes of the Green Dam zone.

The revised ESMF addresses the main shortcomings identified in the prior Annex 6 by: (i) clearly separating framework procedures from site-specific instruments; (ii) strengthening the Algeria-specific baseline; (iii) introducing a transparent risk screening and categorization process; (iv) mapping the project against IFC Performance Standards/FAO environmental and social standards; and (v) providing operational procedures for labour management, land access, biodiversity screening, pest management, stakeholder engagement, grievance handling, monitoring, and budget allocation.

The ESMF applies to all project components, outputs, and activities financed under the proposal. It provides risk screening modalities, exclusion, assessment, mitigation, disclosure, consultation, implementation monitoring, incident reporting, and adaptive management. It also establishes triggers for preparing supplementary instruments including site-specific plans and procedures, LMPs, biodiversity measures, IPM measures, water and waste plans and land-access agreements will be triggered through the screening form in Appendix 2 and operationalized through the site-specific instruments described in Section 8; and the Chance-Find Procedure is provided in Appendix 4.

Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is developed in Annex 7.

The Pastoralist Groups Planning Framework is provided in Annex 6A. It complements this ESMF by establishing the detailed procedures for identifying and engaging pastoralist and vulnerable pastoralist groups, assessing potential impacts, undertaking FPIC and preparing the project-level or site-specific Pastoralist Groups Plan where required.

The framework is proportionate to a Moderate/Category B project (screening presented in Section 1.5, Table 2, and further detailed in Sections 1.6 and 4.7). Most anticipated adverse impacts are localized, reversible, and manageable through good design, community consultation, and implementation of mitigation measures, such as temporary restriction of access to grazing lands during rangeland restoration, localized soil disturbance and habitat disruption from small-scale infrastructure works, increased pressure on water resources from irrigation and water mobilization systems, and occupational health and safety risks associated with forestry, construction, and land restoration activities. High-risk activities and activities inconsistent with GCF/FAO exclusion requirements are not eligible for financing under this project.

1.2 Project components and activities

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to improving the climate resilience of rural populations, their livelihoods, and agro-sylvo-pastoral ecosystem services, while reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from land use within the framework of an integrated three-pronged approach:

1. Enabling Governance Framework and Climate Information
2. Ecosystem Restoration and Climate-Resilient Land Management
3. Climate-Resilient Livelihoods and Sustainable Value Chains and Sustainable Finance

In the table below, the full ARC-BVA project components, outputs and activities

Table 1. ARC-BVA project components, outputs and planned activities

Components and outputs	Planned activities
Component 1. Enabling Governance Framework and Climate Information	
Output 1.1 Regulatory, Financial & Institutional Framework for Climate-Resilient Ecosystem Management Strengthened	Activity 1.1.1 Reform the 1975 Pastoral Code and the Local Land Governance Framework – Modernize the legal and regulatory framework governing pastoral land management including the introduction of pastoral concession systems, scientifically defined stocking rates, seasonal grazing management, livestock mobility mechanisms across agro-ecological zones, climate-responsive destocking provisions, and fiscal incentives promoting sustainable rangeland management.
	Activity 1.1.2 Support the Design of a Compensation Mechanism for AFOLU – Develop a domestic carbon offset policy framework for agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU), including forest and soil carbon accounting methodologies, MRV systems, institutional capacity building and alignment with Algeria’s NDC commitments and low-emission development strategy.
	Activity 1.1.3 Provide Access to Voluntary Carbon Finance for Forestry and Rangeland Restoration – Establish carbon credit mechanisms for afforestation, reforestation and rangeland restoration, develop benefit-sharing arrangements for communities, design blended finance structures and facilitate Algeria’s participation in regional voluntary carbon markets.
	Activity 1.1.4 Establish a Multi-Stakeholder Climate Governance Platform for the Green Dam – Create national and Wilaya-level coordination mechanisms bringing together ministries, research institutions, pastoral associations, women organizations and civil society to strengthen climate policy coordination, participatory land-use planning and ecosystem restoration governance.
Output 1.2 Science-Based Climate Information Systems Established and Operational	Activity 1.2.1 Establish a Climate and Ecological Observation Network – Develop a climate and ecosystem observatory including monitoring stations, modelling systems and research networks to track climate impacts, ecosystem dynamics and socio-economic conditions across the Green Dam landscape.
	Activity 1.2.2 Develop a Digital Monitoring and Evaluation System – Establish a centralized digital platform integrating project monitoring, spatial data, research outputs and knowledge management resources to support evidence-based decision-making.
	Activity 1.2.3 Install an Agrometeorological Station Network with IoT Integration – Deploy automatic climate monitoring stations across six wilayas generating real-time agro-climatic data and supporting drought monitoring, wildfire risk management and climate advisory services.
	Activity 1.2.4 Develop a GIS for Agricultural Drought and Land Degradation Management – Compile spatial datasets and establish GIS-based tools for drought monitoring, ecosystem restoration planning and climate-informed land-use management.
	Activity 1.2.5 Develop a Portfolio of Baseline and Feasibility Studies for Sustainable Resource Management – Conduct studies on forest management, biodiversity inventories, land degradation assessment, groundwater recharge potential, protected area feasibility and treated wastewater reuse.
	Activity 1.2.6 Build Digital Climate Information and Advisory Systems – Develop digital platforms, early warning systems and mobile advisory tools providing farmers and pastoralists with real-time climate information and adaptation guidance.
	Activity 1.2.7 Design and Deliver Training and Knowledge Transfer Programmes – Implement capacity building programmes for extension agents, farmers, herders and institutions on climate-resilient land management, digital tools and climate risk management.
Component 2. Ecosystem Restoration and Climate-Resilient Land Management	

Output 2.1 Pastoral and Forest Heritage Restored- Climate-Resilient and Low Emission	Activity 2.1.1 Rehabilitate and Create Nurseries for Climate-Adapted Seedling Production – Establish and rehabilitate nurseries producing climate-adapted seedlings to support restoration, agroforestry development and biodiversity conservation.
	Activity 2.1.2 Implement a program for climate-resilient rangeland management – Implement rangeland restoration programmes including pastoral planting, rotational grazing systems, pasture rehabilitation and assisted fencing to restore degraded rangelands.
	Activity 2.1.3 Reforest and revegetate forest heritage for climate-resilient management through a participatory approach – Restore forest ecosystems and establish agroforestry plots through afforestation, reforestation and community-based restoration initiatives across the project wilayas.
	Activity 2.1.4 Implement Dune Fixation Programme to Control Silting and Wind Erosion – Stabilize mobile dunes through mechanical barriers, biological planting and organic stabilization techniques to protect agricultural lands and infrastructure.
	Activity 2.1.5 Strengthen Forest Health through Silvicultural Management and Pest Control – Improve forest resilience through thinning, pruning, pest monitoring and phytosanitary treatments addressing climate-related forest threats.
	Activity 2.1.6 Strengthen Forest Fire Management and Protection Infrastructure – Develop wildfire prevention infrastructure including firebreaks, lookout posts and forest access tracks to improve early detection and rapid response.
	Activity 2.1.7 Supervise the land and water restoration activities
Output 2.2 Agricultural and Water Systems Restored- Climate-Resilient and Low-Emission	Activity 2.2.1 Rehabilitate Agricultural Access Tracks to Improve Rural Connectivity – Rehabilitate rural tracks to facilitate market access, agricultural logistics and restoration activities across remote areas.
	Activity 2.2.2 Implement soil and water conservation structures and practices – Implement soil and water conservation measures including torrential correction thresholds, bank stabilization structures and water harvesting systems.
	Activity 2.2.3 Mobilize and store water resources for climate-resilient agro-sylvo-pastoral systems – Construct and rehabilitate boreholes, wells, water ponds and reservoirs and pilot treated wastewater reuse systems for agriculture and rangeland restoration.
	Activity 2.2.4 Promote Efficient Irrigation and Water Distribution Systems – Introduce water-efficient irrigation technologies and rehabilitate irrigation channels to optimize water use in agriculture.
Component 3. Climate-Resilient Livelihoods, Value Chains and Sustainable Finance	
Output 3.1 Access to Climate-Adaptive Finance and Technical Support Strengthened	Activity 3.1.1 Develop six priority climate-resilient value chains – Strengthen production, processing and marketing systems for climate-resilient products including opuntia, olive, rosemary, wool, esparto and mint.
	Activity 3.1.2 Establish Partnerships between Producers and the Private Sector – Facilitate contractual partnerships between producer organizations and private enterprises to improve market access and financing conditions.
	Activity 3.1.3 Provide Legal and Technical Assistance for Creation of Micro-Enterprises Support rural entrepreneurs through legal guidance, certification support and business development services.
	Activity 3.1.4 Facilitate access to microcredit and subsidized finance Support access to finance for beneficiaries (smallholder farmers, pastoralists, women youth)
	Activity 3.1.5 Provide wilaya-level technical assistance and equipment maintenance follow-up Support the implementation of on-the-ground investments, providing the selected beneficiaries of Component 3: Climate-Resilient Livelihoods, Value Chains and Sustainable Finance with procured equipment
Output 3.2 Climate-Resilient Service	Activity 3.2.1 Provide Rustic Fruit Cultivation for Pastoral Farms – Establish drought-resistant orchards contributing to ecosystem restoration and diversified rural incomes.
	Activity 3.2.2 Deploy Small-Scale Livestock Modules for Rural Households – Provide poultry and beekeeping modules supporting income diversification and improved household resilience.

Delivery and Access to Clean Energy Improved	Activity 3.2.3 Install Hydroponic Forage Production Systems – Introduce hydroponic fodder production technologies to reduce pressure on degraded rangelands and improve livestock nutrition.
	Activity 3.2.4 Provide Circular Economy Solutions for Date Production and Agro-Processing Residues – Transform agricultural residues into value-added products such as livestock feed and organic inputs.
	Activity 3.2.5 Deploy Solar Energy Kits for Isolated Rural Households – Install renewable solar energy systems improving living conditions and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.
	– Develop climate-adapted financial products including loans, guarantees and insurance tailored to agro-pastoral systems.
	– Provide financial literacy training and support beneficiary access to microcredit and public financing schemes.

To support development and design of this project :

- ✓ **Stakeholder engagement** was conducted to discern potential positive and negative project impacts, as well as key design opportunities to improve accessibility and participation. Continued stakeholder engagement must involve iterative consultations throughout the programme’s life cycle with particular attention to vulnerable populations and groups prone to exclusion, be that for reasons of gender, orientation, age, ability, religious beliefs, and/or ethnicity (see: SEP in Annex 7 for more details)
- ✓ **Gender Assessment & Action Plan (GAP)** was developed to ensure that gender-specific activities have been mainstreamed into the programme design. The ESMF and GAP help to identify and manage potential impacts related to gender inequality and GBV (as per FAO ESS6) and ensure that considerations for the differentiated needs of ethnic minority (EM) communities, women, and vulnerable persons are built into the programme design and monitoring indicators (GAP, Annex 8)

The specific SEAH related to the project are developed under paragraph 1.2.2 Institutional Architecture for Gender Equality (GAP, Annex 8)

- ✓ **A Grievance redress mechanism (GRM)** was developed to respond to complaints by people who feel they have been adversely affected, are being affected or could be affected by the project, during the planning or implementation phase. The GRM will promote a quick conflict resolution to avoid long judicial process in tribunals in cases of complaint or dispute (the detailed project-level GRM in Section 7.2 and the complementary stakeholder-engagement and grievance arrangements in Annex 7, Part 5).

1.3 Purpose and Application of the ESMF

The purpose of the ESMF is to ensure that the programme has concrete plans and processes in place to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate the risks and potentially adverse project-related environmental and social (E&S) impacts, including climate risks, once the ARC-BVA activities and/or sub-projects are planned, and implemented. This living document: (i) assesses and summarizes project-related risks and impacts; and (ii) sets out the principles, rules, guidelines, and procedures to assess any potential risks and impacts of future sub-projects and activities identified later. It provides measures to reduce, mitigate, and/or offset those adverse risks and impacts from the programme and highlights information about areas where activities are expected to be implemented (including any specific E&S-related vulnerabilities of those areas; potential impacts that may occur; and mitigation measures that might be used). Specific objectives of this ESMF are to:

- ✓ Assess the potential environmental, social, and climate-related risks and impacts of the programme, both positive and negative, and propose mitigation measures to effectively address these risks and impacts. The mitigation measures will be further detailed and operationalized in the Project ESMP and through relevant environmental and social management plans and procedures to be developed during implementation, such

as water management, waste management, occupational health and safety, emergency preparedness, and other applicable procedures.

- ✓ Establish clear procedures for the E&S planning, review, approval, and implementation of the project activities to be financed under the programme;
- ✓ Specify appropriate roles and responsibilities and outline the necessary reporting procedures for managing and monitoring E&S issues/concerns related to project activities and technical assistance.
- ✓ Determine the training, capacity building, and technical assistance needed to successfully implement the provisions of this ESMF;
- ✓ Outline and address mechanisms for public consultation and disclosure of programme documents, as well as redress of possible grievances; and
- ✓ Establish the budget requirements for implementation of this ESMF.

This ESMF provides information on (i) items ineligible for project funding; (ii) how the E&S screening was conducted; (iii) risks and impacts classifications; (iv) identification of various E&S documents to be prepared (both prior to and after project approval) and the process to be followed for their preparation (including the clearance process); (v) implementation arrangements; (vi) training and capacity building; (v) grievance redress mechanism; (vi) estimated costs and budget requirements; and (vii) guidelines and specific forms for preparation of the identified E&S documents required. This ESMF will be applied to all project activities to be developed.

1.4 Scope of the ESMF

This ESMF was developed based on a desk review of project-relevant government laws, regulations, ordinances, and other legal documents; various background papers and reports pertaining to environmental and social conditions of the proposed project areas; as well as field visits, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and other consultations in project locations.

1.5 ESS Risk screening

Table 2. Environmental and social risk screening by FAO Environmental and Social Standard (ESS)

ESS	Triggered (Yes/No)	Risk rating	Rationale
ESS 1 – Biodiversity & Natural Resources	Yes	Moderate	The project is expected to generate significant positive biodiversity and ecosystem-restoration benefits. However, reforestation, rangeland, rehabilitation, dune stabilization, silvicultural works, nursery development and land-use changes may cause localized disturbance to natural habitats, vegetation and fauna if activities are poorly located or implemented. Risks include inappropriate species selection, introduction of non-native or invasive species, disturbance during sensitive ecological periods, unsustainable harvesting of non-timber forest products and impacts on areas close to protected areas, chotts, daïas or other sensitive habitats. These impacts are expected to be site-specific and

			manageable through biodiversity screening, use of native and locally adapted species, avoidance of critical habitats, seasonal work restrictions, restoration monitoring and site-specific ESMPs. Activities causing significant conversion or degradation of critical habitat will be excluded.
ESS 2 – Resource Efficiency & Pollution	Yes	Moderate	Water mobilization, irrigation, boreholes, reservoirs, nurseries and hydroponic systems will be implemented in an already water-stressed environment and may increase pressure on surface water and groundwater, alter local hydrology or contribute to salinization if abstraction is not sustainably managed. Construction, processing facilities, livestock modules and solar equipment may generate solid waste, wastewater, hazardous materials, batteries and other end-of-life equipment. Pest-control and agricultural activities may also involve fertilizers, pesticides or veterinary products, with risks of soil and water contamination. These risks are localized and manageable through water-balance assessments, abstraction permits, efficient irrigation, pollution-prevention measures, integrated pest management, waste-management procedures and regular water-quality and resource-use monitoring.
ESS 3 – Climate Change & Disaster Risk	Yes	Moderate	The project is specifically designed to increase resilience to drought, desertification, heat, wildfire, erosion and declining water availability. Nevertheless, restoration investments, water systems, nurseries, value chains and livelihood technologies may perform poorly or create maladaptation if they are not designed for projected climate conditions. Potential risks include failure of planted vegetation during drought, increased wildfire exposure, damage from floods or erosion, unsustainable reliance on groundwater, and dependence on technologies that cannot be maintained under future climatic or economic conditions. Climate-risk screening, drought- and fire-resilient design, locally adapted species, water-efficiency measures, emergency preparedness, maintenance planning and adaptive management will be applied.
ESS 4 – Decent Work	Yes	Moderate	Forestry, construction, restoration, nursery, agro-processing and livestock activities will involve workers, contractors, community labour and service providers. Potential risks include accidents involving machinery and vehicles, falls, cuts, exposure to heat, dust, noise, pesticides or biological hazards, inadequate personal protective equipment, informal employment arrangements, discrimination, harassment and possible use of child or forced labour in

			supply chains or community activities. These risks will be managed through Labour Management Procedures, compliance with Algerian labour legislation, written contractual requirements, age verification, codes of conduct, occupational health and safety plans, training, PPE, incident reporting and accessible worker grievance channels.
ESS 5 – Community Health, Safety & Security	Yes	Moderate	Rehabilitation of tracks, water infrastructure, erosion-control structures, firebreaks and other works may expose nearby communities to construction traffic, open excavations, machinery, dust, noise and unsafe work sites. Water-storage systems may create drowning, contamination or vector-related risks if inadequately designed or maintained. Forestry and pest-control operations may also expose communities to chemicals, fire hazards or restricted access. Worker–community interaction may create harassment or SEAH risks, particularly for women and vulnerable beneficiaries. Measures will include traffic and community-safety plans, site fencing and signage, safe water-infrastructure design, emergency preparedness, codes of conduct, SEAH prevention and referral arrangements, community information and monitoring through the GRM.
ESS 6 – Gender Equality & GBV	Yes	Moderate	Women in the project areas play important roles in livestock management, household production, water collection, processing and rural enterprises, but face structural barriers to land, finance, training, climate information, markets and decision-making. Without targeted measures, benefits may be captured mainly by male landholders, better-connected producer groups or household heads. Women may also face harassment, exploitation or SEAH risks during recruitment, training, beneficiary selection or interaction with project workers. The Gender Assessment and Action Plan, gender-responsive beneficiary criteria, women-only consultations, targeted enterprise support, representation in local structures, sex-disaggregated monitoring, codes of conduct and confidential survivor-centred grievance and referral mechanisms will be applied.
ESS 7 – Land Tenure & Access	Yes	Moderate	The project does not anticipate physical resettlement or project-financed involuntary land acquisition. Restoration activities will mainly occur on public or degraded land. However, reforestation, rangeland rehabilitation, assisted protection, fencing, water infrastructure and grazing-management measures may temporarily restrict access to grazing areas, water points, forests or livestock-mobility routes. Overlapping formal, informal, collective and seasonal use arrangements may also generate conflict between

			pastoralists, farmers and forest users. Risks will be managed through land and user verification, recognition of legitimate formal and informal use rights, participatory mapping, consultation before restrictions, negotiated access arrangements, alternative grazing or water access, livelihood-restoration measures and the GRM. Activities involving physical displacement or unresolved significant economic displacement will be excluded.
ESS 8 – Indigenous Peoples	Yes	Low	The Government of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria does not formally recognize Indigenous Peoples as a separate legal category. However, in line with the applicable safeguards requirements, ESS 8 was triggered on a precautionary basis considering that the Project targets vulnerable pastoral and agro-pastoral communities with customary resource-use systems. The screening was conducted during project formulation, including consultation across six project wilayas and twelve target communes, assessed self-identification and other GCF criteria (collective attachment to land and natural resources, distinct institutions, and cultural practices). None of the groups consulted self-identified as Indigenous Peoples. These groups, primarily pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, will therefore be referred to as “pastoralists” in line with GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy Annex XI, para.16. To reflect the above, Annex 6A – Pastoralist Groups Planning Framework has been elaborated and will apply during inception and implementation. All relevant sites and activities will be screened for resident and seasonal pastoral use, customary or informal resource rights, mobility routes and potential impacts on grazing, water, livelihoods and benefit sharing. A detailed social assessment, participatory mapping, FPIC and a Pastoralist Groups Plan will be completed before the relevant activity proceeds.
ESS 9 – Cultural Heritage	Yes	Low	No major adverse impact on known cultural heritage sites is anticipated. However, excavation, track rehabilitation, erosion-control works, boreholes, reservoirs, reforestation and other land-disturbing activities may encounter previously unidentified archaeological remains, graves, cultural landscapes or other tangible heritage resources. Restoration or land-use changes may also affect places or natural resources of local cultural importance. Risks are expected to be localized and will be managed through site screening, consultation with communities and relevant

			authorities, avoidance of known heritage sites, contractor training and application of the Chance-Find Procedure in Appendix 4. Works will stop immediately if a potential cultural-heritage resource is discovered and the procedure will be activated accordingly.
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The Project Environmental and Social Risk Category (based on the ESS risk screening checklist) is **Moderate (Category B)**, as the potential environmental and social risks identified are site-specific, limited in scale, and not unprecedented.

1.6 ESS overall risks related to the project

Project Component	Main Interventions	Potential Environmental Risks	Potential Social Risks
Component 1. Enabling Governance Framework and Climate Information	- Update of pastoral code and land regulation	- Minimal direct environmental impact (ESS 1, ESS 2)	- Potential exclusion of certain stakeholder groups from consultations and planning processes (ESS 6, ESS 8)
	- Development of monitoring platforms and GIS tools - Establishment of weather stations and environmental observatories	- Possible localized environmental footprint from installation of monitoring equipment and weather stations (ESS 1, ESS 2, ESS 5) - Risk of inadequate environmental planning or decision-making if climate information systems, GIS tools, and monitoring platforms are poorly designed or managed (ESS 1, ESS 2, ESS 3)	- Institutional coordination challenges that may weaken inclusive implementation Limited access to information for rural communities and remote users of natural resources (ESS6, ESS 8)
	- Institutional coordination and training programmes	- Risk that policy and regulatory reform may insufficiently account for biodiversity, carrying capacity, water constraints, and sustainable natural resource management (ESS 1, ESS 2, ESS 3)	- Unequal participation of women and vulnerable groups in governance, planning, and access to project information (ESS 6, ESS8) - Potential adverse impacts that new land tenure or pastoral governance arrangements could have on the current land access and use context if not designed through inclusive consultation (ESS 7)
Component 2. Climate-Resilient Restoration of Agro-	- Reforestation and revegetation of degraded lands	- Activities may affect biodiversity, including disturbance of natural habitats, inappropriate	- Activities may affect temporary access to land and natural resources, including grazing areas,

Sylvo-Pastoral Landscapes	- Restoration of rangelands and forest ecosystems	species selection, and potential impacts on ecosystem functions, particularly in sensitive areas (ESS 1) - Poorly planned restoration works may generate localized soil disturbance, habitat modification, and reduced ecological performance of restoration investments (ESS 1, ESS 2)	water points, and forest resources (ESS 7)
	- Soil and water conservation works	- Water mobilization, irrigation-related works, and nursery activities may increase pressure on surface and groundwater resources (ESS 2, ESS 3) - Pest control and restoration support activities may introduce risks related to chemical inputs, including pesticides and fertilizers affecting soil and water quality (ESS 2)	- There is a risk of conflicts between farmers and pastoralists due to overlapping land use and seasonal mobility patterns (ESS 7) - Temporary restrictions on grazing and land access may affect pastoral livelihoods if not properly managed and agreed with users (ESS 7, ESS 8)
	- Construction of water infrastructure (boreholes, ponds, canals)	- Water resource overexploitation, water access/use tensions, water contamination, and potential salinization risks may arise if water systems are not sustainably designed and managed (ESS 2, ESS 5)	- Labour-intensive restoration and infrastructure works may expose workers to occupational health and safety risks (ESS 4, ESS 5) - Construction and land-based works may create localized health and safety risks for nearby communities (ESS 5)
	- Stabilization of sand dunes and erosion control	- Earthworks and small infrastructure may create localized environmental disturbance and may affect unknown cultural resources (ESS 5, ESS 9)	- Women may face barriers to accessing project benefits due to existing inequalities in land tenure, access to resources, and participation (ESS 6)
Component 3. Climate-Resilient Livelihoods and Sustainable Value Chains	- Development of value chains (opuntia, olive, rosemary, wool, esparto grass)	- Increased pressure on natural resources, especially water and biomass, if production	- Inequality in benefit distribution among communities and producer groups may arise if economic opportunities are

	- Support for micro-enterprises and rural cooperatives	expands without sustainable resource management (ESS 1, ESS 2, ESS 3)	captured by better-connected actors (ESS 6) - Risk of excluding vulnerable groups from economic opportunities, finance, enterprise support, and market access (ESS 6, ESS 8)
	- Development of small livestock farming (poultry, beekeeping)	- Waste generation from processing activities, including wastewater and by-products, may create localized pollution risks if not managed properly (ESS 2, ESS 5) - Risk of pesticide misuse, veterinary drug misuse, or improper handling of livestock-related inputs (ESS 2, ESS 5)	- Market access challenges for small producers may reinforce existing inequalities rather than reduce them (ESS 6, ESS 8) - Livestock and small production systems may create worker and household safety risks if training and management are insufficient (ESS 4, ESS 5)
	- Hydroponic fodder production	- Localized biodiversity disturbance may occur if harvesting of non-timber forest products is not sustainable or exceeds regenerative capacity (ESS 1)	- Gender barriers may limit women's participation in value chains, enterprise development, and access to finance (ESS 6)
	- Installation of solar energy systems	- Small equipment, energy systems, and processing units may create localized waste and safety management issues if maintenance and disposal are not planned (ESS 2, ESS 5)	- Some introduced technologies or services may create dependency risks if affordability, maintenance, and long-term support are not ensured (ESS 3)

2. Policy, legal and institutional framework

Implementation of the project will comply with applicable Algerian law, FAO FESM requirements, the, GCF Revised Environmental and Social Policy, Indigenous Peoples Policy and Updated Gender Policy, as well as the GCF interim ESS based on IFC Performance Standards, and relevant multilateral environmental agreements ratified by Algeria.

