



# Project Information Document (PID)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 01-Nov-2021 | Report No: PIDC32924

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

Country Mali	Project ID P177041	Parent Project ID (if any)	Project Name Landscape Restoration and Resilience Project - Mali (P177041)
Region AFRICA WEST	Estimated Appraisal Date Mar 14, 2022	Estimated Board Date Jun 23, 2022	Practice Area (Lead) Environment, Natural Resources & the Blue Economy
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Republic of Mali	Implementing Agency Agence de l'Environnement et Developpement Durable (AEDD)	

**Proposed Development Objective(s)**

to rebuild land ecological integrity and enhance people's lives in targeted communes in Mali

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

<b>Total Project Cost</b>	150.00
<b>Total Financing</b>	150.00
<b>of which IBRD/IDA</b>	150.00
<b>Financing Gap</b>	0.00

**DETAILS****World Bank Group Financing**

International Development Association (IDA)	150.00
IDA Credit	75.00
IDA Grant	75.00



Environmental and Social Risk Classification

Substantial

Concept Review Decision

Track II-The review did authorize the preparation to continue

## B. Introduction and Context

### Country Context

- Mali, one of the poorest countries in the world, is a landlocked country with an area of 1,240 million km<sup>2</sup>, with a population of 20,8 million, a high average annual growth rate of nearly three percent and a median age of 16 years.** With a per capita GDP estimated at USD 879, Mali ranks as the 22nd poorest country in the world. The proportion of the Malian population living under the national poverty line is 42 percent in 2018/19 and is concentrated in rural areas, which is equivalent to 8.3 million poor (using the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) household survey). Most of the Malian population lives in the south of the country close to the Senegal and Niger rivers, 57 percent of the population resides in rural areas, and 12 percent in the capital city of Bamako. About 80 percent of Mali's poor population lives in four regions: Koulikoro, Mopti, Ségou, and Sikasso. The country is characterized by high regional disparities and access to basic services and infrastructure is low and highly unequal. Poverty rates were highest in Sikasso (63 percent in 2019), where households depend on cotton farming, high in Ségou (53 percent) and Mopti (61 percent) where families mostly depend on rainfed sorghum and millet cultivation while in Kayes, where households depend on remittances and livestock rearing, poverty is lower (33 percent).<sup>1</sup> Sikasso and Kayes were strongly hit by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic with the fall in cotton prices and remittances, respectively.<sup>2</sup>
- The country's economy is mainly based on the exploitation of natural resources.** High population growth (3.36% per year) and climatic constraints have led to overexploitation and degradation of these resources. Two thirds of the country is arid and semi-arid dominated by desertification. Natural risks have increased with the intensification of climate change: repeated droughts, floods, strong winds, bush fires, changes in the rain regime. While the economy is heavily dependent on natural resources and agricultural, which employs nearly 80% of the country's labor force, only 14% of the country's land area is considered suitable for agriculture, making sustainable land management a central issue.
- The political and security situation in Mali has been volatile since the 2012 coup d'état.** The peace agreement had created the minimum conditions for the Malian authorities to address challenges related to poverty reduction, including in the North. However, implementing the peace agreement is challenging as the security situation remains volatile. Armed groups control important large areas particularly in the center. Their highly mobile members are dispersed across the country and participate in the explicit denunciation of the state and its institutions. The destruction of infrastructures and the presence of mines on the roads prevent movement and the holding of fairs and markets. Some rural areas are, in fact, increasingly isolated and deprived of sources of food. As identified in the World Bank's *2020 Risk and Resilience Assessment (RRA)*, Mali's situation in terms of fragility, conflicts and violence (FCV) is driven by at least *three main risk drivers*, namely: (i) *Low public confidence and trust in state institution* accompanied

<sup>1</sup> For this entire paragraph, see: United Nations estimate (July 2021). According to the results of the Agricultural Economic Survey integrated into household living conditions (ECA), the agricultural population stands at 16,833,767, of which 48.3% are women (EAC 2018); World Bank, 2020; World Bank 2015a.

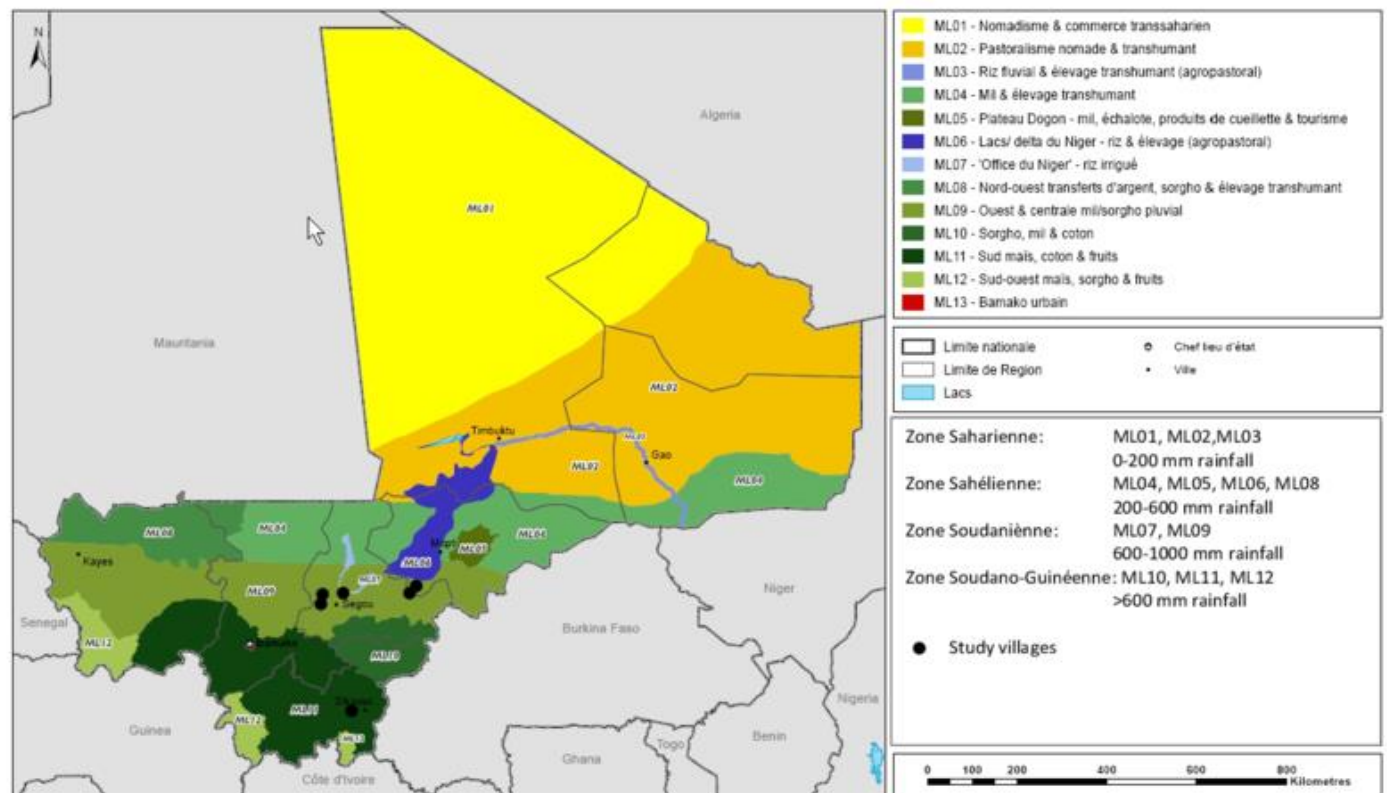
<sup>2</sup> Mali Poverty Assessment (2020; P171551).



by shortcomings in service delivery and lack of inclusive governance; (ii) *Increasing competition over natural resources* (land, water, forests, grazing areas, halieutic resources, as well as extractive resources), which has contributed to the escalation of all types of violence and is likely to increase due to demographic trends and the effects of climate change; and (iii) *Subnational conflicts* within large areas (mostly, Kidal, Gao, Menaka, Timbuktu, Mopti, and parts of Ségou), which produce endemic violence, drive local political fragmentation, and erode national cohesion and state authority (violence fueled by inter- and intra-communal conflict has expanded from the north to the central region and much of the affected area remains outside of control of authorities).<sup>3</sup>

- 4. **Mali landscape is mostly flat to hilly, occasionally interrupted by high rising plateaus.** In the north, the Sahara Desert covers almost half of the country. The open steppes of the Akle Azaouad plateau and rocky terrain of Adrar-Timetrines and of Tilemsi make large east-west swaths across the country. The southern Sahara transitions into the semiarid Sahel Region — the domain of pastoralists — and gets interrupted in central Mali by the seasonally flooded alluvial plain of the Inland Niger Delta. The southern strip of this large plain is bordered by the Koutiala and Bandiagara-Hombori plateaus, the latter rising to 1,155 m. In the south, the plains of the Sudanian Region account for the majority of the country’s agricultural land.<sup>4</sup> (see map1)

Map 1: Ecoregions and Topography (source: MEADD)



- 5. **Over the last decades, Mali has been facing a multidimensional crisis with economic, social, political, and human dimensions which have serious repercussions on natural resources and local communities’ livelihood.** Malian landscapes and their natural resources are under pressure from unsustainable land uses. This situation is further

<sup>3</sup> World Bank, 2019b.

<sup>4</sup> <https://eros.usgs.gov/westafrica/country/republic-mali>



exacerbated by (i) extreme climate change-related events, which contribute to the degradation of ecosystems, the erosion of biodiversity; (ii) the emergence of social tension and conflicts about access and use of natural resources; and (iii) armed conflicts that can contaminate water, soil and land, or release pollutants into the air and endanger wild flora and fauna. The indirect effects of conflicts such as: weakening the capacity of environmental institutions, massive population displacements or of natural resources' exploitation to support the war economy, also have negative repercussions on the environment.

6. **Recovering from current environmental, violence and food security crises, the country needs a coordinated response to counter potential interacting effects.** A business-as-usual package recovery is no longer an option. The challenges faced by the country are highly interconnected and failing in addressing them in a simultaneous manner would result in loss of lives, unstable growth and irreversible environmental degradation. Social development and economic growth will require simultaneous action on linking the “security” and “development” agendas. A new *governance paradigm* for improved service delivery by trusted institutions will require strengthened accountability. In particular, it will require central and local authorities to ensure that public spending and resource mobilization are fair and transparent. Innovative cross-sectoral policies have to simultaneously address synergies between climate change, land degradation, biodiversity loss and eroded livelihoods to offer the opportunity to maximize co-benefits and help meet development aspirations for all.
7. **By supporting inclusive and participatory local development planning, the integrated landscape management (ILM) approach constitutes a promising, comprehensive, and multi-functional approach to tackle issues presented above by optimizing synergies and reducing negative trade-offs.** ILM includes different horizontal and vertical entry points emphasizing the importance of interrelated strategies and agreements on a set of concrete objectives. Common denominators of these entry points include (i) a shared vision among stakeholders about multiple landscape benefits; (ii) a package of practices that achieve multiple objectives; and (iii) key strategies to manage spatial and seasonal interactions across different land uses and users.

#### Sectoral and Institutional Context

8. **Mali's diverse terrestrial and water ecosystems are threatened by the effects of climate change and human actions.** The impact of these factors is manifested by (i) the “Sahelization” of the savannas; (ii), the reduction of *bourgoutières* in the central Niger delta; (iii) the loss of animal and plant varieties of about 60% in the south, 40% in the center, 25% in the north and west; and (iv) and falling crop yields<sup>5</sup>. Anthropogenic activities, such as land clearing, logging, bushfire fishing, uncontrolled use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, bad bush practices, can also be most detrimental to biodiversity.
9. **Risks associated to climate change impact all sectors and undermine people's livelihoods.** The economic and social costs of extreme weather, such as floods, droughts, and heat waves, are already very high and will increase competition for scarce land and water resources. Extreme weather events significantly erode poor people's assets, especially when occurring in a series, and further undermine their livelihoods in terms of labor productivity, housing, infrastructure, and social networks. Indirect impacts, such as increases in food prices due to climate-related disasters, can also harm poor people who are net buyers of food.<sup>6</sup> Inability to deal with these stressors can lead to widespread famine, poverty, population displacement and eventually lead to grievances within society.

<sup>5</sup> National report on the state of the environment- 2017

<sup>6</sup> IPCC, 2014.



10. **Extreme weather events also impact the price of cereal products.** The disruption or even the collapse of functional ecosystems leads to ecosystem goods and services loss. In addition, the disappearance of the biological material which allows human communities to feed, produce and heal themselves, endangers economies, livelihoods, food security and population's life quality (especially of the most vulnerable categories). Drought conditions have shifted suitable areas for rainfed agriculture and have reduced the growing period's length in Mali as well as in other Sahelian countries. Drier conditions for rangeland productivity and perennial grasses loss can lead to further land degradation, shrub encroachment, loss of biodiversity, and reduced system resilience.

#### **Inset 1: Climate variability in Mali**

**High Temperature:** Mali is also one of the most arid countries on the planet and two thirds of the national territory is desert. The mean annual temperature in Mali is 28.3° C with an increase of 0.7 ° C recorded between 1960 and 2015. The mean annual temperature is projected to increase by 1.2 to 3.6 °C by the 2060s, and by 1.8 to 5.9 °C by the 2090s. This will result in *increased evapotranspiration* which will dry land surfaces and soil.

**Low rainfall.** The very irregular rainfall in space and time varies from less than 200 mm in the North to around 1100 mm in the South. In the Sahel belt, a decline in annual rainfall has been observed since the end of the 1960s, with a decrease of 20–40% noted between the periods 1931–1960 and 1968–1990.

**High frequency of extreme weather events.** Between 1980 and 2014, Mali experienced 28 major droughts and floods that affected more than seven million people. Mali is classified among the most at-risk countries with a drought severity index of -5.