Table 3. Applicable policy, legal and institutional framework and relevance to the project

Applicable instrument	Relevance to the project
Law No. 03-10 (2003) – Environmental Protection	Establishes the overarching framework for environmental protection, including pollution prevention, sustainable resource use, and environmental impact management. It underpins all ESIA/ESMP requirements for the Green Dam project
Executive Decree No. 07-145 – Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	Defines procedures for environmental impact assessments, public consultation, and approval processes. Mandatory for afforestation, infrastructure, and rural development works.
Executive Decree No. 06-198 – Classified Installations	Regulates installations that may pose environmental risks (e.g., storage sites, treatment facilities). Relevant for project camps, fuel storage, or processing units
Law No. 01-19 (2001) – Waste Management	Provides the legal framework for waste management, including collection, treatment, and disposal. Applies to construction waste, forestry residues, and hazardous waste
Law No. 25-02 (2025) – Waste Law Amendment	Introduces circular economy principles and extended producer responsibility, strengthening recycling and waste valorization obligations. Relevant for project sustainability and contractor obligations
Executive Decree No. 02-175 – Waste Management Implementation	Establishes procedures for waste classification, handling, and disposal. Important for ESMP implementation at site level
Executive Decree No. 19-10 – Export of Hazardous Waste	Regulates transboundary movement of hazardous waste. Relevant if project generates special waste requiring export
Executive Decree No. 06-138 – Air Emissions	Sets emission limits for gases, particles, and pollutants, and requires monitoring and reporting. Relevant for machinery, burning activities, and construction emissions
Executive Decree No. 93-148 – Noise Pollution	Regulates permissible noise levels and mitigation measures. Applies to construction machinery and site operations
Law No. 90-29 – Urban Planning and Development	Governs land-use planning, zoning, and building permits. Relevant for site establishment, nurseries, and infrastructure works
Executive Decree No. 91-176 – Building Permits	Specifies procedures for obtaining construction permits and compliance checks.
Law No. 90-25 – Land Orientation Law	Defines land tenure, agricultural land use, and land allocation rules. Critical for afforestation, grazing regulation, and land access
Law No. 91-11 – Expropriation for Public Utility	Governs land acquisition for public projects. Relevant if the project requires land acquisition or access restrictions
Law No. 87-19 – Agricultural Land Protection	Protects agricultural land and regulates its use. Relevant to avoid conflicts between reforestation and farming activities
Forest Law No. 84-12 (amended)	Governs forest protection, reforestation, and exploitation. Core legal basis for Green Dam interventions and forest management
Law No. 11-02 – Protected Areas	Establishes rules for protected areas and biodiversity conservation. Relevant if project activities occur in or near protected zones
Law No. 98-04 – Cultural Heritage Protection	Protects archaeological and cultural sites. Requires chance-find procedures during works.
Law No. 90-11 – Labour Relations	Defines workers' rights, contracts, wages, and dispute resolution. Applies to all project workers (contractors and subcontractors)
Law No. 88-07 – Occupational Health & Safety (OHS)	Establishes requirements for worker safety, hygiene, and occupational medicine. Critical for field operations and forestry activities
Executive Decree No. 05-09 – Workplace Safety Committees	Requires establishment of safety committees and risk prevention measures in workplaces

Applicable instrument	Relevance to the project
Law No. 08-15 – Social Security	Covers worker insurance, injury compensation, and social protection obligations.
Law No. 05-12 – Water Law	Governs water resource management, abstraction permits, and protection of water bodies. Relevant for irrigation, nurseries, and water use
Executive Decree No. 04-88 – Liquid Effluent Discharge	Regulates wastewater discharge into the environment. Applies to camps, nurseries, and facilities
Executive Decree No. 10-23 / 10-88 – Water Quality Standards	Establish water quality thresholds and monitoring requirements
Law No. 07-06 – Green Spaces	Governs development and protection of green areas. Relevant for urban/peri-urban plantation components
Executive Decree No. 09-101 / 09-115 – Green Spaces Regulation	Provides implementation rules for management and protection of green areas
Pastoral Law (Law No. 13-13)	Regulates grazing rights, pastoral land use, and rangeland management. Critical for managing conflicts between reforestation and livestock grazing
Executive Decree No. 03-477 & 03-478 – Hazardous Waste	Define management of special and hazardous waste streams.
UNFCCC and Paris Agreement / Algeria NDC	Provides climate policy framework and national adaptation/mitigation orientation relevant to land, agriculture, water and forests
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Supports ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation, invasive species prevention and sustainable use of natural resources
UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	Frames interventions on desertification, land degradation neutrality, dune stabilization and rangeland restoration
Ramsar Convention	Relevant where wetlands or temporary humid systems (chotts/daias) may be hydrologically connected to project landscapes or downstream receptors
IFC Performance Standards 1–8 / GCF interim ESS	Project-wide risk management benchmark for assessment, labour, resource efficiency, community safety, land access, biodiversity, Indigenous Peoples screening and cultural heritage
GCF Revised Environmental and Social Policy	Requires environmental and social risks to be identified, assessed, and managed throughout the project lifecycle. It guides the project's risk categorization, mitigation hierarchy, screening and exclusion procedures, preparation of site-specific instruments, stakeholder engagement, grievance redress, monitoring, incident reporting and FAO oversight as Accredited Entity.
GCF IP Policy	The IP Policy sets out the approach to incorporating the circumstances of indigenous peoples into decision-making while working towards climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Policy requires full respect for the dignity, human rights, and cultural uniqueness of indigenous groups, ensuring they receive culturally appropriate benefits and avoid adverse effects. Key principles include i) FPIC: Which is required for projects affecting indigenous lands, resources, or distinct livelihoods, established through good-faith negotiations; ii) Cultural and Social Benefit: Guaranteeing culturally appropriate socio-economic gains and participation in project planning; and iii) Impact Avoidance: Identifying, minimizing, and mitigating any potential negative social or environmental project impacts.
GCF Updated Gender Policy	Requires all GCF funding proposals to include a gender and social assessment, a gender and social inclusion action plan, and sex-disaggregated indicators thus moving from a gender-sensitivity approach to actively promoting equality and women's empowerment.
FAO Environmental and Social Management Framework (FESM)	Provides the overarching environmental and social safeguard framework applicable to all FAO-supported projects, aligned with international standards including the IFC

Applicable instrument	Relevance to the project
	Performance Standards and GCF Environmental and Social Policy. It defines requirements for environmental and social risk screening, classification, and management in line with the identified risk profile of the project. The FESM guides the preparation and implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and a project's Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), ensuring that potential risks related to biodiversity, land and water resource use, labour conditions, community health and safety, gender equality, land access, and cultural heritage are systematically avoided, minimized, or mitigated. It also establishes key instruments such as stakeholder engagement processes, grievance redress mechanisms, labour management procedures, and monitoring systems, ensuring that project activities under all components are implemented in a socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable manner.
Land Tenure, Resource Access and Governance (VGGT Alignment)	Project activities involving land restoration, reforestation, rangeland management, nursery establishment, and water infrastructure may affect access to land and natural resources. These interventions will be implemented in a manner consistent with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT). The project will apply the following principles: - Recognition of legitimate tenure rights, including formal, informal, customary, and seasonal use rights (e.g., transhumant pastoralism); - Transparency and participation in decision-making on land and resource use; - Non-discrimination and gender equality, including recognition of women's tenure rights and access; - Prevention and management of conflicts between different user groups (e.g., farmers, pastoralists, forest users); - Avoidance of involuntary land acquisition and minimization of economic displacement. -

2.1 FAO and GCF Environmental, Social, and Climate Risks Standards/Procedures

FAO and GCF both stipulate that FAO-supported and GCF-funded programmes and projects must meet their environmental and social standards (ESS) which were designed to avoid, minimize, reduce or mitigate the adverse environmental and social risks and impacts of projects. These standards include (presented here in the order used by FAO):

- ✓ ESS 1: Biodiversity conservation, and sustainable management of natural resources
- ✓ ESS 2: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management
- ✓ ESS 3: Climate change and disaster risk reduction
- ✓ ESS 4: Decent work
- ✓ ESS 5: Community health, safety and security
- ✓ ESS 6: Gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence
- ✓ ESS 7: Land tenure, displacement and resettlement
- ✓ ESS 8: Indigenous Peoples
- ✓ ESS 9: Cultural heritage

Considered a vital part of project design, implementation, and safeguarding is stakeholder engagement. Provisions to ensure meaningful engagement are provided within the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Annex 7) and initial feedback and engagement was mainstreamed into the project design.

The proposed project investments are designed to have positive social and environmental benefits and the project has been classified as moderate risk (Category "B").

3. Implementation arrangements

The General Directorate of Forests (DGF) will remain the executing entity responsible for environmental and social performance, supported by the national coordinating body for combating desertification and reviving the Green Dam, local intersectoral committees, wilaya-level services, and commune-level implementation arrangements.

The project requires a dedicated environmental and social safeguard function within the Project Management Unit (PMU), including one E&S Specialist, one gender/SEA-SH focal point, one stakeholder engagement and GRM focal point, and site-level safeguard focal persons within wilaya implementation teams.

Table 4. Institutional implementation arrangements and roles for project delivery

Level	Entity / structure	Main role in implementation
Climate finance oversight	GCF	Provides grant financing and receives formal reporting through FAO under the AMA framework.
Accredited Entity	FAO	Overall project management; administrative, financial and technical supervision; oversight of funds; quality assurance of monitoring and reporting; project closure and evaluation; reporting to GCF. ESMP implementation supervision
National executing lead	DGF / MADRP	Main national executing agency; management, supervision and daily monitoring of implementation through the centralized Green Dam structure.
Strategic national oversight	National Coordination Body for combating desertification and reviving the Green Dam	Provides overall intersectoral policy coordination and anchors implementation in the national Green Dam programme.
High-level steering	Interministerial / National Steering Committee	Monitors execution of decisions and programmes and ensures targets and impacts are achieved; functions as the central steering layer.
Technical advisory	Scientific and Technical Committee / Scientific Council	Provides recommendations for implementation, technical choices, and adaptive improvements.
Project management	National Project Implementation Unit (NPIU) / Green Dam Project Management Unit	Highest project decision-making and implementation support platform in the FP; coordinates execution, supports division of labour, compiles monitoring information, interfaces with FAO and ministries. Safeguard accountability (embedded in procurement, contractor supervision, work planning, reporting, and acceptance of works). Ensuring integration of ESS safeguards in planning, procurement, contracts and supervision at the earliest stages of project implementation Approval of the relevant extra site-specific instrument (e.g., waste/water management plans, relevant procedures/contracts) where ESMP is applied

Local governance	Local committees at wilaya level	Chaired by walis; coordinate territorial implementation with forest, agriculture and steppe services; ensure ground-level follow-up. Ensure ESS requirements are adequately integrated in contractual arrangements and ground-level implementation
Decentralized technical services	Forest Conservations, DSA, HCDS, local technical services	Local execution support, data collection, technical supervision, territorial coordination.
Technical support	BNEDER and other technical / research bodies	Ensure technical studies, support functions, design inputs, knowledge generation and specialized assistance.
Delivery agents	Rural engineering firms, contractors, suppliers, service providers, independent M&E provider	Execute works, deliver goods/services, and undertake independent M&E assignments where specified.
End users	Farmers, pastoralists, women's groups, associations, producer groups, households	Participate in implementation, receive support, adopt practices, and contribute to sustainability.

4. Environmental and social baseline

4.1 Project footprint and beneficiaries

The project sits within the Algerian Green Dam (AGD), a territory of about 4.73 million ha spanning 13 wilayas and 187 communes. The proposed GCF intervention concentrates on six wilayas distributed across an east–center–west gradient: Tébessa and Khenchela in the east, M'Sila and Djelfa in the center, and El Bayadh and Naâma in the west. These six wilayas were chosen because they represent the AGD's main ecological and livelihood systems and together cover about 73 percent of the AGD area (3,446,565 ha). The project then narrows further to 12 pilot communes, two in each wilaya, selected on environmental, social and economic vulnerability criteria.

The selected communes reflect three livelihood/ecosystem zones. The east is mainly agro-sylvo-pastoral, the center mainly agro-pastoral, and the west predominantly pastoral.

At the broader AGD scale, the population was about 4,998,825 people in 2020/2021, roughly 11.2 percent of Algeria's population, and the area contains an estimated 539,115 households with an average size of 6.6 persons per household. The AGD population is also notably young, with almost half under 19 years old, and men account for a slight majority at 50.8 percent. Population growth since 2008 has been strong, increasing pressure on land, pasture and water resources.

The principal intended beneficiaries are pastoralists, smallholder farmers, small-scale livestock producers, and households dependent on agro-sylvo-pastoral systems. The funding proposal repeatedly identifies these groups as the main target because they are highly exposed to drought, pasture degradation, reduced water availability and low access to technology, climate information and finance. Women's groups, rural associations, local institutions, agri-food enterprises, and value-chain actors are also included as secondary beneficiaries.

For the core pilot footprint, the project will directly benefit about 7,818 rural households and indirectly affect about 47,000 people in the main intervention areas through improved forest cover, rangeland rehabilitation and value chains. For the project results framework, the funding proposal gives 141,077 direct beneficiaries and 822,680 indirect beneficiaries. A separate beneficiary calculation note uses a broader methodology and arrives at 1,509,629 total direct and indirect beneficiaries, including spillover effects across the six project wilayas and the wider AGD. These figures are not interchangeable; they refer to different counting approaches and should be reconciled in the final package.

Livelihoods in the footprint are dominated by pastoralism and mixed livestock-crop production. The AGD accounts for an estimated 28 percent of national red meat production and 36 percent of wool production. The sheep herd in the 13 AGD wilayas is estimated at about 11 million animals, around 46 percent of the national total, and herd growth has intensified pressure on rangelands. At the same time, the project area has underused potential in non-timber forest products (NTFPs) such as opuntia, olive, rosemary, esparto and mint, which the project proposes as climate-resilient diversification pathways.

Table 5. Target wilayas and communes by project zone and dominant livelihood/ecosystem profile

Zone	Wilaya	Target communes	Dominant livelihood/ecosystem profile
West	Naâma	Aïn Sefra Asla	Agro-pastoral / pastoral
West	El Bayadh	Boussemghoun El Mehara	Agro-pastoral / pastoral
Centre	Djelfa	Zaafrane Charef	Pastoral / agro-sylvo-pastoral
Centre	M'Sila	Djebel Messad Tamsa	Agro-sylvo-pastoral
East	Khenchela	Babar Cherchar	Agro-pastoral
East	Tébessa	Thlidjene Stah Guentis	Agro-sylvo-pastoral / agro-pastoral

4.2 Biophysical baseline

The project landscape is ecologically diverse but fragile. the biotic environment is structured around three major ecosystems: forest, pre-forest, and steppe, plus seasonally humid systems including saline chotts and freshwater daïas. This mosaic is important because the intervention is not taking place in a uniform rangeland, but in a linked system of dry forests, shrublands, steppe grazing areas and scattered wetland features that support biodiversity and local production.

Land use in the intervention area confirms the dominance of pastoral systems. Across the six-wilaya footprint of 3,444,026 ha, roughly 63 percent pastoral land, about 18 percent forest land, and about 16 percent agriculture. The detailed land-use table shows that steppe formations are the largest class, while forests are a minority and agriculture is concentrated mainly in the eastern and central zones. The western zone is especially dominated by pastoral and shrub-steppe systems.

A marked structural degradation of these landscapes under the combined effect of unfavorable environmental conditions and intensive land use that disregards biological balance. The funding proposal links this degradation to overgrazing, land clearing, drought, forest fires, extreme heat, water scarcity and illegal ploughing, all of which have reduced vegetation cover, worsened desertification and lowered the quality of pastoral lands. Palatable pasture reportedly fell from 50 percent to 43.5 percent between 1985 and 2000, forcing greater reliance on supplementary feeding.

Soils are generally fragile. The review sheet states that AGD soil prospecting identified a range of soil units from lithosols to calci-magnesian soils, but that the most extensive group is poorly developed, shallow soils. This implies low

water-holding capacity, high susceptibility to erosion, and limited resilience under increasing climatic stress. These characteristics are consistent with the project's focus on erosion control, dune stabilization, bank protection and soil and water conservation works.

Water resources are present but under-mobilized and unevenly accessed. For the six project wilayas a mobilizable water capacity of about 1.05 billion m³/year, of which only about 502.9 million m³/year is mobilized, equivalent to an overall mobilization rate of 47.9 percent. This varies sharply between wilayas, from 13.8 percent in El Bayadh to 90.9 percent in Tébessa, which suggests that water stress is driven not only by scarcity but also by infrastructure, storage and governance constraints.

Desertification sensitivity is very high across the footprint. As per the CNTS desertification sensitivity map, states that the AGD is moderately sensitive to 52.23 percent of its territory, sensitive over 32.6 percent, and very sensitive over 2.53 percent, meaning that 87.36 percent of the AGD is affected by meaningful desertification vulnerability. This is one of the strongest arguments in the documentation for prioritizing large-scale ecosystem restoration.

Biodiversity and ecosystem services are under pressure from both climate change and land-use intensity. The documentation repeatedly refers to declining perennial vegetation, degradation of rangelands, increased fire risk, and underinvestment in the management of forests, shrublands and steppe systems. The baseline therefore is not a pristine ecosystem baseline, but a degraded agro-sylvo-pastoral landscape baseline in which ecological processes remain functional enough to support restoration but are trending negatively without intervention.

4.3 Social baseline

The social profile is that of a dryland rural economy highly dependent on natural resources. Households are concentrated in pastoral and mixed crop-livestock systems, with a long history of transhumance but also an ongoing shift toward more sedentary production systems combining cereals and livestock. The documents note a marked decline in nomadism, but not the disappearance of pastoral mobility. For many households, livestock and plant production remain the main or only means of subsistence.

The six target wilayas are described as underdeveloped relative to national averages and as having below-average poverty, health and education indicators. Employment opportunities are limited, especially in rural areas, and public services remain unevenly distributed. The funding proposal notes that central and western wilayas have attracted more population growth because they offer relatively more jobs and services than the eastern ones, but overall, the AGD still lags national conditions.

Water insecurity is a major social stressor as well as an environmental one. The proposal states that access to water in the AGD wilayas is only 161 m³/person/year, far below the national average of 630 m³/person/year and well below the World Bank's scarcity threshold of 1,000 m³/person/year. This has direct implications for household welfare, drinking water security, livestock production, irrigation and time burdens, especially for women.

The social consultations show a rural population with high expectations but also real concerns. The gender annex reports that workshops and surveys in the six wilayas revealed fears among some farmers and herders, especially in Naâma and Khenchela, about possible land expropriation for reforestation, while other stakeholders, including investors in M'Sila, were more focused on employment and investment opportunities in agroforestry and livestock. This suggests that the baseline includes both vulnerability and contestation over land-use change, which is critical for safeguards and stakeholder engagement.

The same consultations identified significant infrastructure and service gaps. The feasibility-study excerpt highlights women's concerns about poor roads, isolation, unemployment, water, electricity access, lack of socio-cultural infrastructure, weak rural transport, lack of association premises, weak health equipment, and illiteracy. Priority

needs cited in that source were water (30 percent of mentions), employment (20 percent), reduced isolation (15 percent), and housing support (10 percent).

The area also has latent economic diversification potential. NTFPs, medicinal plants, crafts, honey, wool and processing activities are repeatedly mentioned as underdeveloped sectors that could support more resilient livelihoods if linked to markets, finance and technical support. The project's social baseline is therefore not one of complete economic stagnation, but rather of low-value, climate-exposed production systems with weak market integration.

Health and education indicators in the gender annex confirm structural social constraints. On women's health, the annex reports that 12.37 percent of surveyed women had chronic diseases, 82.70 percent of sick women were under treatment, and 11.24 percent could not continue treatment mainly for economic reasons. On schooling, women's education has improved, but girls' dropout remains linked to distance to schools (43.75 percent of responses), social exclusion, transport shortages and household constraints. These are not just general welfare issues; they affect the capacity of households, especially women and girls, to participate in adaptation programmes.

4.4 Gender

The social baseline of the project areas highlights significant structural inequalities affecting women's access to resources, services, and decision-making. While women play a central role in agriculture, livestock management, household food production, and rural livelihoods, they continue to face persistent constraints in accessing land, finance, markets, climate information, technology, employment, and training opportunities. Women's participation in local governance and decision-making structures remains limited, and they are underrepresented among farm holders, despite existing legal provisions supporting equal rights to land ownership.

These inequalities are further compounded by broader socio-economic factors, including limited infrastructure, geographic isolation, lower literacy levels, and restricted access to health and education services. As a result, women's livelihoods are more vulnerable to climate variability and environmental degradation, particularly in relation to water scarcity, declining soil fertility, and reduced availability of natural resources.

Project interventions—such as restoration activities, water mobilization, and value-chain support—present opportunities to enhance women's participation and economic empowerment. However, there is a risk that benefits may be disproportionately captured by male landholders or better-positioned groups if gender considerations are not explicitly integrated into project design and implementation. To address these risks, gender considerations will be systematically integrated across all project components, including ensuring women's meaningful participation in consultations and decision-making, equitable access to project benefits, and targeted support to overcome structural barriers.

4.4.1 Project-level assessment of Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment risks

The project applies zero tolerance to Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment SEAH by project personnel, implementing partners, contractors, subcontractors, consultants, suppliers and other persons engaged in project activities. (please refer to GAP-Annex 8 for more details)

For the purposes of this ESMF:

- **Sexual exploitation** includes actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power or trust for sexual purposes, including seeking sexual favours in exchange for employment, project benefits, finance, training or services.

- **Sexual abuse** includes actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature under force, unequal or coercive conditions.
- **Sexual harassment** includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours or verbal, non-verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature in the workplace or in connection with project activities

Preliminary SEAH risk rating

The preliminary project-level SEAH risk is assessed as Moderate before mitigation. The project mainly consists of dispersed restoration, forestry, water, livelihood and value-chain activities rather than large-scale construction. Nevertheless, SEAH risks may arise from:

- interaction between workers, contractors, extension agents and rural communities;
- unequal power relations during recruitment, beneficiary selection and allocation of livelihood support;
- access to microcredit, enterprise assistance, livestock modules, solar kits, training and employment;
- field visits, community consultations, training events and activities in remote locations;
- women's limited representation, access to information and control over productive resources;
- dependence of vulnerable households on project services and local decision-makers

4.5 Land Tenure baseline

Land tenure systems in the project areas are characterized by a combination of formal legal frameworks and customary or seasonal use arrangements, including pastoral mobility and shared access to grazing lands and natural resources. These overlapping systems may give rise to competing claims over land and resources, particularly between farmers, pastoralists, and forest users.

Project interventions—such as reforestation, rangeland restoration, nursery development, and water infrastructure—may affect access to land and natural resources, including through temporary restrictions or changes in land use. These interventions may therefore influence existing tenure arrangements and create risks of conflict or unequal access if not properly managed.

Particular attention is required to ensure that both formal and informal rights—including seasonal and customary use rights—are recognized and respected, and that project activities do not inadvertently disadvantage certain user groups.

Project implementation will adopt principles consistent with the FAO Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT), with emphasis on recognition of legitimate tenure rights, transparency in decision-making, inclusive participation, non-discrimination, and conflict prevention.

Land tenure considerations will be integrated into environmental and social screening processes, ESMP, stakeholder engagement activities, and grievance redress mechanisms, ensuring that potential impacts on land access and resource use are identified, mitigated, and monitored.

4.6 Climate baseline

The climate baseline is severe and well documented across the project annexes. Algeria is water-poor, with national water availability around 500–600 m³/capita/year, already below the World Bank's scarcity threshold. The AGD is more exposed than many other regions because it lies in arid and semi-arid zones where small changes in rainfall and temperature have outsized impacts on rangelands, dry forests and mixed farming systems.

The AGD climate ranges from arid to semi-arid Mediterranean, with average annual rainfall generally in the 200–400 mm range in the selected wilayas and long dry periods that can last from six months to nearly the entire year. The

proposal describes average annual temperatures in the AGD as high, around 30°C. These dryland baseline conditions mean the system already operates close to ecological and agricultural thresholds.

Observed warming is substantial. The proposal states that temperatures in Algeria have increased by about 2.7°C per century since 1900, and that the number of days above 35°C has risen since 1991. For the AGD's diachronic climate studies, warming trends are reported as +0.33°C in Tébessa, +1.35°C in Djelfa, +1.41°C in M'Sila, +2.39°C in Naâma, and +2.53°C in El Bayadh. The review sheet presents the same AGD pattern and interprets it as a clear shift toward chronic drought and greater aridity.

Rainfall has declined markedly. The proposal cites a broader 30 percent decline in rainfall in recent decades in Algeria, while the AGD-specific diachronic studies report decreases of 7 percent in Tébessa, 19 percent in M'Sila, and 20.5 percent in El Bayadh. The same body of evidence shows that dry periods have lengthened from around 15 days in the earlier climate period to as much as two months in the later one.

Drought is now a defining baseline hazard. The documents report that drought affected 68 percent of the AGD in 2021, with the western and central zones most affected. Cyclical droughts were recorded in 1983, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2020. Dry spells lasting at least two years have become more frequent, while five-year droughts have been recorded in Naâma and El Bayadh. These trends are linked to declining perennial plants, reduced palatable grass abundance, lower forage availability and declining livestock productivity.

The climate baseline also includes major secondary hazards. The proposal notes increasing severity and intensity of floods and wildfires over the past five decades. Extreme temperatures in 2021 caused wildfires that damaged 89,000 ha of pastures and crops in 35 wilayas, while annual agricultural and infrastructure losses since 2010 are estimated at about USD 19 million. Crop calendars have already been disrupted, and national grain yield losses of up to 50 percent are cited in the documents.

Projected climate change is severe. Under the SSP2-4.5 scenario, average temperatures in the selected AGD wilayas are projected to rise by roughly 0.87°C to 2.87°C over the century depending on the period and location, with western wilayas among the most affected. Minimum temperatures are projected to rise by about 0.95°C to 2.64°C, and average annual precipitation is projected to decline by about 1.71 to 12.31 mm in 2021–2040, 9.10 to 25.03 mm in 2041–2060, 9.37 to 21.62 mm in 2061–2080, and 11.10 to 32.20 mm in 2081–2100.

These climate trends translate into concrete vulnerability pathways. The documents consistently identify rising risks of water stress, salinity, lower crop yields, lower forage availability, increased pest and disease pressure, biodiversity loss, rangeland degradation, wildfire, food insecurity and livelihood loss. cereal yields could decline by 6–14 percent by 2030, while water resources could fall by 30–40 percent, with disproportionate effects on smallholders and women.

4.7 Key environmental and social sensitivities by intervention type

Table 6 summarizes the main environmental and social sensitivities associated with each type of project intervention. The assessment considers the nature and scale of the activity, the sensitivity of the receiving environment, existing resource pressures and the potential effects on communities, livelihoods and access to natural resources.

The sensitivity levels presented in the table are intended as an **initial qualitative screening tool** to guide the level of site-specific assessment, consultation and mitigation required. They do not constitute the formal environmental and social risk categorization of the project or of individual subprojects. The project remains classified as **Moderate Risk/Category B**, as described in Section 1.5.

Table 6. Key environmental and social sensitivities by intervention type

Intervention type	Main project examples	Key environmental sensitivities	Key social sensitivities	Overall sensitivity
Policy, regulation, GIS, monitoring, weather stations, studies, training	Pastoral code update, tax incentives, GIS/drought systems, observatory, weather stations, training and outreach	Usually low direct footprint, but poor design could steer land-use decisions in ecologically sensitive areas or overlook carrying capacity, biodiversity, and water constraints. The safeguards docs stress that action-level screening must still identify site-specific issues before rollout.	Risk of exclusion from consultation, weak access to information, elite capture of incentives, and under-representation of women, pastoralists, and remote communities in decision-making. The stakeholder and gender documents consistently flag unequal participation and access.	Moderate
Nurseries and plant production facilities	Rehabilitation/creation of nurseries, in vitro plant units, fodder nursery	Sensitivity around species selection, seedling quality, and ecological suitability. The safeguards annex explicitly warns that afforestation/reforestation can fail because of harmful biotic and abiotic agents and requires certified nurseries and biodiversity-sensitive planning. Water demand for nursery production can also become a pressure point in a water-scarce setting.	Land access for nursery sites, labor conditions, and fair access for community nursery groups. There is also a positive but sensitive gender dimension because women's groups are expected to manage some nurseries, which requires equitable support, not just nominal inclusion.	Moderate
Afforestation, reforestation, revegetation, green belts	Reforestation, repopulation, alignment planting, green strips, forest enrichment	This is one of the most sensitive intervention types. The safeguards identifies risks of plantation failure, minor biodiversity loss from poor planning, increased water demand, salinization, downstream water impacts, and low survival of planted vegetation. It specifically requires certified plants, biodiversity integration, monitoring of regeneration, and water accounting where irrigation is used.	Temporary restriction of access to forest or grazing areas, disputes over who benefits from restored land, and perceived expropriation or exclusion if reforestation changes customary use. There is also need for awareness-raising, concession arrangements, and socio-economic studies where access restrictions arise.	High within a Category B project
Rangeland restoration and assisted protection	Pastoral planting, assisted fencing/protection, windbreaks, esparto regeneration, rotational grazing	High sensitivity because the baseline is already overgrazed and degraded. Ecological sensitivities include low vegetation survival, poor species choice, erosion, and failure if grazing management is not respected. The safeguards annex says rotational grazing, regeneration monitoring, and alternative grazing areas are essential.	Strong social sensitivity due to temporary restricted access, competition between pastoralists and other users, and the need to maintain livelihoods while regeneration occurs. The safeguards annex explicitly flags temporary restricted access and calls for awareness, collective/individual concession arrangements, and consultation with local populations.	High
Silvicultural works and pest control	Thinning, sanitary cutting, pruning, maintenance, bark beetle and processionary caterpillar control	Disturbance to habitats, improper debris handling, localized erosion, and risks linked to pest-control methods if not carefully managed. Although the documentation frames these as beneficial for forest health, they still	Worker safety risks from cutting, pruning, and pest-control operations; temporary limits on community access during works; need for clear	Moderate

		need site-level screening because they occur in sensitive forest and pre-forest systems.	communication with nearby users. Labor and OHS risks are recognized under the safeguards framework.	
Dune stabilization and anti-erosion measures	Mechanical and biological dune fixation, bank stabilization, torrent correction, CES works	Usually positive environmentally, but earthworks can disturb soil surfaces, alter local drainage, and affect natural vegetation if poorly sited or executed. In fragile dryland ecosystems, even “protective” works can create localized impacts during construction.	Temporary disruption of access to land, fields, tracks, or grazing areas during works; occupational risks for laborers; potential disagreement over prioritization of protected areas.	Moderate
Water mobilization and irrigation infrastructure	Boreholes, pastoral wells, ponds, seguias, canals, hillside reservoir, drip/sprinkler units	One of the most environmentally sensitive intervention groups. The safeguards annex explicitly warns of increased water abstraction, additional infrastructure needs, salinization, congestion/waterlogging, and reduced downstream availability. It requires soil and water sustainability assessment/water accounting and indicates thresholds where FAO guidance or full impact assessment become necessary.	Social sensitivities include unequal access to water points, disputes over allocation, reinforcing existing inequities between farmers and pastoralists, and expectations management where infrastructure cannot serve all users. In remote areas, water control is also closely tied to local power relations and land access.	High
Agricultural and rural tracks / forest tracks / lookout posts / small access infrastructure	Rural roads, forest tracks, bridges, DFCI infrastructure, lookout posts	Earthworks can cause vegetation clearance, erosion, sedimentation, habitat fragmentation, and easier access to previously less disturbed areas. The safeguards annex explicitly says small infrastructure such as roads and bridges requires ESS because of disruption caused by earthworks.	Land access issues, temporary construction nuisance, labor/OHS risks, road safety, and uneven distribution of benefits. Improved access can reduce isolation, but can also reshape local land-use pressure and user conflicts.	Moderate to High
Agroforestry and hardy fruit tree plantations	Hardy fruit trees, windbreaks, agroforestry, private/pastoral farm support	Sensitivities include water demand, suitability of species, salinity risk, soil degradation if poorly managed, and pressure from fertilizer or agrochemical use. The safeguards annex specifically notes increased fertilizer use as a risk and recommends organic fertilizers and ecosystem-based practices.	Risk that better-connected or landholding households capture benefits; possible exclusion of women and poorer households lacking land or water rights; disputes where new plantations shift previous uses of land.	Moderate
Livestock support and hydroponic fodder	Poultry, beekeeping, hydroponic fodder, support to pastoral farms	Environmental sensitivities are lower than for large civil works, but include waste management, veterinary input misuse, localized pollution, water/energy needs, and pressure on surrounding resources if herd productivity rises without grazing control. The broader safeguards approach says Component 3 activities must still be screened against FAO environmental and social criteria.	Benefit targeting is critical: women are a stated priority, but unequal access to training, finance, and equipment could reproduce existing gender gaps. Animal health, worker safety, and affordability of inputs also matter.	Moderate
NTPF and livestock value chains / micro-enterprises / processing units	Olive mills, opuntia processing, esparto artisanal units, wool workshops, legal/technical assistance, partnerships	Moderate sensitivity. Processing can generate waste, wastewater, localized emissions, and resource demand. Unsustainable harvesting of NTFPs could increase pressure on already fragile ecosystems if market demand rises faster than management capacity. The safeguards annex notes that Component 3 activities must be	Socially sensitive because the value-chain model can unintentionally exclude poorer or socially marginalized groups. The FP explicitly warns that market and financial inclusion efforts must not have the opposite effect on women and other	Moderate to High

		screened and may require more detailed assessment if diversification activities introduce additional risks.	excluded groups. Risks include elite capture, unfair contracting, weak labor standards, and unequal participation in producer groups.	
Solar kits and decentralized energy access	Solar kits for rural households	Low direct environmental sensitivity relative to other components, though there are still issues around equipment siting, end-of-life waste, battery disposal, and maintenance systems. The documentation presents these mostly as positive adaptation co-benefits.	Social sensitivities relate mainly to targeting fairness, ability to maintain equipment, and ensuring isolated households and women benefit in practice.	Low to Moderate

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards

5.1 ESS relevant to the project

Table 7. FAO ESS relevant to the project and corresponding safeguard instruments

Safeguard Standard	Relevance	Safeguard Instruments & Mitigation Measures
ESS 1: Biodiversity conservation, and sustainable management of natural resources	YES	Exclusion List (Appendix 1) and ESMF/ESMP with project activities focused on agroecology and Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
ESS 2 : Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management	YES	Exclusion List (Appendix 1) and ESMF/ESMP with project activities focused on agroecology and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) + waste management plan + integrated water management plan
ESS 3: Climate change and disaster risk reduction	YES	ESMF/ESMP.
ESS 4: Decent work	YES	Exclusion List (Appendix 1), and ESMF/ESMP integrating sensitization sessions on decent rural employment, age-appropriate works
ESS 5: Community health, safety and security	YES	ESMF/ESMP integrating Occupational Health and Safety plan, Awareness and safety measures, Exclusion List
ESS 6: Gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence	YES	The project design already incorporates a Gender Analysis and Action Plan, with specific gender-targeted activities built into the programme design.

ESS 7: Land tenure, displacement and resettlement	YES	The project design incorporates support from the FAO Land Tenure Team to integrate the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land and Forests in the approach.
ESS 8: Indigenous Peoples	YES	ESMF, FPIC (detailed in Appendix 6), and a chance-find mechanism (Appendix 5).
ESS 9: Cultural heritage	YES	The project prioritizes locally adapted species and approach to promote diversity to strengthen resilience

5.2 Alignment between GCF Environmental and Social Standards and FAO's ESS

Table 8. Alignment between GCF Environmental and Social Standards and FAO ESS

GCF Environmental & Social Standards	FAO Environmental and Social Standards
1 – Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	ESS 6: Gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence ESS 3: Climate change and disaster risk reduction
2 – Labour and Working Conditions	ESS 4: Decent work
3 – Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention	ESS 2 : Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management
4 – Community, Health, Safety, and Security	ESS 5: Community health, safety and security
5 – Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement	ESS 7: Land tenure, displacement and resettlement
6 – Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	ESS 1: Biodiversity conservation, and sustainable management of natural resources
7 – Indigenous Peoples (and, more specifically, the GCF Indigenous Peoples' Policy)	ESS 8: Indigenous Peoples
8 – Cultural Heritage	ESS 9: Cultural heritage

5.3 Exclusion list

- Activities with likely significant adverse, irreversible or unprecedented impacts, including any Category A/high-risk intervention.
- Any activity requiring physical displacement of people, involuntary land acquisition, or large-scale economic displacement.
- Activities causing significant conversion or degradation of critical habitat, protected areas, wetlands or legally protected biodiversity assets.
- Large irrigation expansion or water abstraction schemes without a sustainability assessment and legal authorization.

- Procurement of highly hazardous pesticides, persistent organic pollutants, or banned chemicals; bulk pesticide financing is not permitted under this ESMF.
- Activities involving child labour, forced labour, or any supplier/contractor unwilling to comply with labour, SEAH and grievance requirements.
- Works affecting known physical cultural resources without prior assessment and agreed chance-finds procedures.
- Introduction of genetically modified organisms or non-native species without explicit assessment and authorization.

5.4 Mapping of project risks to IFC Performance Standards and FAO standards

Table 9. Mapping project risks to IFC Performance Standards and FAO safeguard standards

FAO Safeguards Standard	IFC Performance Standard	Relevance to ARC-BVA Project
ESS1 – Biodiversity conservation, and sustainable management of natural resources	PS6 – Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	The ARC-BVA project focuses on restoration and sustainable management of degraded agro-sylvo-pastoral landscapes within the Algerian Green Dam territory. Activities such as reforestation, rangeland rehabilitation, soil and water conservation works, and improved land-use planning directly influence natural resource management. The project applies the FAO Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to ensure that restoration improves ecosystem services, prevents land degradation, and maintains ecological integrity. Stakeholder consultation processes and the application of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure (VGGT) support responsible land and resource governance. The ESMF includes specific management plans (e.g. water, waste) Livestock production is a major livelihood in the ARC-BVA project area. Activities supporting pastoral farms, small livestock production (e.g., poultry and beekeeping), and improved feeding systems involve management of livestock genetic resources. The project promotes climate-resilient livestock systems and sustainable rangeland management to avoid overgrazing and reduce pressure on fragile ecosystems.
ESS2 – Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management	PS 3 – Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention	The ARC-BVA project operates in semi-arid ecosystems including forest, pre-forest, and steppe landscapes. Restoration interventions (reforestation, revegetation, pasture regeneration, dune stabilization) aim to improve biodiversity and ecosystem resilience. Environmental screening ensures that activities avoid negative impacts on natural habitats. Native and drought-adapted species will be prioritized to support ecological restoration and avoid risks related to inappropriate species introduction. Agricultural diversification and agroforestry activities may increase pest management needs. The project promotes Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and agroecological practices to minimize environmental and health risks associated with pesticides. Biological control methods and safe use of approved biopesticides will be encouraged. Screening under the ESMF ensures environmentally sound pest management practices aligned with FAO guidelines.

ESS3 – Climate change and disaster risk reduction	PS1 – Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	The project promotes climate-resilient agriculture and agroforestry systems, including nurseries producing drought-resistant forest, fodder, and fruit tree species. These activities involve plant genetic resources that must be managed sustainably. The project prioritizes locally adapted species and promotes genetic diversity to strengthen resilience of agro-sylvo-pastoral production systems under climate change conditions.
ESS4 – Decent work	PS2 – Labour and Working Conditions	ARC-BVA project activities—including restoration works, nursery operations, infrastructure construction, and value-chain development—will generate rural employment. The project will comply with national labor regulations and FAO standards on decent rural employment. Measures include occupational health and safety training, prevention of child labor, fair employment conditions, and protection of workers engaged in forestry, restoration, and infrastructure activities.
ESS5 – Community health, safety and security	PS4 – Community, Health, Safety, and Security	Agricultural diversification and agroforestry activities may increase pest management needs. The project promotes Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and agroecological practices to minimize environmental and health risks associated with pesticides. Biological control methods and safe use of approved biopesticides will be encouraged. Screening under the ESMF ensures environmentally sound pest management practices aligned with FAO guidelines.
ESS6 – Gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence	PS1 – Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	Gender inequality exists in the project area, particularly regarding access to land, financial resources, and participation in decision-making. Women play important roles in livestock management, household food production, and rural micro-enterprises but often lack access to resources and training. The project includes a Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan to strengthen women’s participation in value chains, climate-resilient agriculture, and community governance structures. More details in annex 8 (gender assessment and action plan)
ESS7 – Land tenure, displacement and resettlement	PS5 – Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement	The ARC-BVA project does not involve physical resettlement or land acquisition. Restoration activities will primarily take place on public or degraded lands. However, temporary restrictions on grazing or land access may occur during ecosystem restoration. These situations will be addressed through participatory consultation, negotiated access arrangements, and community engagement to avoid livelihood impacts and ensure equitable access to restored resources. Attention will be paid to women’s access to tenure through access arrangements.
ESS8 – ESS9 – Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage	PS7 – Indigenous Peoples and PS8 – Cultural Heritage	While no indigenous people groups as defined by FAO safeguards have been identified in the ARC-BVA project area, the project operates in regions with strong traditional land-use practices and cultural heritage values. Environmental and social screening procedures and a chance-find mechanism will be applied during infrastructure, and restoration works to protect archaeological and cultural heritage resources. Community consultations will ensure that traditional knowledge and pastoral practices are respected and integrated into project implementation. In addition, to comply with FAO and GCF standards (ESS8 and PS7 respectively), Annex 6A – Pastoralist Groups Planning Framework has been

		developed. It provides pastoralist-specific screening and social assessment modalities; participatory mapping; culturally appropriate consultations; FPIC; preparation and implementation of a Pastoralist Groups Plan; equitable benefit sharing; and accessible grievance arrangements.
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6. Institutional and implementation arrangements, and estimated costs

Table 10. Primary safeguard responsibilities by actor

Actor	Primary safeguard responsibilities
DGF / Executing Entity	Overall safeguard accountability; approve annual workplans; ensure staffing and budget; report to FAO/GCF
PMU Project Manager	Ensure integration of safeguards in planning, procurement, contracts and supervision
PMU E&S Specialist	Lead screening, categorization, instrument preparation/review, monitoring, incident reporting, training and audits
Gender/SEA-SH focal point	Implement SEAH prevention, referral pathways, inclusion measures and gender-disaggregated monitoring
Stakeholder engagement / GRM focal point	Manage disclosure, consultation records, grievance intake, tracking and close-out
Wilaya implementation teams	Carry out site verification, supervise contractors, maintain site logs and monthly safeguard reports
Contractors / service providers	Prepare contractor ESMPs, OHS plans, workforce records, incident logs and code of conduct compliance
Local committees and communes	Participate in land/user verification, consultation, conflict prevention and local monitoring
FAO technical/safeguards support	Provide quality assurance, oversight, capacity support and periodic review

6.1 Capacity strengthening measures

- Recruit or designate qualified PMU safeguard staff before starting physical activities.
- Train DGF, wilaya services, commune focal points and contractors on screening, ESMP implementation, OHS, SEAH, land due diligence, biodiversity screening and incident reporting.
- Integrate safeguard clauses into procurement documents, bills of quantities, technical specifications and supervision contracts.
- Develop simple field tools: screening form, consultation log, grievance register, monthly checklist, accident register, biodiversity quick-screen and water abstraction checklist.
- Undertake refresher training annually and whenever new contractors or livelihood partners enter the programme.

6.2 Indicative safeguard budget

Table 11. Indicative safeguard budget for ESMF implementation

Budget line	Basis	Indicative amount (USD)
PMU E&S Specialist and field support	Project-wide	240,000
Preparation/review of site-specific plans, procedures and targeted studies required in the ESMP (section 8)	As triggered	180,000

Budget line	Basis	Indicative amount (USD)
Stakeholder engagement, disclosure and GRM operations	Project-wide	95,000
Training on OHS, SEAH, biodiversity, land and screening	Annual	85,000
Quarterly safeguard audits and field missions	Project-wide	110,000
Biodiversity, water and land due diligence at sensitive sites	As triggered	90,000
Monitoring equipment, signage and communication materials	Project-wide	60,000
Contingency for corrective actions and specialized support	Project-wide	70,000
Indicative total ESMF implementation budget	7-year implementation period	930,000

The amounts above are indicative planning figures to demonstrate that safeguards require dedicated resources. During inception, they should be refined and integrated into the detailed project budget, annual workplans and procurement packages.

7. Monitoring arrangements

Monitoring will combine routine supervision, contractor reporting, site inspections, community feedback, grievance analysis, thematic audits and annual safeguard performance review. Monitoring frequency will be risk-based, with higher intensity for restoration sites using fencing, water abstraction, road or hydraulic works, or activities relying on multiple contractors.