Mali is very vulnerable to the impact of global climate change, ranking 166 out of 181 countries in the 2016 ND-GAIN index for climate vulnerability. Mali is the 9th most vulnerable country and the 43rd least ready country – meaning that it is extremely vulnerable to, yet unready, to address climate change effects.

11. **Current sectoral and institutional contexts are characterized by fragmented approaches to development, a lack of synchronized objectives and a plethora of competing frameworks.** The problem is not the lack of policies, but rather *the lack of institutional coordination*, overlapping mandates, conflicting objectives, and contradictory agendas and priorities vying for prominence. Sectoral ministries tend to operate in isolation and to address issues such as climate change, climate-biodiversity interaction and land management *in a piece-meal* fashion. Institutional, policy and governance responses to address these issues are often *reactive* through a *fragmented and ad hoc approach*, while failing to address the root cause.
12. **The security crisis has exacerbated the effects of climate change on local livelihoods and on the conditions of access to and use of natural resources.** It has a significant impact on rural economies with numerous effects on actors and agricultural investments along the agricultural value chains, including: (i) reduced access to inputs and markets; (ii) expansion of agriculture into marginal areas; (iii) shrinking and scattering of grazing areas; (iv) increased soil degradation as a result of water and wind erosion and desertification due to human and animal factors (such as overgrazing, soil degradation by acidification and removal of woody vegetation for firewood) (v) increased theft of various assets; (v) competition over natural resources; (vi) links between changes in water availability, climate variation and social conflicts and fragility; and (vii) increased prices of inputs and products. All these drivers are worsened by the social contract breakdown, growing tensions between communities, weakened state institutions, poor governance and social inequalities as well as the presence of terrorist groups.
13. **Climate change is a major conflict multiplier rather than a direct cause of conflict.** It may aggravate and extend the scope of existing conflicts, or trigger underlying and latent conflicts to break out into the open. Four major *clusters of conflicts* have been categorized by recent studies, namely those which emerge from: (i) *water stress* (through the availability of, and access to water, and exposure to water-related hazards, such as floods, droughts or illness); (ii)



**food insecurity** (predicted loss of agricultural land in the region due to climate change could lead to a significant additional decline in food production); (iii) **natural disasters** (extreme weather events and associated natural disasters occur more frequently and more intensely); and (iv) **environmental migration** (migrants compete with resident populations for scarce resources, such as land, housing, water, employment, and basic social services). Conflict becomes even more problematic as societal mechanisms and institutions for managing and resolving conflict are breaking down, giving way to different forms of violence.

14. **The Covid-19 crisis has also brought severe economic losses and social pain.** Covid-19 shocks to economic activity have affected the livelihoods and welfare of households due to multiple challenges. This includes steep declines in labor incomes due to job and wage losses and to non-labor income due to falling international and domestic remittances; disruptions in the functioning of markets leading to prices increases and/or rationing of basic consumption goods and food; and disruptions to service delivery, particularly health and education services. Impacts are likely to be deeper and longer lasting among the poor and vulnerable and will also exacerbate poverty in most inaccessible and marginal areas.

15. **In recent years, Mali has developed several development plans and strategies related to sustainable development, economic growth and climate change resilience.** The following are particularly relevant for the proposed Project (see Annex 1 for more details):

- **The Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development (CREDD 2019-2023)** constitutes the reference document for development policies in force in Mali. Its main objective is to promote inclusive and sustainable development in favor of reducing poverty and inequalities in a united and peaceful Mali. It is articulated around five major axes, including fourth axis which aims to protect the environment and strengthen resilience to climate change.
- **The National Policy for the Protection of the Environment (PNPE)** dated 1998, aims to contribute to the promotion of sustainable development and ensure that the environmental dimension is taken into account in any decision affecting the design, planning, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of development policies, programs and activities.
- **The Country Strategic Investment Framework (CSIF) for Sustainable Land and Water Management (SLWM)**, adopted in July 2010, emphasizes key priorities, namely: (i) effective transfer of natural resources management to decentralized entities; (ii) land tenure reviews encouraging better management by actual land users; (iii) improved capacity of the decentralized entities; (iv) well defined and common environmental policies; and (v) effective coordination of land management and environmental programs.
- **The National Policy/ Strategy and an Action Plan for Climate change**, approved in 2011 by the Ministry of Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development (MEADD), is articulated around seven strategic areas.<sup>7</sup> Mali has also adopted a climate change framework to guide climate and disaster resilience activities. In 2007, Mali put in place a National Adaptation Program of Action (NAPA) and is currently formulating a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) for medium- and long-term adaptation planning. To strengthen its institutional and policy framework for climate adaptation and mitigation, Mali set up the *Environment and Sustainable Development Agency (AEDD)* in 2010 for coordinating national environmental policy and supported the development of the National Climate

<sup>7</sup> Namely: (i) the climate change Institutional Framework; (ii) the climate change funding; (iii) the national climate change capacities; (iv) information and awareness raising; (v) monitoring of climate; (vi) the mainstreaming of climate change in sectoral and territorial policies; and (vii) private sector involvement in the climate change agenda.



Change Policy (PNCC), the National Climate Change Strategy (SNCC), and the Action Plan for Implementation (PANC). The *Mali Climate Fund* has been established in 2013 to combine financing from external, public and private sources. The mission of the *Niger River Basin Agency* (ABFN) is to safeguard the Niger River, its tributaries and their watersheds, on the territory of the Republic of Mali and the integrated management of its resources.

- **Key objectives of the new Malian Decentralization framework** are aimed to: (i) promote a comprehensive, coherent, and sustainable territorial development of regions; (ii) strengthen state support (improved services to populations); (iii) strengthen inclusive governance of the territory; and (iv) improve the financing of decentralization (sustainable financing of decentralization from domestic resources)
- **The objective of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** revised in 2021 aims for a greenhouse gas reduction level of 31% for energy, 25% for agriculture, 39% for forestry and land-use change, and 31% for waste. The global analysis integrating the other sectors, indicates that national efforts will achieve a 40% reduction in emissions by 2030.<sup>8</sup>
- **The National Food and Nutritional Security Policy** which serves as a single framework for guiding all actions promoting food and nutrition security in the country.
- **The National Wetlands Policy** (2003) with the objectives to: promote the creation of a national database on wetlands; promote the conservation of the biological diversity of wetlands; raise public awareness and strengthen legal and regulatory provisions.
- **The Program for Integrated Development and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Niger Basin (PIDACC/NB)** which aims to contribute to improving the resilience of populations and ecosystems in the Basin through sustainable management of natural resources by: reducing the silting process of the Niger River; enhancing the adaptability of populations to climate change; and improving natural resource management and integrated ecosystem management, the protection of biodiversity and the restoration of soil fertility.