Table 12. Environmental and social monitoring framework: responsibilities, tools and outputs

Monitoring Component	Responsible Entity	Monitoring Activities	Tools / Systems	Frequency / Output
Overall Project Monitoring	FAO (Accredited Entity)	Provide overall supervision of project performance, ensure compliance with GCF requirements, validate monitoring data, and oversee reporting.	FAO M&E framework, GCF Results Framework	- Annual Performance Report (APR) submitted to GCF - Mid-Term Evaluation Report with corrective action plan - Final Evaluation Report with impact assessment - Project Completion Report including lessons learned
Project Implementation Monitoring	General Directorate of Forests (DGF)	Day-to-day monitoring of field activities, restoration works, infrastructure development, and coordination with local services.	Field monitoring reports, technical supervision missions	- Monthly site supervision reports - Quarterly physical progress reports (% of hectares restored, structures completed) - Non-compliance reports and corrective action tracking
Project Coordination and Data Consolidation	Project Implementation Unit (PIU)	Consolidate monitoring data, track progress against workplans, coordinate reporting between national and local actors.	Centralized project monitoring database	- Quarterly consolidated progress dashboard - Annual workplan performance tracking report - Updated results framework (indicator tracking sheet)

Local Monitoring and Field Verification	Wilaya-level committees, forestry services, agricultural services	Verify project implementation on the ground, collect environmental and socio-economic data, engage communities.	Field surveys, local monitoring forms	- Field verification reports (geo-referenced) - Community feedback reports - Local grievance logs and resolution tracking
GIS and Spatial Monitoring	DGF technical units, project GIS specialists	Monitor land restoration, vegetation recovery, soil conservation structures, and forest management interventions.	Geographic Information System (GIS)	- Annual land-use/land-cover maps - Vegetation cover change analysis (NDVI) - Geo-referenced database of interventions - Degradation/restoration hotspot maps
Climate Monitoring	Meteorological services, project climate units	Monitor rainfall, drought patterns, temperature changes, and climate variability to support early warning systems.	Automatic weather stations, drought monitoring systems	- Monthly climate bulletins - Seasonal drought risk reports - Early warning alerts for extreme events - Climate trend analysis reports
Ecological Monitoring	Environmental monitoring observatory	Track desertification processes, biodiversity indicators, ecosystem restoration outcomes.	Ecological monitoring observatory, field ecological surveys	- Annual biodiversity status report - Soil quality and erosion monitoring results - Ecosystem restoration effectiveness indicators (survival rates, species diversity)
Results and Impact Monitoring	FAO, PIU, DGF	Monitor achievement of project outputs, outcomes, and impacts related to climate resilience, land restoration, and livelihoods.	Indicator tracking system, EX-ACT carbon accounting tool	- Annual results report (aligned with GCF indicators) - Carbon balance report (GHG mitigation/adaptation benefits) - Livelihood improvement assessment (income, jobs created)
Environmental and Social Safeguards Monitoring	FAO safeguards specialists, PIU safeguards focal points	Monitor compliance with environmental and social standards, land access issues, labor conditions, and biodiversity protection.	ESMF, ESMP, grievance mechanism, stakeholder engagement monitoring	- Safeguards compliance reports (quarterly) - Incident/accident logs (OHS, environmental) - Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) database and resolution rate - Land access and compensation monitoring reports
Gender Monitoring	PIU gender focal point, FAO gender specialists	Track women's participation, access to training and financial support, and gender equality outcomes.	Gender Action Plan indicators	- Annual gender equality report - portion of women beneficiaries and participation rates with satisfaction surveys - Gender-disaggregated training and employment data
Independent Evaluation	External Monitoring and Evaluation Provider	Conduct independent assessments of project performance and provide recommendations.	External evaluation methodologies	- Mid-term evaluation report with recommendations - Final independent evaluation report - Validation of project impacts and sustainability

7.1 Incident reporting and adaptive management Matrix

Incident Risk Management and Response through the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

All incidents, complaints, and grievances related to environmental, social, labor, or operational aspects of the ARC-BVA project will be managed through the project's Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). The GRM will serve as the central system for receiving, documenting, investigating, and resolving concerns raised by project stakeholders, including local communities, project beneficiaries, workers, contractors, and other affected parties.

The GRM will provide accessible, transparent, and culturally appropriate channels through which stakeholders can report incidents or submit complaints related to project activities. These may include environmental impacts, land access restrictions, conflicts between resource users, occupational health and safety incidents, exclusion of vulnerable groups, or any other issues associated with project implementation.

All incidents reported through the GRM will be formally recorded and assessed by the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) in coordination with relevant technical services and safeguards specialists. Depending on the severity of the incident, the PIU will implement appropriate corrective actions, which may include field verification, technical assessment, mediation with affected stakeholders, modification of project activities, or implementation of mitigation measures.

Serious incidents involving significant environmental damage, safety risks, or social conflicts will be immediately escalated to FAO as the Accredited Entity in accordance with the project's environmental and social safeguards procedures and the reporting requirements of the Green Climate Fund. Where necessary, relevant national authorities will also be notified.

The GRM will ensure that all grievances and incident reports are handled in a timely, fair, and confidential manner, and that complainants are informed of the status and resolution of their cases. Records of incidents and responses will be integrated into the project's monitoring and evaluation system to support continuous learning and adaptive management. Lessons derived from incident reporting will be used to improve project implementation, strengthen safeguards compliance, and prevent recurrence of similar issues.

By integrating incident management within the GRM framework, the ARC-BVA project will ensure that risks are addressed proactively, stakeholder concerns are effectively resolved, and project activities are implemented in a manner that safeguards both environmental sustainability and social well-being.

Table 13. Incident classification, response measures and reporting timelines

Risk Category	Example Incident	Potential Impact	Immediate Response Measures	Responsible Entity	Reporting Timeline
Environmental – Land degradation	Failure of reforestation or rangeland restoration due to drought or poor species selection	Loss of vegetation cover, soil erosion, reduced ecosystem restoration benefits	Suspend planting in affected areas, assess causes, adjust species selection and restoration techniques	PIU environmental specialist, DGF technical services	Within 7 days
Environmental – Water resources	Over-extraction of groundwater from project-supported	Reduced water availability for communities and ecosystems	Conduct water resource assessment, regulate abstraction rates,	PIU water management team, local authorities	Within 7 days

	boreholes or irrigation systems		introduce water-efficient irrigation systems		
Environmental – Biodiversity	Disturbance of natural habitats or wildlife during restoration works or infrastructure construction	Habitat degradation, biodiversity loss	Stop activities in sensitive areas, conduct environmental assessment, implement biodiversity protection measures	Environmental safeguards specialist, forestry services	Within 48 hours
Environmental – Pollution	Misuse of pesticides or agrochemicals in supported agricultural activities	Soil and water contamination, health risks	Immediate suspension of chemical use, introduce integrated pest management (IPM), provide training to farmers	PIU agriculture specialists, FAO technical team	Within 48 hours
Social – Land access conflict	Conflict between pastoralists and farmers due to temporary grazing restrictions in restored rangelands	Community tensions, reduced support for project activities	Facilitate dialogue with stakeholders, adjust grazing management plan, ensure equitable access arrangements	Local committees, PIU social safeguards specialist	Within 48 hours
Social – Exclusion of vulnerable groups	Women or marginalized groups excluded from training, financial support, or value chain activities	Social inequity, reduced project benefits	Review beneficiary selection criteria, introduce gender-sensitive targeting, strengthen outreach	PIU gender specialist, FAO gender team	Within 7 days
Labor and Occupational Safety	Injury of workers during forestry works, construction, or restoration activities	Health and safety risks, project liability	Provide medical assistance, stop unsafe operations, conduct safety training and review safety protocols	Contractors, PIU, local authorities	Within 24 hours
Infrastructure safety	Accident involving project vehicles or equipment during road or forest track construction	Injury to workers or community members	Secure accident site, provide emergency response, investigate cause and improve safety procedures	Contractor, PIU safety officer	Within 24 hours
Governance / corruption risk	Misuse of project funds or procurement irregularities	Financial losses, reputational damage	Conduct financial investigation, suspend transactions, if necessary, apply procurement controls	FAO fiduciary unit, PIU management	Within 48 hours
Gender-based risks	Harassment or gender-based violence linked to project activities or workplaces	Harm to individuals, reputational risk	Provide confidential reporting channels, refer to protection services, apply zero-tolerance policy	PIU gender focal point, FAO safeguards team	Within 24 hours

Cultural heritage	Discovery of archaeological artefacts during excavation works	Damage to cultural heritage	Stop construction immediately, activate chance-find procedure, notify heritage authorities	Contractor, PIU, cultural heritage authority	Within 24 hours
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7.2 Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

The grievance redress mechanism is a tool to avoid conflicts looking for a very expedite resolution of problems. At the same time, this mechanism is cost – efficient as it does not require specific external resources to solve problems.

Stakeholders involved in or affected by activities supported by FAO have a right to express their opinions, whether positive or negative, to the Organization with regard to the actions that affect them. Addressing grievances early and effectively mitigates, manages and resolves problems, and prevents them from becoming worse. The existence of a grievance mechanism is crucial to ensure that affected parties have access to fair, transparent, inclusive and no-cost processes and mechanisms to redress grievances and resolve conflict.

The objectives of the mechanism as efficient conflict resolution process are to create a mechanism:

- ✓ For affected people to communicate their dissatisfaction.
- ✓ To pick up complaints that might not be received otherwise and implement any necessary corrective solutions to ensure stakeholder satisfaction.
- ✓ To ensure the involved and affected parties have access to effective remedies through fair, transparent, and inclusive processes
- ✓ To approach the project staff to people in order to solve problems arisen.

FAO grievance, feedback and complaint mechanisms should be:

- ✓ Legitimate
- ✓ Accessible
- ✓ Predictable
- ✓ Transparent
- ✓ Equitable
- ✓ Rights-compatible
- ✓ Confidential
- ✓ Open to continuous learning

NOTE: As the project is located in Algeria and must comply with local regulations in terms of grievance management, some local specificities will be considered in the design of the GRM

The project will also operate a bottom-up Grievance Redress Mechanism, beginning at pastoral-community and beneficiary level. The purpose is to allow pastoralists, agro-pastoral households, farmers, women, workers and other affected people to raise concerns through accessible local channels and obtain timely resolution before grievances escalate.

Algerian Context related to grievance management

- The Algerian government has set up an online tool called "nechki" accessible to the entire Algerian population. Although this tool is under the supervision of the Ministry of the Interior, local authorities and land

development, the tool has the particularity of handling complaints related to several subjects (including for subjects related to housing, water, wastes ...etc.)

Within the framework of this project, all grievances are eligible to be submitted on the tool.

6.2.1 GRM Process

The Grievance redress mechanism (GRM) responds to complaints by people who feel they have been adversely affected, are being affected or could be affected by the project, during the planning or implementation phases. The idea is that GRM should promote a quick conflict resolution to avoid lengthy judicial process in tribunals in cases of complaint or dispute.

The project GRM includes specific provisions to ensure accessibility and appropriateness for vulnerable pastoralist groups as applicable, in line with Section 7.3 of the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy. The GRM is designed to accommodate both individual and collective complaints, including submission through trusted representatives such as pastoral associations, community leaders, or customary institutions. It recognises and respects customary governance systems and allows for the use of locally accepted dispute resolution and mediation mechanisms (where consistent with project principles and human rights standards). To ensure accessibility for mobile and remote communities, complaints can be submitted through multiple channels, including in-person, community-based structures, and anonymous mechanisms at the project level. Confidentiality will be maintained where requested, and measures will be in place to ensure protection against retaliation for complainants. The GRM does not replace existing customary or formal justice systems but operates alongside them, allowing communities to choose the most appropriate channel. Information on the GRM, including procedures and rights, will be communicated in culturally appropriate ways and, where relevant, in local languages.

In addition, the project will inform stakeholders of their right to access higher-level grievance mechanisms, including the FAO accountability mechanisms and the GCF Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM). Through these measures, the GRM ensures that grievance processes are culturally appropriate, accessible, and responsive to the needs of vulnerable pastoralists groups and other communities relying on customary systems.

Bottom-up grievance process

Level	Entry point and responsible entity	Action and indicative timeline
1. Community level	Pastoral community meetings, beneficiary groups, pastoral associations, local focal points or CLO	Receive the complaint, provide assistance where needed, register it and acknowledge receipt. Complaints may be raised during field visits and seasonal consultations, avoiding the need for mobile pastoralists to travel to project offices.
2. Commune/wilaya level	CLO, commune authorities, local committee and relevant technical service	Review the facts, consult the complainant and affected users and seek a locally acceptable

		solution. Grazing, water access or resource-use grievances will involve the relevant pastoral, forestry, agricultural or water service. Response within five working days.
3. Project/FAO country level	PMU safeguard/GRM focal point and FAO Representative	Review unresolved, disputed or more complex complaints, agree corrective action and communicate the decision to the complainant. Response within five working days.
4. Higher-level or independent review	FAO Regional Office or FAO Office of the Inspector-General	Review unresolved cases, safeguard non-compliance or allegations of misconduct in accordance with applicable FAO procedures.

The mechanism comprises the following stages:

6.2.1.1 GRM for affected people without access to internet

The FAODZ team will designate a FAODZ Project team member as Community Liaison Officer (CLO) “focal point”. Its contact information will be published and communicated through public announcements and information sharing about the project (radio, mosques, community meetings, etc.), in order to raise awareness among stakeholders during project implementation and to respond to any grievances or complaints that may arise.

The CLO will serve as a point of contact to convey grievances from project-affected people, residents, and community members to the GRM. The CLO will be responsible for ensuring that the GRM's recommendations are implemented during the implementation of the ESMP

DGF and City representatives will make grievance forms available on post-boxes in each in each town hall or its annex (Maire ou annexe) as an accessible place to file a grievance. At least at the end of each month or every two weeks, the community liaison officer will collect the completed forms for submission.

For those who are illiterate, the village chiefs or CLO will assist the liaisons where the person resides to write and submit complaints. To ensure confidentiality, the project will apply the FAO guidelines of conduct that will be completed by project staff prior to the project implementation.

6.2.1.2 GRM for affected people with access to internet

1. The affected person/association should be clearly identified in the complaint tool “nechki” (name, address, mail and phone number) to proceed with the analysis of the grievance. If any member of the FAO team receives the complaint first about any issue or situation of the project, FAO team having received the complaint should ask the complainer to submit its complaint on the nechki tool first

2. If the situation is so complex or the complainer does not accept the resolution provided on “nechki” tool, the complaint should be sent to a superior level until a solution or acceptance is achieved (refer to 8.1.3 How to file a grievance).
3. In any case it is important to consider that the complaint should first arrive to the national authorities before coming to FAO. It is worth noting that priority will be given to all possible in-house resolutions before coming to FAO.
4. Under nechki tool <https://nechki.interieur.gov.dz/> each complaint received, a receipt (confirmation mail) will be sent the day it-self, and a resolution proposal will be made within thirty (30) calendar days thereafter.
5. Pursuing the resolution, the person in charge of dealing with the complaint could interact with the complainer or could call for interviews and meetings to better understand the reasons.
6. All the complaints received, the answer and the resolutions should be adequately registered by both Nechki staff and FAO.

A. Who can file a grievance and how

A.1.1. Who can file a grievance

Anyone can file a grievance or make a suggestion related to the project/office, a grievance could be made regarding the delay in the implementation of a field activities, a project delay, stakeholders’ engagement ...etc. (these are some examples only, threats, intimidation, retaliation or physical and legal attacks against stakeholders are not tolerated by FAO and need to be subject of a grievance)

A.2.1. How to file a grievance

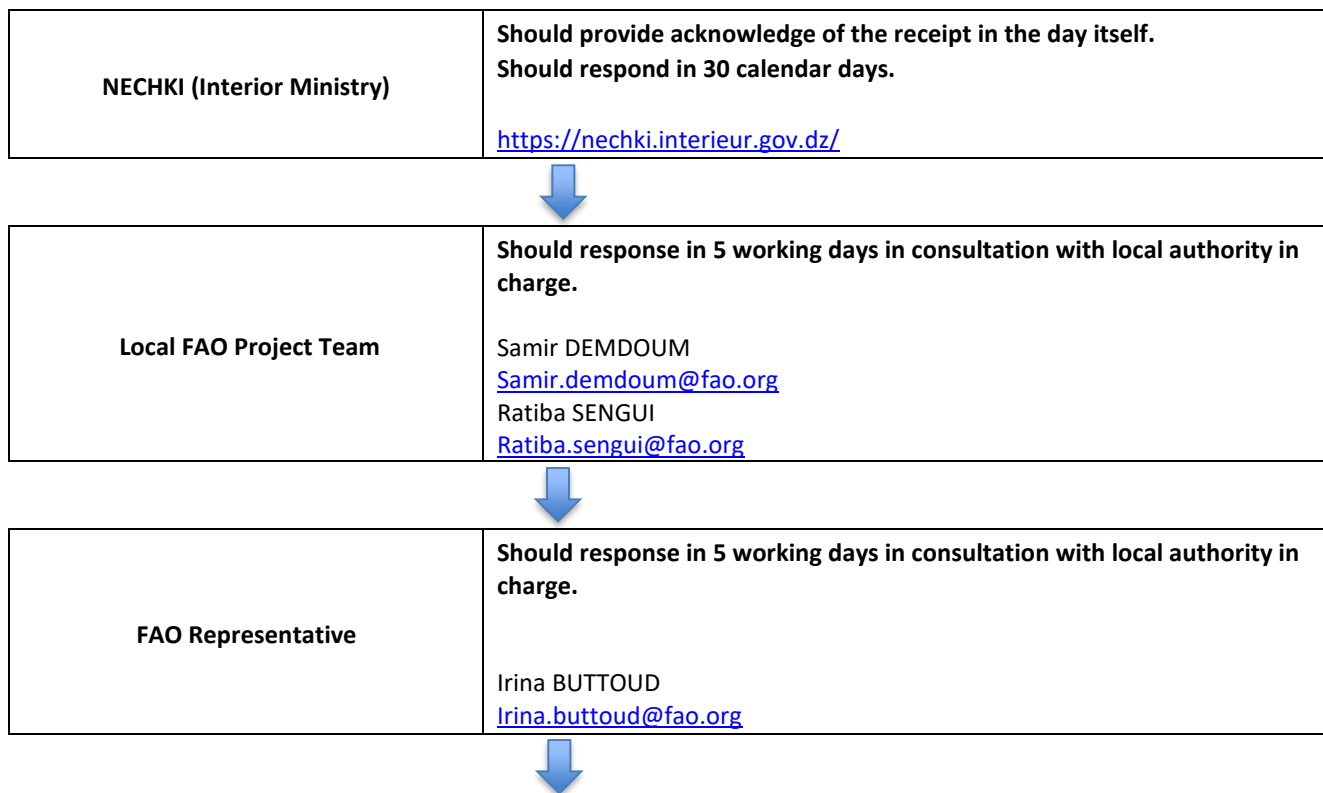
	Operating mode for filling a grievance
Nechki	1- Go on https://nechki.interieur.gov.dz/ 2- File the name, address, email, phone number 3- On “Objet de votre requête” choose (the most relevant subject related to your grievance) 4- Write your grievance on A4 paper format and sign it 5- Download your grievance through “charger un fichier” 6- Answer the characters on the Captcha 7- Click on “send” 8- You will receive a receipt mail confirming your grievance has been sent 9- If no resolution has been made within 30 calendar days (please refer to Grievance structure)
FAO Algeria	Email: FAODZ-Ecoute@fao.org Phone: 0658 96 63 44 WhatsApp +213 0658 96 63 44 Suggestion box address: 30, Rue Asselah Hocine, Alger.
FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa	FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa 11 Al-Eslah Al-Zerai Street, Dokki, P.O. BOX 2223, Cairo, Egypt. Phone: (202) 3331 6000 to 3331 6007 Fax: (202) 3749 5981, (202) 3337 3419 E-mail: FAO-RNE@fao.org
Office of the Inspector-General (OIG)	Contact FAO's independent Office of the Inspector General:

	- To report non-compliance with FAO's environmental and social management guidelines in case your grievance could not be resolved through the previously mentioned channels; - To report non-compliance with FAO's environmental and social management guidelines in case you have a good reason for not approaching the project management (e.g., fears about your safety); - To report possible fraud and other corrupt practices, as well as other misconduct such as sexual exploitation and abuse. By confidential hotline (online form & by phone): fao.ethicspoint.com By e-mail: investigations-hotline@fao.org or inspector-general-office@fao.org By mail: Office of the Inspector General Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Viale delle Terme di Caracalla 00153 Rome, Italy
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A.2.2 Grievance principle

The principles to be followed during grievance resolution process will include fairness, respect for human rights, compliance with national regulations, consistency with standards, equality, transparency honesty and respect for each other.

A.2.3 Grievance structure



FAO Regional Office for Near East and North Africa	Should response in 5 working days in consultation with the FAO Representative. FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa 11 Al-Eslah Al-Zerai Street, Dokki, P.O. BOX 2223, Cairo, Egypt. Phone: (202) 3331 6000 to 3331 6007 Fax: (202) 3749 5981, (202) 3337 3419 E-mail: FAO-RNE@fao.org
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Office of the Inspector-General (OIG)	To report potential fraud and misconduct by confidential fax: (+39) 06 570 55550 By email: Investigations-hotline@fao.org By Confidential Hotline: (+ 39) 06 570 52333
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Dissemination of the grievance redress mechanism (Communications plan)

This mechanism will be disseminated to stakeholders and communities during the project's Inception workshops in each of the localities (as well as at the central level).

Project personnel shall ensure that information about the grievance mechanism is accessible and understandable to diverse groups of beneficiaries and stakeholders, highlighting its role in voicing concerns and grievances.

The appropriate channels and techniques to effectively reach target audiences are Inception Workshops/Posters/Leaflets.

NB: Clear and concise messages should be developed, explaining the purpose of the mechanism, the importance of beneficiary feedback, and the process for submitting grievances or complaints. These messages should be tailored to the local context and culture and translated into the local languages: Arabic, Berbere (where applicable).

Information disclosure to the public and interested parties concerning project activities will include:

- The disclosure of information describing the project to all sub-project sites in languages that will be understood by all;
- Disclosure of the Draft/ Final ESMP Report to all project stakeholders including monitoring environmental and social monitoring reports.
- This ESMP will be publicly disclosed on FAO's disclosure portal prior to implementation of the project, shared with the environmental and social services sub-committees, the two local authorities and EMA. Each local authority shall share copies of the ESMP with their respective project sites.

A.2.4 Appeal and escalation mechanism and process

Any complainant who is dissatisfied with the response or proposed resolution may request an appeal or reconsideration. An appeal may also be submitted where:

- No response has been provided within the established timeframe

- The complainant considers that the grievance was not handled fairly, impartially or confidentially
- The agreed corrective action has not been implemented
- Relevant new information has become available.

The appeal process shall be free of charge, accessible, confidential where requested and protected against retaliation. Appeals may be submitted orally or in writing through any existing GRM channel, including the Community Liaison Officer (CLO), community representatives, pastoral associations, commune or wilaya services, the PMU, the FAO Representation or the project's electronic channels. Complainants may be assisted by a trusted representative and shall not be required to resubmit information already contained in the grievance file.

Appeal Process

Step	Action and responsible entity	Indicative timeframe
1. Submission of appeal	The complainant informs the CLO, PMU/GRM focal point or the next higher GRM level that they do not accept the initial decision. The appeal should identify the decision being challenged and briefly explain the reasons. Appeals should normally be submitted within ten working days of notification of the decision. Late appeals may be accepted where justified by mobility, remoteness, literacy barriers, illness, safety concerns or delayed communication.	Normally within 10 working days of the initial decision
2. Registration and acknowledgement	The appeal is entered in the GRM register under the original grievance reference number and marked as an appeal. Receipt is confirmed through the complainant's preferred communication method.	Within 2 working days
3. Independent higher-level review	The appeal is reviewed by an official or committee that was not responsible for the original decision. A community- or commune-level decision shall be reviewed by the PMU safeguards/GRM focal point and FAO Representation. A decision taken at country level may be escalated to the FAO Regional Office for the Near East and North Africa. The reviewer may examine documents, interview the complainant and other affected persons, undertake a site visit and seek technical advice. Mediation may be used only with the free agreement of the complainant.	Normally within 5 working days; up to 15 working days for complex cases, with the complainant informed of the extension
4. Appeal decision and remedy	The reviewing authority may confirm, modify or overturn the original decision; require a new investigation; or prescribe additional corrective, mitigation, compensation or livelihood-restoration measures. The decision shall provide the reasons, agreed actions, responsible entities and implementation deadlines. It shall be communicated orally and/or in writing in a language and format understandable to the complainant.	Within the review period
5. Further escalation or	Where the complainant remains dissatisfied, the matter may be referred to the FAO Regional Office. Allegations concerning non-	According to the applicable FAO,

independent recourse	compliance with FAO environmental and social standards or misconduct may be submitted to the FAO Office of the Inspector-General (OIG). People or communities who are or may be adversely affected by the GCF-funded project may also approach the GCF Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM). Access to national administrative, customary or judicial remedies remains available and is not restricted by participation in the project GRM.	GCF or national procedure
6. Implementation, monitoring and closure	The PMU GRM focal point monitors implementation of the appeal decision and records evidence of corrective action. The case is closed only after the decision has been communicated, the agreed actions have been completed or transferred to the institution responsible, and the complainant has been informed of any remaining avenues for recourse. Any continuing dissatisfaction shall be recorded.	According to the corrective-action timetable

8. Environmental and Social Management Plan Matrix

The matrix below is a whole project-level ESMP. Site-specific instruments where applicable are included in the mitigation measures, indicators, locations, timelines and costs for each approved action.

As the exact sites and detailed designs of several activities will only be confirmed during implementation, this matrix does not replace activity- or site-specific assessment. Before approval, procurement or commencement of works, each activity or subproject will be screened using the procedure and form provided in Appendix 2.

Project activity / output	Potential environmental and social risks	Mitigation measures	Responsible parties	Timeline	Cost / budget note
1.1.1 Reform of Pastoral Code and land governance framework	Regulatory reform may unintentionally exclude vulnerable pastoralists if grazing concessions are allocated primarily to large herd owners or politically connected actors. (ESS 6, ESS 7, ESS 8). Small-scale herders or women livestock keepers may lose traditional grazing access. (ESS 6, ESS 7, ESS 8). Conflicts may arise between pastoralists and farmers over new grazing boundaries. (ESS 5, ESS 7, ESS 8).	• Conduct stakeholder mapping identifying pastoral associations, small herders, women livestock keepers and commune authorities. • Organize consultation workshops in each commune (minimum 3 rounds) before legal reform. • Establish local mediation committees composed of commune authorities and pastoral representatives. • Develop communication materials explaining new pastoral rules (radio, brochures). • Pilot pastoral concession agreements in selected communes before national rollout.	MADRP, DGF, PMU, Wilaya authorities	Inception – Year 2	Covered under Component 1 – governance reform and policy development budget (~USD 8M)
1.1.2 AFOLU carbon compensation mechanism	Carbon credit schemes may concentrate financial benefits among large landholders while local pastoral communities receive limited compensation. (ESS 6, ESS 7, ESS 8).	• Develop community carbon benefit-sharing guidelines ensuring a share of carbon revenues funds local restoration activities.	Ministry of Environment, ANCC, PMU	Year 1–3	Covered under Component 1 – climate finance and carbon policy design budget

	Carbon restoration projects may also restrict traditional grazing access if poorly designed. (ESS 7, ESS 8).	• Establish transparent carbon registry and MRV monitoring system. • Conduct training workshops on carbon accounting for national institutions. • Organize community awareness sessions explaining carbon credit systems. • Develop environmental safeguard checklist ensuring biodiversity protection.			
1.1.3 Access to voluntary carbon markets	Carbon finance initiatives may encourage monoculture plantations instead of diverse ecosystems. (ESS 1, ESS 3). Communities may also face financial risks if carbon price fluctuations affect expected revenues. (ESS 3, ESS 6).	• Conduct carbon project feasibility studies before implementation. • Establish national carbon credit verification procedures aligned with international standards. • Provide training on carbon finance contract negotiation. • Ensure restoration projects prioritize native species and ecosystem diversity.	ANCC, Ministry of Finance, FAO	Year 2–5	Covered under Component 1 – carbon market development and technical assistance budget
1.1.4 Multi-stakeholder climate governance platform	Governance structures may be dominated by government actors or local elites, limiting participation of pastoralists, women, and community organizations. (ESS 6, ESS 8). Weak coordination may lead to overlapping policies. (ESS 3, ESS 6, ESS 7).	• Establish Wilaya Climate Adaptation Committees including pastoral associations and women’s groups. • Require minimum 30–40% women representation. • Organize annual multi-stakeholder planning workshops. • Publish public progress reports summarizing governance decisions.	MADRP, DGF, ANCC	Continuous	Covered under Component 1 – institutional coordination and governance platform budget
1.2.1 Climate and ecological observation network	Monitoring stations may disturb sensitive habitats or restrict community access if poorly located. (ESS 1, ESS 5, ESS 7).	• Conduct environmental screening before installing monitoring stations. • Avoid protected habitats and wildlife breeding zones.	Research institutions, PMU	Year 1–4	Covered under Component 1 – climate observation and research infrastructure budget

	Poor maintenance may lead to abandoned equipment. resulting in generation of small solid waste or hazardous waste from damaged components (e.g. batteries, cables, sensors), (ESS 2, ESS 5).	• Use lightweight monitoring infrastructure. • Establish maintenance plans and designated technical staff.			
1.2.2 Digital monitoring and evaluation system	Digital platforms may exclude local stakeholders with limited digital literacy or internet access. (ESS 6, ESS 8). Data governance risks may also arise. (ESS 6, ESS 8).	• Provide training sessions for local authorities and extension agents. • Ensure offline dissemination through printed bulletins and extension services. • Integrate environmental indicators into monitoring dashboards.	PMU, IT consultants	Year 1–3	Covered under Component 1 – digital M&E system development budget
1.2.3 Agrometeorological station network	Weather stations may be vandalized or damaged by livestock if located in open grazing areas. livestock could be harmed (ESS 5, ESS 7). Poor site selection may lead to inaccurate climate data. (ESS 3).	• Install protective fencing around weather stations. • Train local agricultural technicians on maintenance and calibration. • Integrate data with national meteorological services for quality control.	ONM, MADRP	Year 1–3	Covered under Component 1 – agrometeorological monitoring network budget
1.2.4 GIS platform for drought monitoring	GIS outputs may misrepresent local realities if based only on satellite data without field validation. (ESS 6, ESS 8). Incorrect maps could lead to inappropriate policy decisions. (ESS 3, ESS 7, ESS 8).	• Conduct field validation surveys with farmers and pastoralists. • Train planners and extension agents on interpreting GIS outputs.	ASAL, research institutions	Year 1–4	Covered under Component 1 – GIS and climate data platform budget
1.2.5 Baseline and feasibility studies	Studies may overlook traditional knowledge or produce recommendations that conflict with local practices. (ESS 6, ESS 8, ESS 7).	• Ensure independent peer review of studies. • Publish results through workshops and digital knowledge platforms. • Share studies outputs and conclusion for validation during consultations with traditional knowledge holders	PMU, research institutes	Year 1–3	Covered under Component 1 – analytical studies and planning budget
1.2.6 Digital climate advisory services	Farmers without smartphones may not receive advisories. (ESS 6, ESS 8).	• Provide SMS-based alerts accessible on basic mobile phones.	ONM, MADRP	Year 2–6	Covered under Component 1 – digital climate advisory systems budget

	Women may face barriers accessing digital tools as socio-cultural norms and time constraints linked to household responsibilities may limit women's opportunities to engage with technology (ESS 6).	• Disseminate advisories through local radio and extension services. • Pilot test climate advisories with local farmer groups.			
1.2.7 Training programmes	Training opportunities may be captured by better-connected farmers or elites; women and youth may be excluded. (ESS 6, ESS 8).	• Establish transparent training beneficiary selection criteria. • Conduct village-level farmer field schools. • Provide training materials translated into local language.	MADRP, HCDS	Continuous	Covered under Component 1 – capacity building and extension services budget
2.1.1 Nursery establishment	Introduction of non-native species may threaten biodiversity; (ESS 1). Nursery waste may contaminate soil or water. (ESS 2).	• Use certified native species adapted to local climate. • Implement nursery waste recycling systems. • Install water-efficient irrigation systems. • Train nursery staff on plant health management.	DGF	Year 1–7	Covered under Component 2 – nursery development and ecosystem restoration investments (~USD 70.7M)
2.1.2 Rangeland restoration programme	Temporary grazing restrictions may reduce pastoral access to forage and create community conflicts and could also lead to resource related conflicts (ESS 5, ESS 7, ESS 8).	• Conduct participatory rangeland planning workshops. • Identify alternative grazing areas during restoration periods. • Implement rotational grazing systems and vegetation monitoring every 6 months.	HCDS, pastoral associations	Year 2–7	Covered under Component 2 – rangeland restoration programme budget
2.1.3 Reforestation and agroforestry plots	Poor species selection may reduce survival rates or disturb ecosystems. (ESS 1). Tree planting may compete with crops for water. (ESS 2, ESS 3, ESS 7).	• Conduct soil and climate assessments before planting. • Use native drought-resistant species. • Install temporary fencing where grazing pressure is high. • Monitor tree survival annually and replant if needed.	DGF	Year 2–7	Covered under Component 2 – reforestation and agroforestry investment budget
2.1.4 Dune stabilization programme	Mechanical stabilization may temporarily disturb fragile desert ecosystems; (ESS 1, ESS 2). vegetation may fail under extreme drought. (ESS 3).	• Combine mechanical barriers with biological planting of native shrubs. • Monitor vegetation establishment annually. • Engage local communities in stabilization maintenance.	DGF	Year 2–7	Covered under Component 2 – dune fixation programme budget

2.1.5 Silvicultural management	Chemical pesticides may harm pollinators or wildlife; forestry workers may face health risks. (ESS 1, ESS 2, ESS 4).	• Apply Integrated Pest Management prioritizing biological controls. • Train forestry workers on safe pesticide handling and PPE use.	Forestry services	Year 2–7	Covered under Component 2 – forest management and health monitoring budget
2.1.6 Forest fire infrastructure	Construction of firebreaks and tracks may fragment habitats or cause soil erosion. (ESS 1, ESS 2, ESS 5).	• Conduct environmental screening before construction. • Replant disturbed areas after construction with native vegetation.	DGF, contractors	Year 2–6	Covered under Component 2 – forest fire protection infrastructure budget
2.2.1 Agricultural access tracks	Construction may cause erosion or dust affecting nearby communities. (ESS 2, ESS 5).	• Install drainage systems and slope stabilization structures. • Restore vegetation cover along road margins after construction.	Public works authorities	Year 2–6	Covered under Component 2 – rural infrastructure rehabilitation budget
2.2.2 Soil erosion control structures	Structures may alter water flows affecting downstream ecosystems. (ESS 1, ESS 2, ESS 5).	• Conduct hydrological assessments before installation. • Monitor runoff patterns after construction.	Water authorities	Year 2–7	Covered under Component 2 – soil and water conservation infrastructure budget
2.2.3 Water mobilization infrastructure	Borehole drilling may deplete aquifers and create water access conflicts. (ESS 2, ESS 3, ESS 5, ESS 7).	• Conduct groundwater availability assessments before drilling. • Install water meters on boreholes. • Establish community water management committees.	Water authorities	Year 2–7	Covered under Component 2 – water mobilization and storage infrastructure budget
2.2.4 Efficient irrigation systems	Irrigation expansion may increase pressure on water resources. (ESS 2, ESS 3).	• Promote drip irrigation systems reducing water consumption. • Train farmers on efficient irrigation scheduling.	MADRP	Year 2–7	Covered under Component 2 – climate-resilient irrigation systems budget
3.1.1 Value chain development	Increased demand for non-timber forest products may lead to overharvesting and ecosystem degradation. (ESS 1, ESS 2, ESS 3).	• Develop sustainable harvesting guidelines. • Train producers on regeneration and resource management techniques.	MADRP	Year 2–7	Covered under Component 3 – climate-resilient value chain development (~USD 20.8M)
3.1.2 Producer-private sector partnerships	Producers may enter unfair contracts with private companies due to lack of legal support. (ESS 6, ESS 7).	• Provide legal advisory services to producer groups before signing contracts. • Develop standard contract templates ensuring fair profit sharing.	PMU	Year 2–7	Covered under Component 3 – value chain market integration budget

3.1.3 Micro-enterprise creation	Entrepreneurs may incur financial losses due to limited market knowledge. (ESS 3, ESS 6).	• Provide business planning training and market analysis support. • Monitor enterprise performance annually and provide mentoring.	ANADE	Year 2–7	Covered under Component 3 – micro-enterprise development budget
3.2.1 Rustic fruit orchards	Increased irrigation demand may strain local water resources (ESS 2, ESS 3).	• Promote drought-tolerant fruit species. • Install drip irrigation systems.	MADRP	Year 2–7	Covered under Component 3 – livelihood diversification investments
3.2.2 Livestock and beekeeping modules	Livestock modules may increase disease transmission if veterinary support is weak (ESS 4, ESS 5)	• Implement vaccination programmes and veterinary monitoring. • Train farmers on livestock hygiene and disease detection.	Agricultural services	Year 2–7	Covered under Component 3 – livestock support programme budget
3.2.3 Hydroponic forage systems	Farmers unfamiliar with technology may abandon systems, reducing effectiveness (ESS 3, ESS 6)	• Provide training on hydroponic system operation and maintenance. • Monitor system performance annually.	PMU	Year 2–7	Covered under Component 3 – livestock feed innovation budget
3.2.4 Circular economy solutions	Poor management of agro-processing residues may cause environmental pollution (ESS 2, ESS 5)	• Establish waste recycling systems converting residues into livestock feed or compost.	MADRP	Year 3–7	Covered under Component 3 – circular economy and agro-processing investments
3.2.5 Solar energy kits	Improper disposal of solar batteries and panels may create electronic waste hazards (ESS 2, ESS 5)	• Establish solar equipment recycling programme with certified waste handlers. • Train users on maintenance and safe disposal procedures.	PMU	Year 2–7	Covered under Component 3 – clean energy access investments
3.1.4 Facilitate access to microcredit and subsidized finance	Financial products may not match seasonal income patterns of pastoralists (ESS 6, ESS 8).	• Design loan products aligned with seasonal pastoral income cycles. • Provide financial literacy training for beneficiaries.	MADRP, BADR	Year 2–6	Covered under Component 3 – sustainable finance mechanisms budget
3.1.4 Facilitate access to microcredit and subsidized finance	Low financial literacy may expose beneficiaries to debt risks (ESS 6, ESS 8)	• Provide loan application mentoring and repayment planning support. • Establish financial advisory services for beneficiaries.	BADR, ANADE	Year 2–7	Covered under Component 3 – financial inclusion and microcredit support budget
Reforestation and revegetation of degraded lands	Disturbance of natural habitats; (ESS 1). inappropriate species selection and impacts on ecosystem functions (ESS 1).	• Use native and locally adapted species and avoid ecologically sensitive areas • Conduct biodiversity screening prior to planting; monitor ecological outcomes	DGF, Forestry services, PIU E&S Specialist	Planning and implementation phase	Included in restoration and monitoring budget

Rangeland restoration and assisted regeneration	Temporary restriction of grazing and reduced access to pasture (ESS 7, ESS 8). Potential tensions between pastoralists and farmers (ESS 5, ESS 7, ESS 8).	• Apply rotational grazing, seasonal resting, and controlled stocking rates; • Define time-bound access rules through consultation and provide alternative grazing arrangements where needed	DGF, Local committees, Pastoral services, PIU	Planning and implementation phase	Included in restoration and community engagement budget
Rangeland and pastoral systems management	Conflicts between farmers and pastoralists due to overlapping land use and mobility patterns (ESS 5, ESS 7, ESS 8).	• Conduct land-use and user mapping including seasonal users. • Establish locally agreed access arrangements. • Integrate VGGT principles and agreements into ESMP	PIU, Local authorities, Community committees	Prior to implementation and ongoing	Included in stakeholder engagement budget
Nursery establishment and rehabilitation	Land access issues and water overuse; Inappropriate species integration and OHS risks (ESS 1, ESS 2, ESS 4, ESS 7)	• Verify land tenure status before site selection; • Ensure sustainable water use (in regard to the integrated water management plan to be developed). • Use climate-adapted species.	DGF, Nursery operators, PIU E&S Specialist	Planning and operational phase	Included in nursery development budget
Forest health and pest control (Activity 2.1.5)	Environmental and health risks from pesticide use Soil and water contamination (ESS 1, ESS 2, ESS 4, ESS 5)	• Apply Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and prioritize biological /mechanical control • Use approved products only.	Forestry services, PIU, Contractors	Implementation phase	Included in forestry management budget
All project activities involving land and natural resources	Exclusion of women from decision-making; unequal benefit-sharing; gender-based barriers (ESS 6)	• Ensure women's participation in consultations and apply gender-responsive criteria • Implement Gender Action Plan (annex 8)	PIU Gender focal point, E&S Specialist	Throughout project	Included in GAP budget
All project activities	Stakeholder conflicts and grievances related to land, grazing, or resource access (ESS 5, ESS 7, ESS 8)	• Conduct inclusive consultations and establish local agreements. • Ensure GRM accessibility.	PIU, GRM focal point, Local committees	Throughout project	Included in stakeholder engagement budget

9. Conclusion

This ESMF provides the framework for identifying, assessing and managing the environmental and social risks associated with the project's governance, restoration, water, infrastructure and livelihood activities. Based on the current assessment, the project is classified as Moderate Risk / Category B, as the anticipated adverse impacts are generally site-specific, limited, reversible and manageable through appropriate design, consultation, mitigation and supervision.

All activities and subprojects will be screened before approval. Where required, complementary instruments will be prepared, consulted upon, approved and incorporated into procurement, contractual and implementation arrangements. Activities presenting significant, irreversible or unacceptable residual risks will be redesigned, relocated or excluded from financing.

The DGF and Project Management Unit will be responsible for day-to-day safeguards implementation, supported by wilaya-level services, local committees, contractors and dedicated environmental, social, gender and grievance focal points. FAO will provide oversight, quality assurance and reporting to the GCF.

Implementation will be supported by continuous stakeholder engagement, accessible bottom-up GRM, regular monitoring, incident reporting and adaptive management. The ESMF will remain a living document and will be updated where project design changes, new risks emerge or monitoring shows that additional mitigation measures are required.

APPENDIX 1. EXCLUSION LIST

FAO will not knowingly support, directly or indirectly, projects involved in activities, production, trade, or use of the products, or substances listed below. Additional exclusions may apply in the context of a specific project.

- Harmful or exploitative forms of child labour.
- Harmful or exploitative forms of forced labour.
- Forced evictions without the provision of and access to appropriate forms of legal and other protection.
- Activities that result in the exploitation of and access to outsiders to the lands and territories of Indigenous Peoples in voluntary isolation and in initial contact.
- Activities or production impinging on land used or claimed under adjudication by Indigenous Peoples without their consent
- Destruction of protected areas or other high biodiversity and High Conservation Value areas
- Construction or financing of dams over 15 m in height.
- Activities that are illegal under host country laws, regulations or ratified international conventions and agreements relating to biodiversity protection or cultural heritage.
- Activities or materials deemed illegal under host country laws or regulations or international conventions and agreements, such as:
 - products that contain any substances that are banned for use or trade under applicable international treaties and agreements, or meet the criteria of carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, or reproductive toxicity as set forth by relevant international agencies; and
 - wildlife or products regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species or Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- Cross-border trade in waste and waste products, unless compliant to the Basel Convention and the underlying regulations.
- Trade related to pornography and/or prostitution.
- Production and distribution of racist and discriminatory media.
- Project's activities for which any of the following products has a primary role:
 - production, use or trade in radioactive materials¹ and unbounded asbestos fibres or asbestos-containing products;
 - blast fishing and large-scale pelagic drift net fishing using nets more than 2.5 km in length;
 - production or trade in alcoholic beverages (except beer and wine) and tobacco; or production, use, trade or distribution of weapons and munitions; and or gambling, casinos or equivalent enterprises.

More specifically to the ARC-BVA, any sub-project that meets one or more of the following screening criteria will not be approved for financing under the programme:

- Land appropriation.
- Involuntary displacement of people and/or demolition of permanent homes or businesses.

¹ This does not apply to the purchase of equipment, quality control (measurement) equipment and any similar equipment where the radioactive source is trivial and/or adequately shielded.

- Use of the programme as an incentive and/or tool to support and/or implement involuntary resettlement of the local population and village consolidation.
- New settlements or expansion of existing settlements.

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- Activities that may negatively impact ethnic groups/indigenous populations in the village and/or neighboring villages, or activities that are unacceptable to ethnic groups living in an ethnically homogeneous village or in a village with a mixed ethnic composition.
 - Damage or loss of cultural property, including sites of unique archaeological (prehistoric), paleontological, historical, religious, cultural, and natural value.
 - Activity that promotes inter-agropastoralist conflict.
 - Restriction of access to resources (e.g., restriction of access to agricultural land) that cannot be mitigated and will negatively impact the livelihoods of ethnic groups and disadvantaged populations.
 - Activity or infrastructure that alters transhumance corridors.
 - Purchase of pesticides, insecticides, herbicides and other hazardous chemicals more than the amount needed to effectively treat the infected area.
 - Excessive use of synthetic chemical fertilizers.
 - Purchase of destructive farm equipment and other environmentally damaging investments.
 - Use or overuse of mechanized tillage equipment or machinery that is inappropriate and destructive to the soil.
 - Unsustainable exploitation of natural resources.
 - Irrigation system of more than 20 hectares or a water withdrawal of more than 1000 m³/day.
 - Boreholes are constructed without prior study (state of water resources, capacity of the water table, quantity of water to be extracted per day).
 - Excessive use of agricultural water and resale for consumption
 - Significant deforestation due to unsustainable practices or overharvesting of NTFPs.
 - Significant conversion or degradation of natural habitat or where the conservation and/or environmental benefits do not clearly outweigh the potential losses.
 - Introduction of non-native species, unless they are already present in the vicinity or are known not to be invasive in similar environments.
 - Introduction of an invasive species or a practice that promotes their proliferation
 - Introduction of a GMO species.
 - Production of or trade in any product or activity considered illegal by the laws and regulations of Algeria or by international conventions and agreements, or subject to international prohibitions.
 - Trade in Timber and Reforested Forest Species.
 - Labor and working conditions involving harmful, exploitative, involuntary or compulsory forms of labor, forced labor, child labor or significant occupational health and safety issues.
 - Business activity which promotes the direct financing of non-state armed groups.
 - Trade in any product with companies engaged in environmentally or socially exploitative behavior.
 - Sub-activities including any project that will use or encourage the use of hazardous materials or prohibited chemicals.
 - Trading in food, cosmetics and other products that are hazardous to human health.

APPENDIX 2. SUB-PROJECT SCREENING FORM

 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	Social and Environmental Screening Report – ARC-BVA
It is important to screen each subproject to see if they will create social and environmental risks to the community. Even if there is a plan to lessen the risk to the community and to people within the community, those risks should be listed regardless of planned mitigation and management measures. It is necessary to identify potential inherent risks if mitigation measures were to be put in place. are not implemented or fail. This means that risks should be identified as if no mitigation or management	
SECTION A: General Information	
Date of screening:	
Name of sub-project:	
Main project component (to which sub-project relates):	
Name of applicant (implementing agency):	
Proposed sub-project budget:	
Proposed sub-project duration:	
ES Screening Team Leader and Contact Details:	
ES Screening Team Members:	
Program/Site/Activity location	
Sub-project Description.	

Briefly describe the sub-project activities, particularly as they interact with the environment and social context	
Categorize sub-project activities into high, substantial, moderate, and low risk activities.	