16. Furthermore, Mali is part of the **Great Green Wall Initiative (GGWI)**, launched in 2005 and endorsed in 2007 by the **African Union**, which aims at combating desertification and improving the populations' living conditions through the "promotion of SLWM as a more ecologically appropriate, socioeconomically sustainable, and holistic approach at the landscape level, to directly benefit local land and water users (farmers, agropastoral, and nomad pastoralists". The GGWI belt in Mali contains several land use systems such as forests, agricultural systems, agro sylvo-pastoral units, rangelands, protected areas, and watersheds, especially those located along the Niger river. Strategically, the implementation of the GGWI will draw upon the above-mentioned strategies with a special emphasis on the protection of landscapes and watersheds.

17. In Mali, the decentralization policy is the result of a major political and strategic governance option. It was built since 1990 around the following core principles: respect for national unity and integrity of the territory; respect for the free administration of local authorities; respect for local specificities in territorial reorganization; democratic and transparent management of local authorities; subsidiarity; progressiveness and concurrency in the transfer of skills and resources; and project management of regional and local development by local authorities. According to the **National Decentralization Policy Framework Document (NDPFD, 2015-2024)**, the gains of decentralization in terms of democracy and basic services have been certain, but they deserve **to be capitalized and solidified** and the process needs to be restarted. The *Region* will be the most relevant level to coordinate and balance the economic

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<sup>8</sup> In this regard, the International Finance Corporation (IFC) could potentially be involved (workshops, capacity building initiatives, etc.).





development of the territory: *Regionalization* is considered as a new phase of the decentralization reform aimed at paving the way for the establishment of new relationships between the central government and local authorities based on partnership and regulation. Regionalization is meant to help promote more inclusive development allowing local and regional diversities to express themselves freely while remaining anchored in a larger whole than the State, guarantor of unity and national sovereignty.

18. **Despite decades of decentralization reforms, the three levels of local governments (*collectivités territoriales, CTs*) are not effectively empowered to assume their mandates.** Despite its achievements, decentralization is far from having achieved its objectives of entrenching the democratization process and the emergence of a sustainable development approach driven by local actors. Recent changes in the National Budget (*Loi des Finances*), have significantly improved the predictability of resources allocated to local governments. But many challenges remain for implementing the decentralization agenda, such as:<sup>9</sup>

- The transfer of competencies and state financial and human resources to territorial institutions face significant bottlenecks.
- Deconcentrated technical services are not equipped with enough human and financial resources to support CTs.
- The nature of the tutelage or guardianship (*tutelle*) of line ministries on local institutions is not clear (this is a main factor limiting the degree of their autonomy).
- Local authorities are little or not all involved in decision-making concerning planning and implementation, particularly in terms of natural resource management.
- The status of local elected officials and staff administrative authorities are not clearly defined.
- There are many unresolved disputes related to territorial boundaries between Communes (about the limits of village territories).
- The level of mobilization and involvement of local actors (civil society organization/CSOs, Non-governmental organizations/NGOS, producers and users' groups, small and medium enterprises/ SMEs) in the day-to-day running of CTs remains limited.
- Many micro-communes are not financially viable: they are heavily dependent on central government transfers (because income assignments and actual tax revenues collected by them are totally insufficient to meet increasing expenditures associated with the transfer of some competencies).
- Citizens are very little informed about the functioning of local authorities and consequently, exercise very little control over their decisions.
- Traditional mechanisms related to the access to and use of natural resources have been overtaken by social change, and state land law is inconsistent, often giving rise to contradictory interpretations.
- The obligation of transparency and accountability of local authorities remains unfulfilled.<sup>10</sup>

#### Relationship to CPF

19. **The proposed Project is well aligned with the World Bank Group's twin goals of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity in a sustainable manner.** Project activities will promote poverty reduction, invest in

<sup>9</sup> Most of these challenges are identified in the NDPFD.

<sup>10</sup> On all these elements, see: the Framework Document on Decentralization; and Unites Cities and <Local Governments (UCLG) Africa, 2020.



diversifying local livelihoods and improve climate resilience. The Project will provide special support to the poorest and vulnerable social categories, especially those who have been severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

20. **The Project is also in line with:**

- The current **Country Partnership Framework (CPF)**, particularly **Focus Area 1** on “Improving Governance” to foster citizen’s engagement, **Focus Area 2** on “Creating Economic Opportunities” to improve the productive capacity and Market integration of farmers and pastoralists and to support agriculture diversification; and **Focus Area 3** on “Building resilience”, by improving risks management mechanisms for the poor and vulnerable and adapt to climate shocks.
- The **2015 Systematic Country Diagnostic of the Republic of Mali** highlighting among other issues the importance of increasing the resilience of households and individuals through interventions that mitigate the impact of poverty and uninsured risks, increase household productivity, and improve community infrastructure.
- **The WBG Gender Strategy (FY16 - FY23) objectives**<sup>11</sup> focusing on: (i) improving human endowments (health, education, and social protection); (ii) removing constraints for more and better jobs; (iii) removing barriers to women’s ownership and control over assets; and (iv) enhancing women’s voice and agency and engaging men and boys.

21. **The Project will use the WBG Maximizing Finance for Development (MFD) approach, by systematically leveraging all sources of finance, expertise, and solutions (including the private sector) to support sustainable growth.** This means a much more coordinated approach to the public and private sides of development, within a large a spectrum of solutions, private as well as public. The Project will operate within the partnership of the **WB’ Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services (WAVES) Program**,<sup>12</sup> which aims to promote sustainable development by ensuring that natural resources are mainstreamed into development planning and national economic accounts.

22. **On a global scale, the Project will also:**

- Contribute to the overall **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** and support Mali towards its implementation. It will notably contribute to SDG 13 “*Climate Action*” to take urgent action to combat climate change, SDG target 15 “*Life on Land*” to combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world”. Through the **Natural Capital Accounting (NCA)** system, natural resources will be included in planning and implementation at the national and sectoral levels from the policy dialog that precedes the decision to undertake a project, to project design, through implementation, and even long after the project has ended.
- Share the post-2020 **Global Biodiversity Framework**, whose vision is “by 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people”; and contribute to achieving the five *Aichi Biodiversity Targets*.

23. **The conception of the proposed project will capitalize lessons learned and best practices from several ongoing and past projects supported by the Bank.** It will particularly strengthen and scale-up the activities of the *Economic and Environmental Rehabilitation of the Niger River Project (PREEFN) (P151909)*, and the *Natural Resources Management*

<sup>11</sup> World Bank Group 2015c.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.wavespartnership.org/>



and Climate Change Project (PGRNCC) (P145799). The project team is also holding several meetings with teams preparing the WB operations in the pipeline with the objective to identify synergies and complementarity mainly those dealing with resilience and urgency, Safety Nets, Value Chains and transformation of agricultural products, Small Irrigation, and Integrated Water Management (Annex 3 provides a list of these projects and highlights specific areas of collaboration and synergies).

### C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

24. The Development Objective of the Project is **to strengthen the integrated development of targeted landscapes in Mali.**

Key Results (From PCN)

25. **The PDO-Level Results Indicators** are the following:

- Area of land under sustainable landscape management practices (25,000 hectares);
- Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with improved business development index (disaggregated by value chain) (250);
- Target beneficiaries with rating “Satisfied” or above on project interventions (disaggregated by sex, age (15-35) (65%).

### D. Concept Description

26. **The underlying assumption of the proposed Project is that traditional sectoral approaches to land management, rural development and food security are no longer sufficient to meet multi-faceted environmental, economic, social and climate change-related challenges.** A *territorial / landscape approach* is therefore required to face these challenges and break the current deadlock. The landscape approach is an innovative, inclusive and highly participatory strategy that can adapt and respond to local needs and contexts: it is a *multifaceted and integrated strategy* that aims to bring together *multiple stakeholders from different sectors* to provide solutions *at scale*.

27. **Within a well-defined territory (considered as a large tract of land, such as an administrative unit or living area), a landscape is a geographical unit, comprising a mosaic of natural and human-modified ecosystems.** A landscape, which is the result of ecological, historical, economic and cultural processes and activities, is normally defined by its stakeholders at a scale that is *small enough* to maintain a degree of manageability, but *large enough* to be able to deliver multiple functions to stakeholders with different interests. Its boundaries may correspond to, or be a combination of, natural boundaries, distinct land features, socially defined areas such as territories linked to specific socio-cultural-linguistic groups, and/or administrative boundaries.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> The concepts of this analysis are presented in much more detail (including in key bibliographic references) in the "Mali. Background Paper. Environmental Governance, economic Growth and Climate Resilience. For an Integrated Management of Malian landscapes (The World Bank, Bamako, Draft, September 2021).



## Insert 2: The ILM approach at the World Bank

An ILM approach promotes an integrated management of land, water, and living resources, and their sustainable use and conservation. An ILM approach takes into account *the interactions* between natural capital and the ecosystem services they produce in designing projects, rather than considering them *in isolation* from one another. The landscape approach provides opportunities to maximize productivity, improve livelihoods, and increase the production of ecosystem services.

Between 2016 and 2019, the World Bank Group has approved a total of 62 projects that follow some form of landscape approach, of which 44 (23 in Africa) entirely follow a landscape approach. In general, landscape projects differ from traditional rural development or conservation projects by considering multiple land uses and the interactions between them and the effect of these land uses outside the immediate project areas.

The implementation of the ILM approach involve the following key steps:

- a. *Identification and characterization of Landscape Units (LUs)*: based on relative homogeneous characteristics (environmental, socio-economic, and demographic parameters), a specific pattern that may be repeated inside the landscape and that differentiates it from the surroundings. Additional criteria may be identified during preparation to improve the poverty targeting of the project interventions.
- b. *Establishment of a Multi-Sectoral Partner Group (MSPG)* at the level of each LU, made up of local stakeholders, agricultural development groups, private sector (e.g., agribusiness, banks), NGOs, CRDAs, and municipalities representatives.
- c. *Participatory preparation at the level of each LU of Integrated Landscape Development Plans (ILDPs)* by MSPG under the leadership of local governments. The planning process will be streamlined with the annual investment planning process currently undertaken by the local governments. ILDP is designed by using a community led approach facilitating participation by key members of the landscape community and taking consideration both local needs and landscape potential. The plan examines the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats faced by the landscape and outline the types of actions to be supported to address the weaknesses and threats and exploit the strengths and opportunities. While ILPD is multi-sectoral, the project will mainly support activities within the functional responsibility of the MARHP such as: climate smart agriculture and livestock activities; sustainable natural resource management practices; development of agro-silvo-pastoral value-chains; rehabilitation and/or maintenance of essential socio-economic infrastructures and facilities; and diversification of income generating activities. Activities identified in the ILDP that fall outside the responsibility of MARHP (e.g., transport, education, health, etc.) would be implemented by relevant sectoral ministries and included in their program of activities.
- d. *Joint implementation* by public and private actors of the ILDPs agreed activities.
- e. *Monitoring and Evaluation* of the implementation of the ILDPs.

28. **The project is structured around three interdependent components that help achieve its development objective.** A fourth emergency and contingency response component is added to immediately respond to a potential crisis following a man-made or natural disaster. *Component 1* focuses on promoting an enabling environment for integrated landscape development and resilience, through capacity building, planning and knowledge management. *Component 2* focuses on promoting sustainable investments in landscapes by (i) restoring their physical and social functions, increasing their productivity and promoting their intangible cultural heritage; and by (ii) improving the access to markets and offering economic opportunities to young people and women through the development of productive alliances (PA) and value chains (VC). *Component 3* of the project corresponds to the coordination, communication and monitoring-evaluation of the project.
29. **The project will harness the potential of disruptive digital technologies to take advantage of the opportunities they offer.** Stakeholders will be supported to fully understand the potential of advanced technologies and apply them consistently.



30. **The comparative advantage of the proposed Project will be the development of a legal and regulatory alternative to conventional sectoral approaches of natural resource management, climate resilience and food security.** By considering *multiple sectors* and impact on *multi-stakeholder needs*, the Project will provide a *platform for inclusive and participatory, adaptive spatial planning* that integrates multiple objectives and favors on shared objectives the engagement of all stakeholders— including sedentary agriculturalists, semi-sedentary agro-pastoralists and fishermen, nomadic pastoralists as well as smallholder producers, different categories of peoples (marginalized and vulnerable people), and women and youth groups.
31. **Within the context of Malian decentralization and deconcentration policy, the Project will facilitate collaboration and synergies** between, on one hand, sectoral and line ministerial departments and local governments (*collectivités territoriales*) (CTs) and, on the other hand, between CTs and local producers and users' groups and civil society organizations (CSOs). In terms of governance, the importance of the **subsidiarity principle** will be stressed, to ensure that decisions are taken as closely as possible to the citizen and that higher authorities do not take action (except in the areas that fall within their exclusive competence).

### Component 1: Promoting an enabling environment for integrated landscape management

32. This component will support initiatives aimed at improving the capacities of all stakeholders in relation to the challenges of landscape development and resilience, improving the knowledge base about landscapes through specific studies, strengthening or updating integrated landscape development and forest and rangeland management plans and share knowledge through an appropriate communication strategy.

#### Sub-component 1.1: Capacities Strengthening

33. Capacity building initiatives will aim to:
- **Support capacity building initiatives** of all stakeholders involved at national, regional and municipal levels, including members of the *Project Management Unit* (PMU). These capacity building initiatives will focus on: (i) the socio-economic and environmental issues of Malian landscapes and their integrated management; (ii) the economic and commercial challenges of landscape labeling; (iii) the use of renewable energies in landscapes; (iv) certification schemes; (v) the development of certification codes for landscape products to respond to climate risks; (vi) approaches to developing productive alliances and sectors; and (vii) fair trade. Coordinated capacity building initiatives (including study tours) will also be organized. Best practices of the *Mali Livestock Development Support Project* (PADEL, P160641) will be used to establish and strengthen professional users' organizations.
  - **Support studies to improve the legal, regulatory and budgetary frameworks** and to facilitate an integrated landscape / territory management approach in Mali, through the following activities: (i) support the development of the Code for navigation (*Code fluvial*) on the Niger river; (ii) support the development of implementing texts for the Senegal River Code; and (iii) conduct necessary studies to develop relevant options to strengthen the Malian Navigation Company (COMANAV) and its efficiency. In terms of livestock and fishery policies and regulations, the proposed project will draw lessons, among others, from the PADEL (P160641).
  - **Initiate Natural Capital Accounting in Mali** by developing an environmental and economic accounting system which covers the supply and use of agro-silvo-pastoral and fishery products. This activity would result in a significant jump in the measurement of the contribution of natural resources to the national economy.