SECTION B: Exclusion List Screening

Can you confirm that none of the activities involved those listed in the Exclusion List (Appendix 1 of the ARC-BVA ESMF)? **Y / N**

SECTION C: Potential Environmental/Social Risks Impacts of Activities *(sample to be updated once project activities are final approved)*

Risk Category <i>(Please check each line appropriately. At this stage, questions are answered without considering magnitude of impact – only yes, no, or I don't know are applicable answers)</i>	Yes	No	Don't Know	If these risks ('yes') are present, please refer to:	Comments
General Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts					
Is a full Environmental and/or Social Impact Assessment required for the sub-project based on: (i) its risk rating? (e.g. high or substantial risk sub-projects); and/or (ii) national legislation within Algeria?				ESMF	
Have there been any complaints from affected populations, local groups or NGOs about the rehabilitated sites and the conditions of the sub-project under which the land restoration took place? <i>If so, will project financing be used to remedy these complaints?</i>				ESMF Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM)	
Is there a risk of diversion of sub-project benefits?				SEP GRM PGPF (Chapter in the ESMF) Gender Analysis & Action Plan (GAP)	

Does the sub-project plan to appropriate or deteriorate an area identified as a transhumance corridor, a grazing area, or pastoral infrastructure?				ESMF Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM)	
Is there a risk that sub-project benefits may not reach truly vulnerable populations?				SEP PGPF (Chapter in the ESMF) GASIP	
Is there a risk of sub-projects being manipulated by different non-state armed groups?				SEP GRM	
Is there a risk that the selection of the activity location or beneficiaries will lead to conflict?				GRM SEP	

Risk Category <i>(Please check each line appropriately. At this stage, questions are answered without considering magnitude of impact – only yes, no, or I don't know are applicable answers)</i>	Yes	No	Don't Know	If these risks ('yes') are present, please refer to:	Comments
Is there a risk that the sub-project will develop unsustainable and destructive restoration techniques?				ESMF	
Labour and Working Conditions					
Does the activity include any of the known labour rights / ESS noncompliance risks in Algeria (child and forced labor)?				ESMF	
Does the funded land restoration work include demolition of housing? <i>If yes, a rehabilitation plan needs to be prepared</i>				ESMF PGPF	
Does the highly degraded land restoration implementing agency or subcontractor have any significant outstanding fees, environmental fines or penalties, or other environmental obligations (e.g., pending legal proceedings involving environmental issues, etc.)? <i>If yes, will the financing be used to correct this condition and please explain?</i>				ESMF	

Does the activity, mainly for restoration, include highly intensive labour?				ESMF Occupational Health and Safety Guidelines (OHSG)	
Does the activity involve the use of heavy farm machinery, handling of farm machinery/equipment and could it pose occupational health and safety problems?				ESMF OHSG	
Is there a risk of lack of occupational safety and health for workers at restoration sites?				Develop an Occupational Health and Safety Plan (OHSP) based on the OHSG	
Is there a risk that women will be excluded and/or not included in equitable numbers?				ESMF SEP GAP	
Is the supply of jobs or contracts likely to create conflict or favor one commune over another?				SEP GRM	

Risk Category <i>(Please check each line appropriately. At this stage, questions are answered without considering magnitude of impact – only yes, no, or I don't know are applicable answers)</i>	Yes	No	Don't Know	If these risks (yes') are present, please refer to:	Comments
Management of Resource Efficiency and Prevention of Environmental Degradation					
Will the activity lead to overexploitation of the resource?				ESMF	
Will the activity cause diffuse pollution?				ESMF	
Will the activity result in the generation of dust and noise?				ESMF	
Will the activity result in soil erosion?				ESMF	

Will the subproject result in unsustainable management of available space, NTFPs resources, and other natural resources?				ESMF	
Will the activity disturb any fauna and flora?				ESMF	
Will the activity result in the use of irrigation water with high salinity levels?				ESMF	
Can the sub-project affect the surface or groundwater in quantity or quality? (E.g. discharges, leaking, leaching, boreholes, etc.)				ESMF	
Will the sub-project activities require use of chemicals (e.g. fertilizers, pesticides, etc.), and/or might they prompt others to increase their use of chemicals?				ESMF GAP GRM	
Does the subproject risk introducing highly invasive NTFP species?				ESMF	
Does the programme risk the disappearance of local endogenous species in favor of other NTFPs?				ESMF	
Community Health and Safety					
Is there a risk of increased GBV/SEA cases due to labour influx?				ESMF GRM	
Does the activity have the potential to upset community dynamics?				SEP	
Will the activity expose community members to physical hazards on the sub-project site?				GRM	

Risk Category (Please check each line appropriately. At this stage, questions are answered without considering magnitude of impact – only yes, no, or I don't know are applicable answers)	Yes	No	Don't Know	If these risks (yes') are present, please refer to:	Comments
Is there a possibility that the activity contaminates wells, potable water sources, and/or water used for agricultural activities?				ESMF	
Can the activity contribute to the spread of disease (e.g. during pandemic situation)?				ESMF	

Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use, and Involuntary Resettlement				
Will the proposed activity/sub-project require acquisition of land, e.g.: • Encroachment on private property • Relocation of project affected persons • Loss of private lands or assets • Impacts on livelihood incomes This includes displacement of a population, either physically or economically (e.g. relocation for construction purposes, temporary or permanent; activities which may lead to loss of income, assets or means of livelihoods). <i>If yes, a site-specific Resettlement/Livelihood Restoration Action Plan must be prepared</i>				ESMF exclusion list PGPF
Is the sub-project located in a conflict area, or has the potential to cause social problems and exacerbate conflicts, for instance, related to land tenure and access to resources ?				SEP GRM ESMF PGPF
Will the activity lead to disputes over land ownership?				ESMF SEP GRM PGPF
Would the programme potentially discriminate against women and girls based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?				SEP GRM PGPF
Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources				
Will the activity impact sensitive and/or protected areas?				ESMF
Is there a risk that the sub-project causes ecological disturbances?				ESMF

Risk Category <i>(Please check each line appropriately. At this stage, questions are answered without considering magnitude of impact – only yes, no, or I don't know are applicable answers)</i>	Yes	No	Don't Know	If these risks ('yes') are present, please refer to:	Comments
Is there a risk that the sub-project will cause (i) changes to landscapes and habitat; (ii) habitat fragmentation; (iii) blockages to migration routes; (iv) increased water consumption; and/or (v) contamination of natural habitats?				ESMF	
Is there a risk that the activity causes loss of precious ecological assets?				ESMF	
Cultural Heritage					
Will the subproject be in or close to a site of natural or cultural value?				ESMF PGPF	
Is the subproject site known to have the potential for the presence of cultural and natural heritage remains?				ESMF PGPF	
Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure				ESMF Appendix 5 (Chance Finds Procedures) SEP PGPF	
Is there a risk that the activity fails to incorporate measures to allow meaningful, effective and informed consultation of stakeholders, such as community engagement activities?				SEP PGPF	
Has there been historical exclusion of disabled persons or other marginalized groups (women, children, ethnic minorities, elderly) in the area?				SEP PGPF	
Is there a lack of social baseline data?				GRM ESMF	
Are women likely to participate in decision-making processes regarding the activity?				SEP PGPF ESMF	
Is there a risk that exclusion of beneficiaries will lead to grievances?				SEP PGPF	

				GRM	
Is there a risk that the activity will have poor access to beneficiaries?				SEP PGPF GRM	

SECTION D: Summary of the Screening Process

E&S Screening	Results and Recommendation		
Screening Results: Summary of Critical Risks and Impacts Identified	What is the potential risk/impact	Individual Risk/ Impact Rating (Low, Medium, Substantial, High)	Mitigation At the end of the screen process, tabulate the mitigation measures in an ESMP Format (Appendix 3)
	<i>e.g. Increased use of pesticides due to increased production OR control spray methods</i>	<i>e.g. Medium</i>	<i>e.g. Pest management plan, along with training on OHS (e.g. how to use personal protective equipment (PPE), etc.)</i>
Is Additional Assessment Necessary? <i>(Evaluate the Risks/Impacts and reflect on options)</i>	Screening Result		Summary of Screening Result Justification
	1. No further ES Assessment required.		<i>e.g. "low risk sub-project"</i>
	2. No further ES Assessment required but requires simple ESMP.		<i>e.g. "low to medium risk sub-project"</i>
	3. Detailed ESMP. Done internally or by the subproject implementing agency/partner.		<i>e.g. "medium risk sub-project, without need for ESIA, and implemented directly by the Provincial PMU or an implementation partner"</i>
	4. Detailed ESMP. Contracted to a third party.		<i>e.g. "substantial risk sub-project, without need for ESIA, but with the need for a third party consulting firm in order to avoid conflict of interest"</i>
	5. YES 2. ESIA required. Contracted to a third party.		<i>e.g. "substantial/high risk sub-project"</i>
Is the activity excluded under the programme (does appear in the exclusion list of the ESMF)?	yes	no	

APPENDIX 3. SAMPLE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR SAFEGUARDS SPECIALISTS

TORs: ENVIRONMENT & SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SPECIALIST

BACKGROUND: [This section must include the programme background, ideally tailored to the PMU]

OBJECTIVE:

The Environment & Social Safeguards Specialist will be responsible for the implementation, monitoring, and reporting of all environment and social safeguards for the programme. This will include, when relevant, implementation of the programme's Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), and any items listed in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). The ESS Specialist will work in close collaboration with the Social Safeguards & Gender Specialists based in the Country Implementation Unit (CIU), as well as with the programme's Regional and National Monitoring & Evaluation specialists. The ESS Specialist will report to the lead of the Programme Management Unit (PMU) and technically coordinate with the Global Lead ESS Specialist based in Rome HQ.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Train the social safeguards & gender specialists and relevant project staff involved with ARC-BVA on how to apply and implement safeguards procedures and tools throughout the programme, including managing instances of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and/or Harassment (SEAH).
- Coordinate with the Global Lead ESS Specialist to ensure all project safeguards are aligned with the latest requirements
- Prepare, implement, and monitor environmental and social safeguards instruments, including the environmental & climate-risk aspects of ESMP, and the relevant aspects of the PGPF/Plan.
- Support the Project team members and relevant cooperating partners/service providers staff in complying with the environmental and social safeguards requirements
- Ensure integration of ESS requirements in all relevant contracts with service providers/cooperating partners and third parties as required
- Identify key issues & ways to manage issues pertaining to the environment, climate, and social context.
- Conduct consultations, in collaboration with the Social Safeguards & Gender Specialist, with target communities in the programme areas to assess the (i) current environmental and social situation (at local level, this includes peoples' perception of the situation); (ii) environmental, climate, and social related impacts of sub-projects; and (iii) mitigation measures (including the communities' recommendations/solutions) that can be taken pertaining to any negative impacts.
- Obtain data from, sensitize, and clearly explain to relevant government staff (or civil society organizations/partners, etc.) the data, M&E, and compliance requirements for environmental safeguards & climate risk considerations during programme implementation.
- Manage, along with the Social Safeguards & Gender Specialists, the programme's Grievance Redress Mechanism – including sensitive cases pertaining to Sexual Harassment, Exploitation, and/or Abuse (SHEA)

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Advanced University degree in Environmental Science, Biology, Environmental Engineering, Social Sciences, International Relations and Development or any related field.
- Minimum of 5 years of relevant operational experience and proven track record in International Environmental and Social Safeguards compliance and implementation, working land restoration projects, natural resources management, and/or climate projects
- Familiarity with climate science and management of climate risks
- Working knowledge of English and French proficiency (additional knowledge of local languages is an asset).

CORE COMPETENCIES:

- Results Focus
- Teamwork

- Communication
- Building Effective Relationships
- Knowledge Sharing and Continuous Improvement

TECHNICAL/FUNCTIONAL SKILLS:

- Work experience in implementation and management of international safeguards standards pertaining to environment, climate, and land restoration activities.
- Knowledge of issues pertaining to land tenure, pastoralism, management of the commons, non-timber forest products, environmental management, climate, and biodiversity.
- Experience in implementing and managing Grievance Redress Mechanisms, including how to handle sensitive cases of Sexual Harassment, Exploitation, and Abuse (SHEA)
- Knowledge and understanding of international environmental and social safeguards standards and practices

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Demonstrated capacity to supervise land restoration projects, natural resources management, and/or climate projects, including compliance with Environmental and Social standards
- Demonstrated ability to liaise with multiple agencies and contractors, effectively building an understanding and partnership with other UN bodies, NGOs, government agencies, and contractors as needed
- Ability to plan, organize, implement, and report
- Excellent communication, writing, and presentation skills in French and English
- Teamwork spirit, ability to work under minimum supervision
- Ability to build effective working relationships with national and international colleagues, with different cultural and technical backgrounds
- Proven strong communication, interpersonal and negotiation skills
- Analytical skills and experience.
- Ability to keep sensitive information as confidential.

TORs: NATIONAL SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS & GENDER SPECIALIST

BACKGROUND: [This section must include the programme background, ideally tailored to the specific CIU]

OBJECTIVE:

The National Social Safeguards & Gender Specialist will be responsible for the implementation, monitoring, and reporting of all environmental, social and gender-related safeguards for the programme in their given Country Implementation Unit (CIU). This will include, when relevant, implementation of the programme's Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), Gender Analysis & Action Plan (GAP), and any items listed in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). The National ESS Specialist will work in close collaboration with the National Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist (based in the CIU), as well as with the Lead Environmental & Social Safeguards Specialist based in Rome HQ. The National ESS Specialist will report to the lead of the CIU and technically coordinated by the Lead Environmental & Social Safeguards Specialist.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Attend safeguards training provided by the Lead Environmental & Social Safeguards Specialist and, once trained, train relevant project staff on how to apply and implement safeguards procedures and tools throughout the programme, including how to address issues of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and/or Harassment (SEAH).
- Prepare, implement, and monitor the Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), PGPF/Plan, and Gender Action Plan(s) (GAP(s)) for subprojects sites in the country, in close collaboration with the National Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist, FAO Land Tenure Team (when applicable), and the Lead Environmental & Social Safeguards Specialist.

- Compile the social baseline data for ESMPs, PGPF/and Plans, and GAPS at sub-project level with information on demographics, ethnic/religious minorities, overall population, education, health, social protection, language(s), religion, land tenure, and any other areas required based on FAO and GCF guidelines.
- Ensure that environmental impacts and risks are also assessed and covered under all project interventions, drawing from relevant project staff for support on compiling the environmental data and making the assessment (in collaboration with the Regional Lead Environmental & Social Safeguards Specialist)
- Identify key issues & ways to manage issues pertaining to land tenure, ethnic minorities, gender, and social inclusion.
- Conduct consultations, in collaboration with the Regional Lead Environmental & Social Safeguards Specialist, with target communities in the programme area to assess the (i) current social situation (at local level, this includes peoples' perception of the situation); (ii) social impacts of sub-projects; and (iii) mitigation measures (including the communities' recommendations/solutions) that can be taken pertaining to any negative social impacts.
- Obtain data from, sensitize, and clearly explain to relevant government staff (or civil society organizations/partners, etc.) the data, M&E, and compliance requirements for social safeguards & gender/ethnic minority/social inclusion during programme implementation.
- Manage, along with the Regional Lead Environmental & Social Safeguards Specialist, the programme's Grievance Redress Mechanism – including sensitive cases pertaining to Sexual Harassment, Exploitation, and/or Abuse (SHEA)

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Advanced University degree in Environmental Sciences, Social Sciences, International Development, or any related field to environmental and social sustainability and inclusion/ safeguards.
- Minimum of 5 years of relevant operational experience and proven track record in working with Environmental and Social standards and safeguards procedures
- Working knowledge of English and French proficiency (additional knowledge of local languages is an asset).

CORE COMPETENCIES:

- Results Focus
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Building Effective Relationships
- Knowledge Sharing and Continuous Improvement

TECHNICAL/FUNCTIONAL SKILLS:

- Work experience in implementation and management of environmental sustainability and assessments and social inclusion activities, and international social safeguards pertaining to land tenure, land use/access to benefits, natural resources management, and land restoration activities
- Knowledge of issues pertaining to ethnic minorities, gender, youth, and other vulnerable populations.
- Knowledge of issues pertaining to land tenure, pastoralism, management of the commons, non-timber forest products, environmental management, climate, and biodiversity.
- Experience in implementing and managing Grievance Redress Mechanisms, including how to handle sensitive cases of Sexual Harassment, Exploitation, and Abuse (SHEA)
- Knowledge and understanding of international environmental and social safeguards standards and practices

SELECTION CRITERIA:

- Demonstrated capacity to supervise land restoration projects, natural resources management, and/or climate projects, including attention to issues of gender and social inclusion and compliance with Environmental and Social standards
- Demonstrated ability to liaise with multiple agencies and contractors, effectively building an understanding and partnership with other UN bodies, NGOs, government agencies, and contractors as needed
- Ability to plan, organize, implement, and report
- Excellent communication, writing, and presentation skills in French and English

- Teamwork spirit, ability to work under minimum supervision
- Ability to build effective working relationships with national and international colleagues, with different cultural and technical backgrounds
- Proven strong communication, interpersonal and negotiation skills

APPENDIX 4. CHANCE FIND PROCEDURE

The following “*chance find*” procedures must be included in all third-party contracts (e.g. Letters of Agreement) in instances where the contracted party is assisting with programme implementation.

National CIUs will ensure that the bidding documents and work contracts include clauses on chance find procedures. Specifically, the clause will stipulate that if the Contractor discovers archeological sites, historical sites, remains and objects, including graveyards and/or individual graves during programme implementation, the Contractor shall:

- Stop the activities in the area of the chance find;
- Delineate the discovered site or area;
- Secure the site to prevent any damage or loss of removable objects. In cases of removable antiquities or sensitive remains, a night guard shall be arranged until the responsible local or provincial authorities take over;
- Notify the National Social Safeguards & Gender Specialist within the CIU who, in turn, will notify the responsible local and provincial authorities immediately (within 24 hours or less) and the Lead Regional Environmental & Social Safeguards Specialist in the PMU;
- Responsible local and/or provincial authorities would oversee protecting and preserving the site before deciding on subsequent appropriate procedures. This would require a preliminary evaluation of the findings to be performed by government approved archeologists. The significance and importance of the findings should be assessed according to the various criteria relevant to cultural heritage; those include the aesthetic, historic, scientific or research, social and economic values;
- Decisions on how to handle the findings shall be taken by the responsible local and provincial and/or national authorities. This could include changes in the layout (such as when finding an irremovable remain of cultural or archeological importance) conservation, preservation, restoration and salvage;
- Implementation for the authority decision concerning the management of the finding shall be communicated in writing by relevant local authorities; and
- Project activities could only resume after permission is given from the responsible local or provincial and/or national authorities concerning safeguarding the heritage.

Note that the reporting of chance finds only occurs when an item/area/etc. of cultural significance is found and is only carried out insofar as what is detailed above (i.e. reporting the find, reporting how the item/area will be treated moving forward). Reporting begins with the local level implementer (e.g. staff tasked to implement the programme within a village) notifying the National Social Safeguards & Gender Specialist, after which, the National Social Safeguards & Gender Specialist guides the process according to the instructions above (e.g. notifying the relevant government authorities and the Lead Regional Environmental & Social Safeguards Specialist).

APPENDIX 5. UXO CLEARANCE FORM

Project Title:

Name of Implementation Partner:

Reconstruction and rehabilitation Projects may present the risks of explosive war remnants (EWR) concealed in and under rubble (both unexploded ordnance - UXO, and deliberately planted explosives). Any repairs or reconstruction financed by FAO will only apply to those areas that have been declared safe of EWRs. Confirmation that Project locations have been cleared of landmines, EWR, IEDs and UXOs will be sought from the relevant authorities and stakeholders. No Project activities will be undertaken without this assurance. The declaration of absence of ERW will be a criterion to allow any FAO-financed works to proceed.

Was there armed fighting in the programme area within the last 20 years?	☐ No	☐ Yes
Has the area been used as ammunition depots, training camp by military or armed forces? Give details:	☐ No	☐ Yes
Was there any landmine/UXO/EWR accident within the programme area within the last 20 years? Give details:	☐ No	☐ Yes
Has the programme area been cleared for landmine/UXO/EWR in the past? When?	☐ No	☐ Yes
Are there any other elements indicating presence of landmine/UXO/EWR in the area? Give details:	☐ No	☐ Yes
Mention the source of above information: ☐ community ☐ military ☐ authorities ☐ NGO ☐ Documentation: Give details:		
Can the Implementation Partner declare to the best of his knowledge that the area considered as safe of mines before construction works?	☐ No	☐ Yes
Can the Implementation Partner take liability in case of landmine/UXO/EWR accident?	☐ No	☐ Yes
Does the Implementation Partner request a landmine/UXO/EWR clearance before the programme can start? If yes, give information on the area to be cleared: • Current use: • Surface Exact location: (attach map and GPS data)	☐ No	☐ Yes

ANNEX 6.A PASTORALIST GROUPS PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Project	Improving Climate Resilience in the Steppes and Dry Forest Areas of the Algerian Green Dam
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Country	Algeria
Accredited Entity	FAO
Executing Entity/Entities	General Directorate of Forests — DGF, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries — MADRP, supported by the Green Dam national coordination structure, HCDS, wilaya services and local authorities
Date	September 2026
Version	01

Acronyms and Abbreviations

Insert all acronyms used in the Framework. Ensure consistency with the ESMF, SEP, GAP and Funding Proposal.

Acronym	Full term
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
APC	People's Communal Assembly
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
DGF	General Directorate of Forests
DSA	Directorate of Agricultural Services
E&S	Environmental and Social
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESS	Environmental and Social Standard
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FESM	FAO Framework for Environmental and Social Management
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GIS	Geographic Information System
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
HCDS	High Commission for the Development of the Steppe
MADRP	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NPIU	National Project Implementation Unit
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Product
OIG	FAO Office of the Inspector-General
ONM	National Meteorological Office
PMU	Project Management Unit

SEAH	Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Sexual Harassment
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
VGGT	Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure

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Executive Summary

This Pastoralist Groups Planning Framework has been prepared for the project “Improving Climate Resilience in the Steppes and Dry Forest Areas of the Algerian Green Dam” to lay out the framework to a) ensure continued consultations with pastoralists, agro-pastoralists and vulnerable subgroups; b) avoid, minimize or mitigate for any adverse effects from project implementation; and c) ensure that these groups receive what they consider to be appropriate benefits.

The project operates in six wilayas—Naâma, El Bayadh, Djelfa, M’Sila, Khenchela and Tébessa—and twelve target communes. The western project zone is predominantly pastoral and agro-pastoral; the central zone is primarily agro-pastoral; and the eastern zone combines agro-pastoral and agro-sylvo-pastoral systems. The principal groups covered by this Framework are mobile and semi-mobile pastoralists, increasingly sedentary agro-pastoral households, small livestock producers, users of collective and seasonal grazing lands, women involved in livestock and household production, rural youth, remote households and users who may lack formally documented land or resource rights.

The E&S documentation (Annex 6 and Annex 7) records that no group consulted during project preparation self-identified, as an Indigenous People per se, however, this framework recognizes that some of these groups fall under the criteria applied by the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy and the FAO Framework for Environmental and Social Management (FESM). The E&S Standard on Indigenous Peoples was triggered on the basis that the project could lead to potential adverse impacts to vulnerable pastoral and agro-pastoral groups that depend on customary or seasonal access to grazing land, water points, mobility routes, forests and other natural resources. The term “Pastoralist Groups” is consequently used in this Framework as the contextually appropriate project terminology.

Project activities that may interact most directly with these groups include reform of pastoral and land-governance arrangements; pastoral concessions and stocking-rate measures; rangeland rehabilitation; assisted protection and fencing; rotational grazing; reforestation and agroforestry; construction or rehabilitation of water points, boreholes, ponds and reservoirs; rehabilitation of tracks; climate information services; pastoral and wool value chains; voluntary carbon-finance and benefit-sharing mechanisms; access to finance; small livestock modules; and hydroponic forage systems.