## Sub-component 1.2: Planning territorial development in selected Communes and Landscapes

34. Activities will aim at:

- **Strengthening the integrated landscape development plans (PDIP)** already prepared by priority communes (see Annex 1) and providing support to extend the identification of landscapes and the methodology of integrated planning to other landscapes / communes in the targeted regions. The proposed ILM approach will incorporate a pro-poor participatory methodology that will increase the access of the poor and other vulnerable groups to the decision-making process regarding key activities needed to increase economic opportunities in each landscape. Participatory and inclusive planning procedures set up and implemented within the context of the *Mali Drylands Development Project (P164052)* and especially the *Natural Resources Management and Climate Change Project (PGRNCC, P145799)* will be capitalized.
- **Updating and developing forest and rangeland management plans:** All forests and rangelands in the targeted regions require either an updated management plan or a new management plan. These plans are the legal instruments necessary to preserve the production potential of these ecosystems and ensure their sustainable management. They are essential to achieve a *balance* between production, social and environmental objectives. The project will support the development of these plans, taking into account the user rights of the local population. Contractual principles will also be applied, to allow local populations to get more involved in the sustainable management of these ecosystems, and to benefit from the rational use of their products and forestry work. In this regard, key lessons will be drawn from the activities of the *PGRNCC (P145799)* (now closed), and the studies being carried out by the *PREEFN, P151909*.

35. **The implementation of planning activities will be done with the support of Partner Institutions (PIs)** with strong local representation, which will be selected on a competitive basis. In each targeted Commune, these institutions will work in close collaboration with local stakeholders to update their Social, Economic and Cultural Development Program (PDESC), make it more integrated and inclusive, and develop the PDPIs according to the situations. These institutions will subsequently oversee the implementation of these plans and ensure the proper execution and sustainability of investments (component 2).

## Sub-component 1.3: Communication and knowledge management

36. **The project will support the formulation and implementation of a communication strategy** to (i) *raise awareness of issues* related to the Malian landscape and the potential of the PDIP to help restore land, improve productivity, promote the diversification of livelihoods and foster reconciliation and social cohesion in conflict-affected communities; and (ii) the promotion and dissemination of local know-how and innovative knowledge to prevent competition, overexploitation and degradation of productive resources (rangelands, cultivated land, water resources, forests and halieutic resources), and to promote collaboration with all stakeholders. The proposed project will draw lessons learned by the *Mali Strengthening Climate Resilience Project (P161406)* in the areas of institutional strengthening and capacity building.

37. **This communication strategy will strengthen the existing networks between national institutions and community organizations at the local level** (including the private sector) to encourage the management and sharing of knowledge on key issues related to the sustainable management of landscapes and their associated livelihoods. These initiatives will make it possible to build a “community of practice” aimed at guiding apolitical authorities, decision-makers and representatives of local institutions on issues related to the sustainable development of landscapes. Lessons learned by other on-going projects on sharing knowledge and best practices will be capitalized, particularly those related to



(i) the modernization of the institutional framework of irrigation-based agriculture (ex. the *Sahel Irrigation Initiative Support Project*, P154482); and (ii) the development of an effective social protection system for the poor and vulnerable (ex. the *Mali Dryland Development Project*, P164052; and the *Safety Net Project*, P165064).

**Table 1: Preparatory activities**

Category	Activities to be implemented during preparation (October 2021 – January 2022)	Responsibility
Carrying out preparatory studies	<i>Identification of the project area</i> : Mapping exercise to cross all the available data to obtain a preliminary location of the Communes meeting the agreed selection criteria	AEDD, ABFN, BM
	<i>Socio-economic study and identification of intangible capital</i> in the project target area, with a view to strengthening social cohesion and solidarity networks	AEDD, ABFN, BM
	<i>Studies on Value chains (VC)</i> to identify to identify the value chain potential of the targeted areas.	AEDD, ABFN, BM
Planning	Reparation or updating ( <i>PDESC</i> ) and Investment Plans of targeted Communes. Preparation of <i>PDIPs of selected Communes</i> .	AEDD, ABFN, BM
Analyses	<i>Economic and financial analysis of the project</i>	BM
	<i>Security risks of the project covered by the project</i>	AEDD, ABFN, BM
Environmental and social instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)</li> <li>• Resettlement Framework (RF)</li> <li>• Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)</li> <li>• Labor Management Procedures (LMP)</li> <li>• Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)</li> </ul>	MEADD

**Component 2: Supporting sustainable investments in targeted landscapes**

38. **This component will finance strategic and technically feasible investments (sub-projects) aimed at restoring landscape ecosystem functions and resilience and promoting environmentally friendly products adapted to local potential.** The identified sub-projects will focus on creating climate-friendly jobs and livelihoods - especially for women and youth. Investments will be provided through two windows, namely: (i) restoration of ecosystem functions and carbon sequestration; and (ii) strengthening links between producers, local promoters, buyers and the public sector within approaches based on productive alliances and value chains. The *Project Operation Manual (POM)* will describe the financing mechanisms, eligible investments, eligible project promoters, as well as evaluation and performance criteria. Collaboration and synergy will be established with the *Food System Resilience Project (FSRP) (P172769)*, which will improve food security through sustainable practices in the Segou and Niono districts, Segou region (sub-component 2.2), by adopting the same methodology and approach. The project will also draw lessons learned by (i) the *Mali Livestock Sector Development Support Project (P160641)* in setting up a window to provide funds to Communes; and (ii) the *Mali Drylands Development Project (P164052)*, which provides grants to finance productive investment projects in production, transformation, and marketing, based on business plans.

**Sub-component 2.1: Restoring landscapes ecosystem functions and resilience**

39. Investments of sub-component 2.1 will be identified in the PDPI / PDESC developed during the preparatory phase of the project and strengthened under activities of Component 1. However, certain priority investments may be made before the finalization of the PDPIs / PDESCs because the future of the landscape will depend on their timely implementation.

40. **The implementation of the activities of this sub-component will be supported by the Partner institutions (PIs)** (see above). will ensure the technical coordination of the activities of this sub-component. PIs will continue the in-depth



consultation process initiated during the development of the PDIPs/PDESCs in each targeted Commune. Then they will support local actors in the design and implementation of sub-projects, in close collaboration with decentralized services, local communities and representatives of MSMEs. PIs will finally submit the proposals to the local then national committees for the final selection of sub-projects. In order to give credibility to the participatory and consultative process, the main modalities, terms, conditions and procedures of the grants will be developed in the POM.

41. **To ensure transparency and information to all stakeholders, partner institutions will publish on a project website information about sub-projects that have been approved or rejected.** In addition, the project will launch advocacy and consultation campaigns and provide full direct support to groups and individuals interested in grants. Where appropriate, partner institutions would provide specific technical support to help local groups develop their own associations capable of managing the interests of their members.
42. Three types of sub-projects that aim to restore the functions and resilience capacity of the targeted landscapes will be funded by the Project:
  - ***The first category of sub-projects concerns physical investments essential to restore degraded ecosystem*** (the quality of soils, water and air). In this regard, the following priority works, and activities will be supported: (i) physical soil amendment works (ii) promotion of techniques that improve soil fertility and microbiology; (iii) disaster risk management and prevention; (iv) sustainable land and water management techniques (SLWM); (v) rehabilitation of hydraulic infrastructure; (vi) use of renewable energy sources and carbon-free technologies; and (vii) restoration and rehabilitation works of the Niger River. The project will capitalize lessons learned by the *Mali Reconstruction and Economic Recovery Project (P167396)* on helping rural households and rural community-based organizations (CBOs) severely affected by civil conflicts to restore their productive assets, reduce food insecurity, and re-launch productive activities. Partnership will be established with the *Mali Emergency and Resilience Project (P173389)* (in the pipeline) for the rehabilitation of basic social infrastructures.
  - ***The second category of sub-projects concerns actions necessary to restore the productivity of ecosystem, agro-silvo-pastoral and fishing practices that take the climate into account***, such as: (i) the promotion of crop varieties resistant to drought; (ii) the promotion of organic and biodynamic agriculture; (iii) the practice of fertirrigation; (iv) soil amendment techniques; (v) promotion of biological pest control techniques; (v) treatment and reuse of wastewater; (vi) participatory techniques and guidelines for water saving and watershed management; (vii) sustainable use of terrestrial and animal genetic resources; (viii) the (re) introduction of different forms of rotational grazing; (ix) improving grazing areas management; (x) support for the genetic improvement of livestock breeds and the selection of animal breeds making efficient use of available natural resources; (xii) optimization of the size and composition of herds; (xiii) optimal use of waste and livestock manure; (xiv) the use of renewable energy sources; etc. For a limited number of activities aimed at restoring the balance of fragile ecosystems at the local level, the so-called *Payments for Environmental Services (PES)* approach could be used, consisting of offering financial compensation in return for actions that help restore or maintain ecosystems from which communities derive benefits, but whose effects are unlikely to be visible in the short term (these actions could concern, for example: the destruction of crop enemies, the protection of rice fields against the intrusion of fish, the destruction of seed-eating birds' nests, carbon storage in the soil, prevention measures against bush fires, the creation of livestock surveillance committees, measures to protect or revegetate the banks and docks of riverside villages;





the planting of village groves for the production of timber and firewood; etc.)<sup>14</sup>. Partnership and collaboration will be established with the *Strengthening Climate Resilience Project (P161406)*, which has created a system providing forecast information to farmers, pastoralists and fishermen to help seasonal management strategies, as well as the *Mali Livestock Sector Development Support Project (P160641)*, which provides information on animal diseases, vaccination campaigns and marketing to livestock keepers.

- **The third category of sub-projects concerns the actions necessary for the restoration and promotion of the intangible and historical capital of the targeted landscapes.** Knowledge of intellectual capital is a major determinant of innovation, growth, employment, reconciliation and mitigation of conflicts between communities. The project will strengthen the body of knowledge, skills, practices and representations that communities have accumulated, the result of a long history of interaction between their cultural and natural environments. Indeed, if these customs disappear or undergo significant changes, it is the cultural identity and heritage of local communities that will be in great danger. The microprojects that will be supported will highlight the rich cultural heritage of the Malian landscapes / municipalities and will include: Uses and / or customs related to the management and protection of water resources; uses and / or customs related to agriculture; mechanisms for preventing, managing and resolving conflicts within communities and between different communities. Finally, other activities could concern the protection and promotion of popular songs, dances, proverbs, sayings and legends linked to historic landscapes and customs, by virtue of their importance for sustainable development.

#### Sub-component 2.2: Support for productive alliances and sectors (value chains)

43. **This sub-component aims to improve the access of producers and / or producer organizations (POs) to strategic markets through the co-financing of investments in Productive Alliances (PAs) and the development of value chains (VCs).** In targeted landscapes, the aim is to help build the capacities of emerging producer organizations (POs), diversify their value-added activities, link them to national, sub-regional and international markets, and better promote local products<sup>15</sup> and handicrafts in the context of productive alliances and value chains. The objective is to improve rural livelihoods by diversifying and promoting value-added activities and ensuring better connection of local products to promising markets at the levels (by establishing specifications and business plans). In some landscapes, this may also involve the development of promising niches (such as geothermal energy, aquaculture, greenhouses, etc.) and the promotion of alternative crops. This sub-component will first co-finance the producer organizations in charge of improving the production process, ensuring the quality control of the transformation, transport and marketing processes of products and effectively addressing the evaluation and marketing of products. Sub-projects will particularly target and benefit sub-projects identified and managed by groups of young people and women by co-financing investments in agricultural and craft production and help them a major role in decision-making regarding marketing and product sales. Appropriate technical assistance will be provided to accommodate increasing business demands. Co-financing will aim at rationalizing the production processes, quality control, the treatment, the transport and the marketing of the products. They will be supported as part of the technical assistance provided for in sub-component 2.1. Special partnership will be established with the FSRP (P172769) on two specific areas: (i) strengthening creation and provision of digital advisory services for farmers, particularly in terms of supporting the timely delivery of agro-meteorological information to farmers using multi-modal channels including ICT, in partnership

<sup>14</sup> The project will also use lessons learned by the *Safety Net Project (P165064)* on the provision of conditional cash transfers to poor and vulnerable households.

<sup>15</sup> Such as wood and non-wood forest products (*néré/Parkia biglobosa*, shea/*Butyrospermum parkii*, baobab/*Adansonia*, *goïne* liana/*Saba senegalensis*), etc.), aromatic and medicinal plants, condiments, honey, oils, cereal, rice and fodder crops, and by-products (such as composting of vegetable waste)



with the private sector (telecom operators, agro-dealers, service providers) and civil societies (sub-component 1.2); and (ii) supporting development strategies and regional value chains through appropriate financing mechanisms to facilitate the emergence of agriculture champions, strengthening capacities of inter-professional bodies, strengthening national and regional market integration systems and trade platforms, supporting public-private partnerships, and establishing traceability systems (sub-component 3.2).<sup>16</sup> The project will capitalize lessons learned by the *Mali Livestock Sector Development Support Project (P160641)*, which is funding and implementing investment initiatives by investors in the targeted VCs (160 business plans for SMEs (productive partnership window), and 600 investment initiatives for very small enterprises (micro project window).