Expected benefits include improved rangeland productivity, better water availability, more reliable climate information, reduced climate vulnerability, improved livestock nutrition and productivity, participation in resource governance, diversified income, stronger market access and better access to finance. Potential adverse effects include temporary or longer-term restrictions on grazing, interruption of mobility, exclusion from water points, increased competition between users, loss of informal access, unequal benefit distribution, elite capture, exclusion of women and small herd owners, increased pressure on water or forage, and conflict between pastoralists, farmers and forest users.

For the pastoralist and vulnerable pastoralist groups covered by this Framework, FPIC will constitute an ongoing, culturally appropriate and iterative process throughout project inception, planning, implementation, and monitoring. Thus, contributing to the overall Project’s adaptive management approach.

The risk screening and detailed assessments will help determine more accurately specific issues, affected groups, representation arrangements and level of engagement required for each intervention.

The above will inform a project-level Pastoralist Groups Plan to be prepared at inception phase following project approval. The Plan will build upon the present Framework and incorporate the findings of the socioeconomic assessment, participatory mapping, consultations and initial FPIC process. It will establish the measures for participation, culturally appropriate benefits, avoidance and mitigation, resource access, grievance redress, monitoring and continued FPIC throughout implementation.

A detailed Pastoralist and Vulnerable Pastoralist Groups Plan will be prepared during the inception. It will include a socioeconomic profile, consultation and FPIC records, mitigation proposal, co-benefits, budget, monitoring indicators and accessible grievance procedures.

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

The project seeks to improve the climate resilience of rural populations, their livelihoods and agro-sylvo-pastoral ecosystems within the Algerian Green Dam. It concentrates on six wilayas and twelve communes:

Table 1 : Project Geographic Coverage and Dominant Livelihood Profiles

Zone	Wilaya	Target communes	Dominant profile
West	Naâma	Aïn Sefra; Asla	Agro-pastoral and pastoral
West	El Bayadh	Boussemghoun; El Mehara	Agro-pastoral and pastoral
Centre	Djelfa	Zaafrane; Charef	Pastoral and agro-sylvo-pastoral
Centre	M'Sila	Djebel Messad; Tamsa	Agro-sylvo-pastoral
East	Khenchela	Babar; Cherchar	Agro-pastoral
East	Tébessa	Thlidjene; Stah Guentis	Agro-sylvo-pastoral and agro-pastoral

Pastoralism and mixed livestock-crop production are central to the project area. Although full nomadism has declined, seasonal movement and flexible access to grazing and water remain important, particularly during drought and forage scarcity. The landscape includes steppe rangelands, forests, pre-forest formations, agricultural land, seasonal wetlands and water points used by several groups.

The following project interventions are particularly relevant to pastoralist groups:

1. Reform of the pastoral and local land-governance framework, including pastoral concessions, stocking rates, seasonal grazing management and livestock mobility.
2. Participation of pastoral associations in Green Dam governance and land-use planning.
3. Climate and early-warning services for farmers and herders.

4. Rangeland restoration through pastoral planting, rotational grazing, pasture rehabilitation and assisted protection or fencing.
5. Reforestation, revegetation, dune stabilization, erosion-control works and fire-management infrastructure.
6. Construction or rehabilitation of wells, boreholes, ponds, reservoirs, irrigation systems and agricultural or forest tracks.
7. Development of wool, rosemary, esparto, opuntia, olive and other climate-resilient value chains.
8. Support for pastoral farms, small livestock systems, hydroponic forage, solar energy, micro-enterprises and access to finance.
9. Carbon-finance and benefit-sharing arrangements relating to forestry and rangeland restoration.

The project will be implemented through DGF and the PMU, with support from MADRP, HCDS, wilaya committees, forest conservations, agricultural services, communes, technical institutions and FAO. No physical activity affecting pastoral resources may begin before completion of the screening, assessment and relevant management plan, as well as consultations with and consent from the affected communities covered by this framework.

2.1 Purpose of the Framework

The purpose of this Framework is to outline the approach to be taken by the project (to be further developed as a Plan during inception) to avoid, minimize and mitigate potential negative impacts on pastoralists or vulnerable pastoralist groups, including the implementation of FPIC.

The proposed approach takes into consideration the potential adverse impacts on the target groups, such as:

- temporary or longer-term restrictions on grazing and natural-resource access
- obstruction of seasonal livestock routes
- reduced access to water points
- increased costs of feed, water or livestock movement
- competition and conflict between pastoralists, farmers and forest users and impacts on users whose formal, customary, collective, informal or seasonal rights are not adequately documented.

The approach also aims to address potential issues related to unequal benefit distribution, elite capture of concessions or economic opportunities, and the exclusion of women, youth, small herd owners, mobile households, remote communities and pastoralist groups from consultations and project benefits. As per the ESMF (Annex 6), project risks and impacts are generally localized and manageable

The project will promote pastoralists' participation in Green Dam governance, land-use planning and management of restored resources through pastoral associations and local committees. Communities will receive capacity building and facilitated access to rangeland and water investments, climate services, value chains, livelihood technologies, microcredit and carbon-finance benefit-sharing. Traditional knowledge on mobility, grazing, water use, and ecosystem management will be integrated through participatory mapping, consultation and FPIC.

No fixed fund allocated directly to communities is currently specified. However, any direct or community-managed allocations will be defined and budgeted in the Pastoralist Groups Plan during inception.

Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) will be conducted throughout project implementation, using accessible and culturally appropriate methods, including community meetings, participatory planning, oral communication and information in Arabic, French and Berber. Separate outreach will be used for women, youth and marginalized users. FPIC

will follow a documented process of prior disclosure, inclusive consultation, assessment of concerns, revision of the proposed activity, community decision-making and monitoring. As outlined in Annex 7, transparent beneficiary-selection criteria, continuous feedback and equitable benefit sharing, particularly for vulnerable groups will also be considered.

A pastoralist-sensitive grievance mechanism through local focal points, community representatives, oral and written complaints and escalation to the PMU, FAO and other accountability mechanisms will be established. Implementation will be monitored through field supervision, consultation records, grievance data and indicators covering participation, mobility, resource access, benefits, women, youth and conflict.

During inception, these procedures will be further detailed and presented in the Pastoralist Groups Plan, including verified group characterization, participatory maps, social assessment findings, FPIC records, mitigation and benefit-sharing measures, responsibilities, budget and monitoring arrangements. The Plan will be consulted upon, validated, cleared and disclosed before any relevant activity or access restriction begins.

CHARACTERIZATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF PASTORALIST GROUPS

3.1 Characteristics and identification criteria

In the Algerian context, a pastoralist group is a household, community, association or resource-user group whose livelihood, food security or cultural and social organization depends substantially on livestock and on access to grazing land, water points, mobility routes, forests, crop residues or other shared natural resources.

An agro-pastoralist group combines livestock production with rain-fed or irrigated cropping, orchards, fodder production, processing, wage labour or other sources of income. Mobility may be regular, occasional, drought-driven or undertaken by only certain household members.

A vulnerable pastoralist group is one that faces greater risk of losing access, being excluded from decisions or benefits, or being unable to absorb project-related livelihood impacts.

A vulnerable pastoralist subgroup is a subset of a pastoralist or agro-pastoralist group that, because of its socioeconomic status, gender, age, mobility pattern, tenure insecurity, disability, geographic isolation or other structural factors, faces disproportionately higher risks than the vulnerable pastoralist group

Example; Within a vulnerable pastoralist group, women-headed households without formal land-use permit and living in remote areas may constitute a vulnerable pastoralist subgroup.

The Framework will use the criteria set out in the FAO FESM (ESS 8) and GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy to identify its target groups. Furthermore, the social assessment and engagement process will examine various elements to better understand differentiated vulnerabilities, needs and potential project impacts for all different groups affected such as:

1. Livelihood dependence: livestock production provides a substantial part of household food, income, savings or social security.
2. Resource dependence: regular reliance on communal, public, forest, steppe or seasonally accessible grazing, water points, fodder, crop residues or NTFPs.
3. Mobility: seasonal, occasional, transhumant or drought-related movement of livestock or household members.
4. Tenure status: use of formal, informal, collective, customary, inherited, negotiated or seasonal access arrangements.
5. Resource insecurity: exposure to fencing, restoration closures, water allocation changes, land-use conversion or overlapping claims.
6. Socioeconomic vulnerability: small herd size, low income, indebtedness, limited assets, food insecurity or high sensitivity to livestock losses.
7. Geographic isolation: remoteness from services, markets, transport, information and grievance channels.
8. Representation barriers: limited participation in associations, committees, land decisions or beneficiary-selection processes.

9. Gender and age: women, women-headed households, young herders and rural youth facing barriers to land, finance, information and decision-making.
10. Other vulnerability: disability, advanced age, low literacy, lack of identity or administrative documents, or dependence on a single water or grazing resource.

The identification process does not assume that all pastoralists are homogeneous. As a matter of fact, the different groups may have different interests and specific vulnerabilities. For instance, large and small herd owners, mobile and sedentary households, women and men, landholders and non-title users, association members and unorganized users have different interests and exposure to project impacts. These will be further assessed and detailed in the Plan to be developed during inception. The social assessment and engagement process will examine various elements such as those listed above, to better understand differentiated vulnerabilities, needs and potential project impacts for all different groups affected.

3.1.2 Geographic Distribution

Pastoralist and agro-pastoralist groups occur throughout the six project wilayas, with the strongest pastoral profile in Naâma, El Bayadh and parts of Djelfa. Mixed agro-pastoral and agro-sylvo-pastoral systems are present in M'Sila, Khenchela and Tébessa.

3.2.2 Livelihood Systems

Pastoral livelihoods in the project area are based principally on sheep and other small livestock, combined in many areas with cereal production, small-scale agriculture, fodder production, orchards, poultry, beekeeping, crafts and seasonal employment.

Households obtain their income mainly from:

- Sale of livestock, milk, wool and animal products;
- Crop and orchard production;
- Handicrafts and wool processing;
- Agricultural or forestry labour;
- Rural micro-enterprises;
- Transport and livestock trading and public assistance, remittances or other supplementary income.

Household labour is differentiated. Men may have greater control over herd sales, land arrangements and formal representation, while women frequently contribute to feeding, watering, care of young animals, processing, food production, poultry, crafts and household provisioning. Women's contributions may not be formally recognized and women may have limited control over income or productive assets (more details in Annex 8 GAP)

The detailed social assessment will document, for each affected group:

- Household and herd characteristics;
- Principal and secondary income sources;
- Livestock species and approximate herd-size categories;
- Ownership and control of livestock and income;
- Seasonal labour calendar;
- Costs of feed, water and transport;
- Market access and buyer relationships;
- Women's and youth roles;
- Reliance on common resources;
- Exposure to drought and livestock losses and existing coping and adaptation strategies.

3.3.2 Mobility Patterns and Seasonal Resource Use

Pastoral mobility may involve entire households, selected household members, hired herders or movement of livestock only. Movement may occur between steppe grazing areas, agricultural areas with crop residues, forest margins, water points and markets.

Mobility decisions are influenced by:

- Rainfall and pasture availability;
- Condition and accessibility of water points;
- Seasonal temperature;
- Crop calendars and access to residues;
- Animal health and market conditions;
- Local agreements and administrative controls;
- Fencing or restoration closures;
- Conflict or insecurity; and
- Drought and emergency conditions.

Before fencing, restoration closures, road works or water-point changes, the project will determine in consultation with pastoralist groups who moves, when, through which areas, what alternatives exist and what additional costs or risks a change would create.

3.4.2 Social Organization and Decision-Making

Relevant formal institutions may include pastoral and breeders' associations, producer cooperatives, chambers of agriculture, commune authorities, wilaya committees, HCDS, forest conservations, DSA and water services.

Informal institutions may include respected community representatives, elders, family or kinship networks, customary mediators, water-point managers and persons who coordinate access to grazing or crop residues.

The project will verify institutions rather than assuming that a formal leader or association represents every affected person. Representation assessments will determine:

- How representatives are selected;
- Which households or users they represent;
- Whether mobile, poorer or non-member households are included;
- Whether women and youth can participate and speak;
- How decisions are made and communicated;
- How disagreements are handled;
- Whether neighboring or seasonal users are represented; and
- Whether conflicts of interest exist.

Consultations concerning women's access, SEAH, household labour or other sensitive issues will include separate and confidential formats. Decisions taken only by local elites, landholders or large herd owners will not be treated as evidence of broad community agreement.

3.5.2 Vulnerability Analysis

Table 2 presents a preliminary vulnerability analysis, to be considered as basis for further assessment during the inception phase.

Table 2 : Vulnerability Analysis of Pastoralist Groups and Subgroups

Group/subgroup	Main vulnerability	Cause	Potential project interaction	Required ES risk management attention
Mobile or transhumant pastoralists	Loss or obstruction of seasonal access	Routes and use rights may not be visible in formal records	Fencing, restoration, tracks, water infrastructure	Seasonal user identification, route mapping, advance consultation, alternative access
Small herd owners and low-income pastoral households	Limited capacity to absorb temporary forage or income loss	Low assets, feed costs, drought exposure	Grazing closures, stocking-rate changes, concession allocation	Proportionate livelihood support, phased restrictions, fair concession criteria
Agro-pastoral households	Competition between crop, grazing and restoration uses	Overlapping land use and scarcity	Reforestation, agroforestry, erosion control, water allocation	Joint farmer-pastoral mapping, negotiated access, conflict monitoring
Women pastoralists and women-headed households	Exclusion from land, finance, training and decisions	Social norms, limited formal ownership and representation	Beneficiary selection, value chains, finance, local committees	Women-only consultations, transparent criteria, representation targets, targeted support
Rural youth and young herders	Unemployment and limited influence	Weak access to assets, training and finance	Enterprise, climate information and livelihood activities	Youth representation, targeted training and enterprise support
Users without formal title	Rights overlooked during site selection	Customary, seasonal or negotiated access not documented	Land verification, fencing, restoration and concessions	Recognition of legitimate informal and seasonal use, no reliance on title alone
Remote and isolated households	Limited access to information and GRM	Distance, transport, communication and literacy barriers	All components	Mobile outreach, oral disclosure, local focal points, offline grievance channels
Elderly persons, persons with disabilities or low-literacy users	Difficulty participating or filing complaints	Accessibility and communication barriers	Consultation, benefit selection and GRM	Assisted participation, accessible venues, oral and representative submission
Pastoral groups affected by drought		Climate variability and resource scarcity	Restoration closures or water controls during emergency periods	Drought contingency rules, emergency access and adaptive management

LEGAL, POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The project will comply with Algerian law relating to environmental protection, land orientation, forests, agricultural land, water resources, public works, consultation, labour, local governance and dispute resolution. Please refer to National Framework available on annex 6 (ESMF)

The FAO FESM requires the project to identify environmental and social risks, apply the mitigation hierarchy, undertake meaningful stakeholder engagement, protect legitimate land and resource rights, include vulnerable groups, establish grievance mechanisms and monitor results. With regards to pastoralists groups, the FAO FESM also requires the application of FPIC throughout the project cycle, which is aligned with the GCF policies.

SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

4.1 Screening Process

Every site and activity will be screened before technical approval, procurement, contracting, land allocation or commencement of works.

The wilaya safeguard focal point will complete the screening form in Appendix 1 with direct participation of affected users. The E&S Specialist and the Social Safeguards Specialist to be recruited as part of the PMU will ensure culturally appropriate engagement processes, meaningful consultation, and where required, the application of FPIC, will be adequately adopted by the Project. The Specialists will also review the screenings and propose updates of the relevant ESS instruments (including PGPF and Plan) as required. In addition, FAO technical units will ensure revision and provide quality assurance for activities requiring social assessment, FPIC or a Pastoralist Groups Plan.

The assessment will determine:

- Whether pastoralists currently or seasonally use the site
- Whether users reside outside the commune or wilaya
- The resources used and the degree of livelihood dependence
- Whether grazing, water, mobility or forest access may be restricted
- Whether formal and informal use rights overlap
- Whether the activity could create or intensify conflict
- Whether women, youth, small herd owners or remote users could be excluded
- Whether alternative grazing, routes or water sources are genuinely available
- Whether culturally significant resources or traditional knowledge may be affected
- Whether a detailed social assessment is required
- Whether FPIC is required
- Whether a site-specific Pastoralist Groups Plan is required.

Table 3: Pastoralist Groups Screening Categories and Required Actions

Category	Finding	Required action
A	No pastoral presence or use and no plausible impact	Record evidence; apply standard ESMF/ESMP requirements
B	Pastoral use present but impacts minor, temporary and readily mitigated	Include consultation and specific measures in site ESMP
C	Potential impact on access, mobility, water, livelihoods, conflict or benefit-sharing	Detailed social assessment and participatory mapping
D	Material collective impacts, significant access restrictions or applicable FPIC trigger	Social assessment, FPIC and site-specific Pastoralist Groups Plan
E	Physical displacement, unresolved significant economic displacement, coercive restriction or unmanageable conflict	Redesign, relocating or exclude activity

5.1 Social Assessment

A detailed social assessment will be conducted in case of presence of and / or impact over pastoralist groups falling within the scope of Annex 6A. It will be led by the PMU social safeguards specialist, with support from HCDS, wilaya services, qualified social researchers and community facilitators.

The assessment will cover:

- Affected population and subgroup profile
- Residence, mobility and seasonal presence
- Social institutions and representation
- Women's and youth roles
- Existing resource disputes
- expected benefits, distribution and direct, indirect/cumulative impacts
- community preferences and alternatives
- mitigation and livelihood-protection measures
- FPIC requirements and grievance access

Methods will include household interviews, focus groups, separate women's and youth sessions, key-informant interviews, participatory mapping, direct observation and review of land and technical records.

The assessment will be completed before final site design. Its findings will be disclosed in an understandable form and validated with affected groups. The PMU will prepare the safeguard instrument, DGF will approve implementation commitments, and FAO will clear the instrument before the relevant activity proceeds.

6.1 Participatory Mapping

Participatory mapping will follow these steps:

1. **Preparation:** collect available cadastral, satellite, topographic, water, forest and proposed-project maps.
2. **Stakeholder identification:** identify resident, neighboring, mobile, seasonal, women, youth and non-association users.
3. **Separate mapping sessions:** conduct sessions with different groups to avoid domination and reveal differences in resource use.
4. **Resource mapping:** identify grazing areas, routes, water points, crop-residue areas, forests, markets, service points and drought-refuge areas.
5. **Risk mapping:** identify proposed fencing, restoration, roads, boreholes, conflict zones, unsafe crossings and access bottlenecks.
6. **Ground verification:** use field visits, GPS and GIS where appropriate.
7. **Cross-group validation:** comparing maps with neighboring communities, farmer groups, technical services and local authorities.
8. **Agreement on mitigation:** document access rules, alternative routes, timing, emergency arrangements and responsibilities.
9. **Disclosure and confirmation:** provide communities with accessible versions and record corrections.
10. **Updating:** revise maps when designs, mobility patterns, drought conditions or access arrangements change.

Participatory maps will distinguish between verified information, contested claims and information requiring further investigation. Culturally sensitive or confidential information will be stored securely.

CONSULTATIONS AND FPIC

Approach to Meaningful Consultation

Consultations with pastoralist and vulnerable pastoralist groups will begin before activity design and continue throughout implementation. In line with Section 3.2 of the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy Operational Guidelines, the project will:

- Provide timely information in accessible, culturally appropriate and understandable formats
- Consult customary representatives, pastoral associations, women, youth, mobile herders and other vulnerable subgroups;
- Organize meetings at suitable locations and times consistent with seasonal mobility and grazing calendars;
- Allow sufficient time for internal community deliberation, free from coercion or intimidation;
- Document on how community views influence project design, mitigation measures and benefit-sharing arrangements
- Repeat consultations where activities, risks or access arrangements materially change.

Consultations Undertaken During Project Preparation

Stakeholder engagement took place between June 2023 and December 2024 through national workshops, technical meetings, field missions, community discussions and validation sessions.

Table 4: Consultations Undertaken During Project Preparation and Pastoral-Relevant Outcomes

Period	Main consultation	Pastoral-relevant outcome
June–July 2023	Initial concept consultations	Confirmed need for steppe restoration, rangeland governance and livelihood support
September 2023	Green Dam strategy consultations	Integrated restoration, adaptation and livelihood diversification
November 2023	Project preparation workshop	Clarified institutional responsibilities
January 2024	National Climate resilience and restoration workshop	Prioritized climate information and degraded rangeland restoration
February–March 2024	Research institution consultations	Support observatory, GIS and baseline studies
April 2024	Climate policy and carbon-finance consultation	Identified carbon-finance opportunities and governance needs
May–June 2024	Field missions in project wilayas	Identified degraded areas, water scarcity and support needs

June–July 2024	Consultations with pastoralists and farmer organizations	Highlighted rotational grazing, pasture productivity, water and markets
August 2024	Producer and private-sector consultation	Identified wool, rosemary, esparto, opuntia and olive value-chain opportunities
September 2024	Financial-sector consultation	Confirmed need for adapted finance and microcredit
October 2024	Project validation workshop	Validated governance, restoration, climate-information and livelihood components
December 2024	Final validation	Endorsed overall project approach

Consultations were conducted between June 2023 and December 2024 at national, wilaya, commune, and community levels. Pastoral-focused field missions took place in May–June 2024, followed by community consultations in June–July 2024 across the six project wilayas and their 12 pilot communes:

- Naâma—Aïn Sefra and Asla
- El Bayadh—Boussemerghoun and El Mehara
- Djelfa—Zaafrane and Charef
- M’Sila—Djebel Messad and Tamsa
- Khenchela—Babar and Cherchar
- Tébessa—Thlidjene and Stah Guentis

The consultation chronology, stakeholder categories, methods, findings and their incorporation into project design are developed further in Annex 7(SEP) particularly Tables 4 and 6.

For completeness the consultations included representatives from pastoralist organizations:

- Association nationale des éleveurs de bétail — Djelfa
- Fédération wilayale de l’élevage — Tébessa
- Association wilayale des éleveurs — Tébessa
- Représentation locale de l’Association nationale des éleveurs — El Bayadh
- Association wilayale d’élevage caprin et de la brebis du Hodna — M’Sila

Names and signature of representatives are available on Annex 7

Pastoralists and agro-pastoralists raised concerns and priorities relating to degraded pasture, seasonal mobility, water access, market opportunities, participatory land-use planning, fair beneficiary selection and risks of land-use change. The ESMF also records concerns among some farmers and herders, particularly in Naâma and Khenchela, about possible expropriation or loss of access linked to reforestation.

These inputs were reflected in:

- Pasture rehabilitation and rotational grazing
- Improved water access and efficient irrigation
- Pastoral representation in governance and land-use planning
- Climate advisory services for herders
- Pastoral and NTFP value chains

- transparent beneficiary-selection, benefit-sharing measures and project-level and bottom-up grievance mechanisms

7.1 Free, Prior and Informed Consent

FPIC will be applied where project screening determines that an activity may trigger circumstances indicated in section 7.2 of the GCF IP Policy, including material collective impacts on pastoral land, mobility, water, cultural resources or traditional resource-use systems. As a mandatory requirement, no activities requiring FPIC will be implemented without obtaining it.

For activities that do not formally trigger FPIC, the project will still undertake meaningful prior consultation and seek documented agreement on access and mitigation arrangements.

FPIC principles

- **Free:** no intimidation, manipulation, coercion, conditional service or retaliation.
- **Prior:** consultation begins before site selection or final design and allows adequate time for internal deliberation.
- **Informed:** information covers the activity, duration, benefits, risks, restrictions, alternatives, mitigation, grievance rights and consequences of agreement or refusal.
- **Consent:** decisions are reached through a process accepted by the affected group and documented in a manner that reflects the group's legitimate decision-making arrangements and the participation of vulnerable subgroups.

Process flow

Screening → information disclosure → representative verification → community consultation → assessment of views and concerns → revision of activity and mitigation → community decision or agreement process → documentation → feedback to the community → implementation → participatory monitoring

The FPIC record will document:

- Dates, locations and methods
- Groups and subgroups represented
- How representatives were selected
- Participation of women, youth, small herd owners and mobile users
- Information disclosed and languages or formats used
- Questions, concerns, disagreements and alternatives
- Modifications made to the activity
- Agreed benefits and mitigation
- Evidence of consent where required
- Conditions attached to consent
- Unresolved matters
- Grievance and withdrawal or review arrangements
- Signatures, oral confirmation, audiovisual evidence or other culturally appropriate documentation.

Consent is an ongoing process. Renewed consultation or FPIC will be required where there is a material design change, new impact, expansion of restrictions, change in benefit-sharing or failure to implement agreed commitments.

Where valid consent cannot be obtained for an activity requiring FPIC, the activity will not proceed in its proposed form.

GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

8.1 Pastoralist-Specific GRM Accessibility

The project will implement the GRM as described in the ESMF (annex 6) and SEP (annex 7) with specific measures for pastoral and mobile communities.

Table 5: Pastoralist-Specific Grievance Redress Process

Level	Entry point	Action and timeline
1. Community	Pastoral meeting, association, beneficiary group, CLO or focal point	Register and acknowledge promptly; attempt immediate clarification or referral
2. Commune/wilaya	CLO, commune, local committee and relevant technical service	Consult affected users and propose a solution, normally within five working days
3. PMU/FAO country	PMU safeguards/GRM focal point and FAO Representation	Review disputed or complex complaints and communicate corrective action, normally within five working days of escalation
4. Independent or higher-level review	FAO Regional Office, OIG, GCF IRM or national remedies	Review in accordance with the relevant procedure

ACTION PLAN FOR PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PASTORALIST GROUPS PLAN

During the inception phase, this Framework will be converted into a full Pastoralist and Vulnerable Pastoralist Groups Plan. The Plan will cover the confirmed intervention sites and will be updated as new sites or designs are identified. However, no activities affecting these groups will be implemented until the Pastoralist Groups Plan is validated.

9.1 Steps for Preparation and Finalization of the Plan

Implementation capacity will be ensured through an inception-phase capacity assessment, designated safeguards and GRM focal points within the PMU and Executing Entities, trained wilaya and commune teams. Dedicated resources will be ensured through the annual workplans and budgets.

FAO will provide technical oversight, quality assurance, field mentoring, and periodic refresher training.

Technical support will include:

- Executing Entities: guidance and practical tools on pastoralist screening, social assessment, participatory mapping, meaningful consultation and FPIC, benefit-sharing, grievance management, monitoring and reporting.
- Pastoralist communities: accessible training on project rights and benefits, grazing and water management, climate-resilient land practices, climate information, grievance channels and participatory monitoring.
- Representative organizations: support on inclusive representation of women, youth and mobile groups, participation in project governance, consultation facilitation, community feedback, benefit allocation and monitoring of agreed commitments.

Training will be delivered before relevant activities begin and refreshed annually or when new implementing partners join. Identified capacity gaps and corresponding technical support measures will be included in the final Pastoralist Groups Plan, with responsible actors, timelines, budgets, and indicators.

Table 5: Action Plan for Preparation and Implementation of the Pastoralist Groups Plan

Step	Action required	Timing	Responsible party	Consultation / FPIC requirement	Expected output
1	Confirm and characterize relevant groups in intervention areas	First three months of inception	PMU social specialist, wilaya teams, HCDS, communes	Initial engagement with resident and seasonal users	Updated group and subgroup characterization
2	Conduct detailed social assessment	Months 1–4	PMU social specialist and qualified assessment team	Meaningful consultation, separate subgroup sessions	Social assessment and baseline
3	Undertake participatory mapping	Months 2–5 and before site design	PMU, HCDS, GIS team, affected groups	Direct participation and cross-group validation	Maps of grazing, mobility, water and conflict-sensitive areas
4	Conduct FPIC	Before relevant activity proceeds	PMU, FAO safeguards team and independent facilitator where appropriate	FPIC or documented prior agreement	Documented process and outcome
5	Prepare draft Pastoralist Groups Plan	By end of inception planning period	PMU E&S/social specialist	Incorporate assessment and consultation outcomes	Draft Plan and budget
6	Validate Plan with affected groups	Before final clearance	PMU, wilaya teams and FAO	Community review, subgroup validation and FPIC confirmation where applicable	Validated Plan and consultation record
7	Review, clear and disclose Plan	Before physical works or access restrictions	DGF and FAO	Accessible disclosure and feedback period	Final cleared and disclosed Plan
8	Implement measures and commitments	Throughout implementation	DGF, PMU, HCDS, wilaya teams, contractors and partners	Continuous engagement	Measures implemented and documented
9	Monitor and update Plan	Quarterly and annually; additionally when triggered	PMU M&E and safeguards teams, affected groups and FAO	Feedback and renewed consultation/FPIC for material changes	Monitoring reports, corrective actions and updates

MONITORING, REPORTING AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Monitoring will assess both safeguard compliance and actual outcomes for pastoralist groups.

Table 6 : Pastoralist Groups Monitoring, Reporting and Adaptive Management Framework

Indicator	Baseline	Target	Frequency	Responsibility
Proposed sites screened for pastoral presence and use	0 at project effectiveness	100% before approval	Each site	Wilaya focal point; PMU review
Triggered social assessments completed and cleared	0	100%	Before final design	PMU/FAO
Participatory maps validated by affected users	To be established	100% of Category C/D sites	Before works and when updated	PMU, HCDS, communities
Pastoral consultations held before restrictions	50%	100% of affected sites	Before and during activity	PMU/wilaya teams
Women's participation in consultations	To be established	At least 30%, or higher GAP target	Each consultation	Gender and engagement focal points
Participation of youth, mobile users and small herd owners	To be established	Representation documented at every affected site	Each consultation	Social specialist
FPIC processes completed where triggered	0	100% before activity	As triggered	PMU/FAO
Access arrangements agreed before restrictions	0	100%	Before restriction	PMU/local committees
Mobility routes obstructed without agreed alternative	0	0	Monthly/seasonal	Site team and communities
Households experiencing unmitigated livelihood loss	0	0	Quarterly	Social specialist
Pastoralist beneficiaries, disaggregated by sex, age and vulnerability	To be established	Consistent with approved targeting and GAP	Semi-annual	PMU M&E
Grievances acknowledged promptly	0	100%	Monthly	GRM focal point
Local grievances receiving response within five working days	0	At least 90%	Monthly	GRM focal point
Retaliation linked to project grievances	0	0	Continuous	PMU/FAO

Resource-use conflict incidents linked to project activities	To be established	No net increase; all cases addressed	Quarterly	Local committees and PMU
Community satisfaction with consultation and benefit access	To be established	At least 70%, improving over time	Annual	Independent or participatory monitoring
Agreed mitigation measures implemented on time	0	At least 90%; 100% for critical commitments	Quarterly	PMU/DGF
Plan updated following material project changes	0	100% when triggered	As required	PMU/FAO

APPENDICES

The appendices and instruments are to be considered as final drafts at this stage. These instruments/ appendices shall be further validated during inception, in consultation with key and affected stakeholders. The tools will be integrated within the final Pastoralists Groups Management Plan to be elaborated at that stage and are expected to support its effective implementation.

Appendix 1 — Screening Form

A. Activity Identification

Field	Information
Activity and code	
Wilaya and commune	
Exact site/GPS reference	
Implementing entity	
Screening date	
Screeners	
Groups consulted	
Proposed start date	

B. Pastoral Presence and Use

Screening question	Yes/No/Unknown	Evidence and explanation
Do pastoralists or agro-pastoralists reside in or near the site?		

Is the site used seasonally by people residing elsewhere?		
Is the site used for grazing, watering, passage, camping, fodder or NTFP collection?		
Are there livestock mobility routes through or near the site?		
Are there formal, informal, customary, collective or negotiated use rights?		
Are women or youth separately dependent on the resource?		
Are small herd owners or non-association users present?		
Are there overlapping farmer, pastoralist, forest or water-user claims?		
Is the site used during drought or emergency conditions?		

C. Potential Impacts

Screening question	Yes/No/Unknown	Evidence and explanation
Could the activity restrict grazing access?		
Could it block or lengthen a mobility route?		
Could it restrict access to water?		
Could it alter crop-residue or forest-resource access?		
Could it result in economic displacement or livelihood loss?		
Could it create conflict between user groups?		
Could benefits be captured by larger or better-connected users?		
Could women, youth or remote users be excluded?		
Could the activity affect a culturally significant resource?		
Is a material collective impact possible?		
Is FPIC potentially required?		

D. Screening Decision

- Category A — no pastoral interaction.
- Category B — minor impacts managed in ESMP.
- Category C — detailed social assessment and mapping required.
- Category D — FPIC and site-specific Pastoralist Groups Plan required.

- Category E — redesign or exclusion required.

Required actions, responsible party and deadline:

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PMU review:

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FAO clearance/no-objection, where required:

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Appendix 2 — Social Assessment Terms of Reference

1. Objective

To identify affected pastoralist groups and subgroups, assess their resource use, livelihoods, institutions, vulnerabilities, project benefits and adverse impacts, and recommend measures consistent with this Framework.

2. Scope of Work

The assessment team will:

1. identify resident and seasonal users;
2. prepare a demographic and socioeconomic profile;
3. analyze livestock and livelihood systems;
4. document grazing, water and mobility arrangements;
5. identify legitimate formal and informal access rights;
6. verify community institutions and representation;
7. assess women's and youth roles;
8. document existing disputes and conflict risks;
9. conduct participatory mapping;
10. assess positive, adverse and cumulative impacts;
11. analyze benefit distribution and elite-capture risk;
12. determine whether FPIC and a site-specific Plan are required;
13. develop mitigation, benefit-sharing and monitoring measures;
14. estimate costs; and
15. disclose and validate findings.

3. Methods

- document review;
- household survey or structured interviews;
- focus groups disaggregated by relevant subgroup;
- women-only and youth consultations;
- key-informant interviews;
- seasonal-calendar exercise;
- participatory mapping and transect walks;
- institutional and conflict analysis; and
- validation meetings.

4. Deliverables

1. inception report and methodology;

2. stakeholder and subgroup register;
3. socioeconomic baseline;
4. participatory maps;
5. impact and benefit assessment;
6. FPIC determination;
7. mitigation and monitoring framework;
8. consultation and validation records; and
9. final social assessment.

5. Team Qualifications

The team should include expertise in pastoral systems, social safeguards, land tenure, gender, participatory methods, conflict sensitivity and GIS. Team composition should enable women and vulnerable persons to participate comfortably.

Appendix 3 — Participatory Mapping Methodology

Mapping layers

The following layers will be recorded:

- community and settlement locations;
- dry- and wet-season grazing;
- movement routes and crossings;
- water points and access conditions;
- drought-refuge and fallback areas;
- crop-residue and shared agricultural areas;
- forest and NTFP-use areas;
- markets, veterinary services and livestock facilities;
- proposed restoration and infrastructure sites;
- fencing and temporary closures;
- conflict areas and overlapping claims;
- culturally important resources; and
- alternative routes and mitigation measures.

Required participants

Mapping must include:

- resident pastoralists;
- seasonal and mobile users;
- pastoral associations and non-members;
- small and large herd owners;
- women and youth;
- neighboring farmer and forest-user groups;
- HCDS, DSA, forest and water services; and
- commune and wilaya representatives.

Validation

Draft maps will be validated separately and jointly. Disputed boundaries or uses will be clearly marked as disputed and referred to an agreed resolution process. Absence from a mapping meeting will not be interpreted as abandonment of use.

Appendix 4 — Consultation Record Template

Field	Record
Activity/site	
Date and location	
Consultation type	
Convening entity	
Groups represented	
Total participants	
Women/men	
Youth/older persons	
Mobile/seasonal users	
Vulnerable subgroups represented	
Languages and communication format	
Information disclosed	
Main questions and concerns	
Alternatives proposed	
Areas of agreement	
Areas of disagreement	
Project response	
Changes made to activity	
Commitments, responsibility and deadline	
GRM information provided	
Follow-up date	

Evidence attached	Attendance records, photographs where consented, maps, minutes or oral confirmation
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Appendix 5 — Prior Informed Consent Process and Documentation Template

1. Purpose and application

This template shall be used where screening determines that a project activity may cause material collective impacts on pastoralist or vulnerable pastoralist groups, including impacts on customary land or natural-resource use, grazing areas, livestock-mobility routes, water points, cultural resources or traditional knowledge.

No activity requiring FPIC shall proceed until the affected group has provided its consent through a process consistent with its legitimate decision-making arrangements. Consent shall not be inferred from attendance at meetings, silence, absence of objection or the signature of government representatives alone.

2. FPIC process

Step	Required action
1. Screening	Identify the proposed activity, affected pastoralist groups, potential collective impacts and whether FPIC is triggered.
2. Representative verification	Identify legitimate customary representatives, pastoral associations and other representatives selected by the affected group. Ensure the participation of women, youth, mobile herders, small herd owners and vulnerable households.
3. Agreement on the process	Agree with the community on consultation methods, language, location, timetable, representation, decision-making procedure and documentation format.
4. Prior disclosure	Provide understandable information on the activity, location, duration, expected benefits, risks, access restrictions, alternatives, mitigation measures, benefit-sharing, grievance channels and the right to withhold consent. Information shall be provided orally and in Arabic, French or local languages, as appropriate.
5. Consultation and deliberation	Conduct culturally appropriate consultations free from coercion, intimidation, manipulation or conditional benefits. Allow sufficient time for internal community discussion without project or government representatives being present where requested.
6. Project revision and negotiation	Document concerns and proposed alternatives and revise the activity, mitigation, access or benefit-sharing arrangements accordingly. Any unresolved issue shall be clearly recorded.
7. Community decision	The affected group may provide consent, provide consent subject to conditions, defer to its decision pending further information or withhold consent.
8. Documentation and feedback	Record the decision and conditions in a format accepted by the community. Provide the completed record to the community and explain how its inputs were incorporated.

9. Monitoring and reconfirmation	Monitor compliance with agreed conditions through community participation. Consent shall be revisited where there are material changes to the activity, impacts, access arrangements or benefit-sharing measures.
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3. FPIC documentation record

A. Activity information

- Project activity/output:
- Wilaya and commune:
- Site/location:
- Implementing entity:
- Date FPIC screening completed:
- Reason FPIC was triggered:
- Potential impacts on land, grazing, water, mobility, livelihoods, cultural resources or traditional knowledge:

B. Affected groups and representation

- Affected pastoralist group(s):
- Resident and seasonal users identified:
- Customary institutions or pastoral associations involved:
- Method used by the community to select its representatives:
- Women, youth, mobile users, small herd owners and vulnerable subgroups represented:
- Independent adviser, facilitator or interpreter involved, where applicable:

C. Information disclosure

Information disclosed	Date and location	Language/format	Method used
Activity design and location			
Expected benefits			
Potential risks and restrictions			
Alternatives and mitigation measures			
Benefit-sharing arrangements			
GRM and right to withhold consent			

D. Consultation record

- Consultation dates and locations:
- Methods used: Community meeting / focus group / household visit / participatory mapping / other
- Number and categories of participants:
- Main concerns and proposals raised:
- Views expressed separately by women, youth and vulnerable subgroups:
- Time provided for internal deliberation:
- Changes made to the activity following consultation:
- Issues remaining unresolved:

E. Community decision

The affected group has decided to:

- ☐ Provide consent
- ☐ Provide consent subject to the conditions listed below
- ☐ Defer its decision pending additional information or consultation
- ☐ Withhold consent

Conditions or agreements attached to the decision:

- Access to grazing areas, water points and mobility routes:
- Mitigation or livelihood-support measures:
- Community benefits and benefit-sharing arrangements:
- Community participation in implementation and monitoring:
- Timetable and responsible parties:
- Procedure for reviewing or modifying the agreement:

F. Validation

The record shall be validated in accordance with the community's accepted decision-making process. Signatures, minutes, audio records, community resolutions or other culturally appropriate evidence may be attached. Such evidence documents the process but does not replace demonstration of collective consent.

Representative/entity	Name and role	Signature or agreed validation method	Date
Community representative(s)			
Women's representative			
Youth/vulnerable subgroup representative			
Pastoral association			
PMU/Executing Entity			
FAO safeguard representative			
Independent witness, where applicable			

Appendix 6 — Impact and Mitigation Matrix

Activity	Potential impact on pastoralist groups	Key mitigation measures	Indicator	Responsibility
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Pastoral Code and concession reform	Exclusion of small, mobile or women livestock keepers	Inclusive consultations, transparent criteria, appeal and independent review	Subgroups participating; appeals resolved	MADRP, DGF, HCDS, PMU
Rangeland restoration and fencing	Temporary loss of forage and blocked routes	Phasing, alternative grazing, gates/crossings, seasonal timing, livelihood support	Access agreement in place; no blocked route	DGF, HCDS, local committees
Rotational grazing and stocking rates	Disproportionate burden on poorer households	Participatory plans, gradual implementation, monitoring and targeted support	Household impacts monitored	HCDS, PMU
Reforestation and agroforestry	Loss of customary grazing or perceived expropriation	Site avoidance, user verification, negotiated access and disclosure	No unresolved legitimate claim	DGF, communes
Boreholes and water points	Unequal water allocation or over-abstraction	Water study, user committee, rules, maintenance and grievance process	Equitable access; abstraction within limits	Water services, PMU
Tracks and firebreaks	Temporary disruption or unsafe livestock movement	Consultation, crossings, traffic safety and route restoration	Routes maintained and accidents recorded	Contractor, DGF, PMU
Climate advisories	Digital or language exclusion	Oral, SMS, radio and association-based delivery; user testing	Pastoral users receiving and using information	ONM, PMU
Carbon finance	Restrictive land use or unfair benefit-sharing	Rights assessment, prior agreement, transparent formula and audit	Benefits disaggregated and disclosed	MADRP, PMU, FAO
Value chains and finance	Elite capture, debt and exclusion	Transparent selection, financial literacy, targeted women/youth support	Beneficiaries disaggregated	PMU, BADR, ANADE, ANGEM
Livestock and fodder modules	Increased grazing pressure or maintenance costs	Carrying-capacity review, training and cost assessment	Resource pressure and functionality monitored	PMU, HCDS
Employment and contracting	Unsafe work, discrimination or child labour	Labour procedures, age verification, OHS and worker GRM	Compliance records	Contractors, PMU
Beneficiary interaction	SEAH or abuse of authority	Codes of conduct, confidential channels and referral	Staff trained; cases safely referred	Gender focal point, FAO

Appendix 7 — Outline of the Inception-Phase Pastoralist/Vulnerable Pastoralist Groups Plan

The Pastoralist Groups Plan will be a project-level operational plan, prepared during inception after project approval. It will incorporate detailed assessment findings and FPIC outcomes and will apply across the project, with site- or activity-specific annexes added as designs and locations are confirmed.

Section	Required content	Expected output
1. Executive Summary	Summarize the purpose, scope, groups covered, main findings, key risks and benefits, FPIC commitments, implementation responsibilities and monitoring arrangements. The section should provide a stand-alone overview of the Plan.	Concise summary of the Plan
2. Project Description and Scope	Describe the project activities, target areas and implementation arrangements relevant to pastoralist and agro-pastoralist groups. Clarify which project components and intervention sites are covered by the Plan.	Pastoralist-focused project description
3. Purpose and Objectives of the Plan	Explain how the Plan will operationalize continuous FPIC, protect livelihoods and resource access, avoid or mitigate adverse impacts and ensure culturally appropriate and equitable benefits. Clarify its relationship with the ESMF, SEP and GAP.	Clear objectives and scope
4. Methodology and Limitations	Describe the social assessment, consultations, participatory mapping, household interviews and subgroup engagement used to prepare the Plan. Identify data gaps or limitations requiring further verification.	Transparent methodology
5. Identification and Characterization of Pastoralist Groups	Identify pastoralist, agro-pastoralist and vulnerable pastoralist subgroups, including mobile users, small herd owners, women, youth and households without formal resource rights. Describe their livelihoods, mobility and dependence on grazing, water and other shared resources.	Verified group and subgroup profile
6. Socioeconomic, Livelihood and Vulnerability Baseline	Present key information on household characteristics, livestock systems, income, assets, food security, services, climate exposure and capacity to cope. Analyze differentiated vulnerabilities by gender, age, mobility, wealth and tenure status.	Disaggregated baseline
7. Mobility, Land and Natural-Resource Use	Document seasonal movements, grazing areas, livestock routes, water points, crop-residue areas, forests and drought-refuge zones. Describe formal, informal, collective, customary and seasonal access arrangements and any overlapping claims.	Validated resource-use and mobility profile
8. Social Organization and Representation	Describe formal and informal institutions, community representatives, associations and decision-making arrangements. Assess whether women, youth, mobile users and poorer households are adequately represented.	Institutional and representation analysis
9. Legal and Safeguard Framework	Summarize relevant Algerian legislation, FAO FESM, GCF requirements, the Indigenous Peoples Policy and VGGT principles. Clarify how FPIC will complement national procedures.	Applicable legal and safeguard framework
10. FPIC Process and Outcomes	Describe the agreed FPIC protocol, information disclosure, representation, consultations, internal deliberation, community decisions and	Consolidated FPIC record

	documentation. Record agreements, conditions, concerns, disagreements and the procedure for continued or renewed FPIC.	
11. Benefits, Impacts and Alternatives	Assess expected benefits and potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on livelihoods, access, mobility, water, governance and vulnerable groups. Document alternatives considered to avoid or reduce adverse effects.	Benefits, impacts and alternatives analysis
12. Mitigation and Livelihood-Protection Measures	Set out agreed measures to avoid, minimize and remedy adverse impacts, including alternative grazing, livestock crossings, water access, seasonal scheduling and livelihood support. Assign responsibilities, deadlines, budgets and indicators.	Time-bound mitigation programme
13. Equitable Benefit Sharing	Establish transparent eligibility, beneficiary-selection, allocation, disclosure and appeal procedures. Include measures to ensure women, youth, mobile households, small herd owners and other vulnerable groups receive fair access to project benefits.	Benefit-sharing framework
14. Grazing, Mobility and Water-Access Arrangements	Present agreed rules for grazing areas, restoration closures, livestock routes, water points, drought access and maintenance responsibilities. Ensure arrangements are validated through FPIC with relevant users.	Agreed access and resource-management arrangements
15. Stakeholder Engagement, FPIC and Grievance Redress	Define how engagement and FPIC will continue throughout implementation and identify when renewed FPIC is required. Describe accessible grievance channels, response procedures, confidentiality, non-retaliation and escalation mechanisms.	Engagement, FPIC and GRM programme
16. Institutional Arrangements and Capacity Development	Define the roles of DGF, PMU, FAO, HCDS, wilaya services, communes, contractors and community representatives. Identify training and technical-support needs for FPIC, mapping, grievance handling and monitoring.	Responsibility and capacity-building matrix
17. Implementation Schedule and Budget	Present the timetable for Plan activities, including assessment, FPIC, mitigation, benefit delivery, monitoring and updates. Provide a detailed and adequately financed budget.	Costed implementation schedule
18. Monitoring, Reporting and Adaptive Management	Establish indicators, baselines, targets, frequency, data sources and responsibilities for monitoring access, mobility, participation, benefits, grievances and agreed commitments. Include community monitoring and corrective-action procedures.	Participatory monitoring framework
19. Disclosure, Validation and Updating	Explain how the Plan will be disclosed, reviewed and validated by pastoralist groups before final clearance. Define the circumstances requiring updates and renewed FPIC, including new sites, changed activities or unforeseen impacts.	Validated and adaptive Plan
20. Supporting Annexes	Attach the social assessment, stakeholder register, maps, seasonal calendars, FPIC records, access agreements, mitigation matrix, budget, monitoring tools and site-specific measures. Sensitive information should be protected.	Complete supporting

		documentation package
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