44. **In the selection of the various activities, green jobs will be particularly favored because of their contribution to the preservation or restoration of the environment.** In this regard, eligible production activities will be selected according to specific criteria emphasizing more environmentally friendly production processes and the use of fewer natural resources, such as: reduction of consumption of water; improving recycling systems; reduction of all forms of waste and pollution; the use of small renewable energy installations (such as photovoltaic solar panels, small wind turbines and solar water heaters).
45. **Eligible activities aimed to support PAs and VCs** will include: (i) purchase of equipment (such as tools and machines needed for the collection or processing of agro-sylvo-pastoral products; and construction packaging centers, classification centers, warehouses and cold chain facilities); (ii) advisory services regarding access to financial services, business management, market and marketing skills, quality and standard certification services, etc. ; (iii) training in technical and / or managerial skills; as also (iv) working capital requirements for a period of one to two years, when it proves difficult to obtain them from commercial or public banks. Eligible entrepreneurs will contribute to the financing of their sub-projects, the amount of their co-financing will depend on the size of the company.

### Component 3: Coordination, monitoring-evaluation and communication

46. **The project will be implemented, supported and coordinated by a Project Management Unit (PMU)** which will be hosted in the Ministry of Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development (MEADD).
47. **Formal agreements will be signed with specific technical directorates** for the implementation of the various activities, mainly with the MAEDD (National Directorate for Water Resources and Forests/DNEF, National Directorate for Sanitation and Pollution Control/DNACPN, Great Green Wall Agency/ANGMV the Niger River Basin Agency/ABFN); the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (National Directorate for Territorial Governments/DGCT, National Agency for the Investment of Territorial Governments)/ANICT); the Ministry of Rural Development (National Directorate of Agriculture/DNA, National Directorate of Animal Productions and Industries/DNPIA, National Directorate of Fisheries/ DNP); the Ministry of Energy and Water (National Directorate of Hydraulics/DNH); the Ministry of Equipment and Transport (MALI-METEO) and the Ministry of Security and Civil Protection (MSPC), Directorate General of Civil Protection (DGPC). Under these agreements, implementation will first take place through the delegated project management agencies which will be recruited by the PMU and which will ensure the procurement process. The PMU will focus on coordination, contract management and monitoring and evaluation.
48. **For the implementation of the various activities, the PMU will be supported by partner institutions (PIs) which will be selected on a competitive basis.** The identified PIs will ensure the technical coordination of activities, starting with a broad consultation process in each target commune / landscape, to seek and improve local actors' understanding of new opportunities and build relationships. narrow working areas. The PIs should also support local actors from the

<sup>16</sup> While the FSRP focuses on rice, corn and cotton value chains, the proposed project will focus on forest products and by-products.



design to the implementation of sub-projects in close collaboration with deconcentrated institutions, local communities, local authorities and representatives of SMEs. In order to give credibility to the participatory and consultative process, all these modalities, terms, conditions and procedures will be developed in the Project Procedures Manual.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

49. **M&E and learning processes will take place in a participatory manner with input from beneficiaries and stakeholders to enable adaptive and results-oriented project management from project design through to project closure.** Basic SMART indicators will be developed, including key Land Degradation Neutrality/ LDN performance indicators: sustainable development goals<sup>17</sup>/net primary productivity (PNP) and soil organic carbon (SOC) stock. In this regard, the existing information systems at AEDD and ABFN will be strengthened and made operational to monitor and evaluate the implementation of project activities. These information systems will be a tool accessible to all stakeholders (State administrations, decentralized services, local authorities, public sector, civil society associations) and capable of collecting, organizing, maintaining, monitoring and managing in time. real basic data on the state of goods and natural resources, meteorological (short term) and climatic (medium and long term), markets and commercial networks for landscape products, etc.), using appropriate geographic tools (maps, tabular data, geocoding of sites, etc.). The design and development of these tools will be supported by the **Geo-Enabling for Monitoring and Supervision (GEMS)** initiative which aims to help development actors improve the accuracy and accountability of M&E and create customized platforms for monitoring. remote, real-time risk management and coordination across projects and partners.

## Component 4: Contingent Emergency Response

50. **Following any untoward, adverse natural event that causes a major natural disaster, the Government may request to re-allocate project funds to this component to support response and reconstruction.** This component would allow the government to request to re-categorize and reallocate financing from other project components to partially cover emergency response and recovery costs.

## Project Area and Beneficiaries

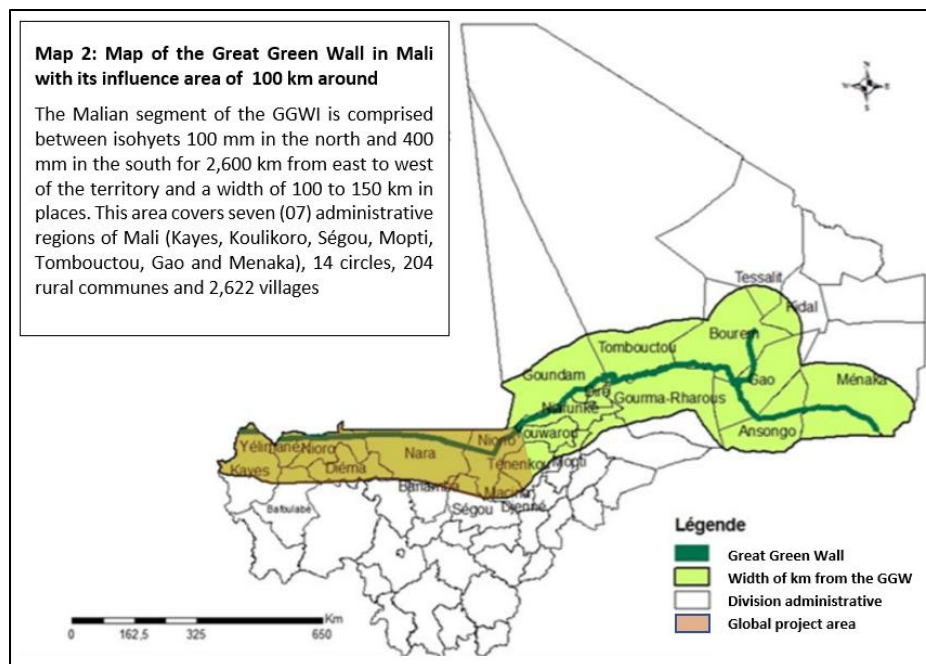
51. **The Project will focus its activities on the central zone covered by the Great Green Wall (see Map 3 below) and will cover the regions of Kayes, Koulikoro, Ségou and Mopti.** It is within this area that the preparatory studies will allow a more precise identification of the project intervention area and the targeted municipalities / landscape, based on the following criteria: Poverty, Social and natural vulnerability, security, potential Value Chains, GGWI area, complementarity with other projects. The beneficiaries of the project are households, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders at the level of municipalities, regions and at the national level. (See in Annex 2 a general description of areas to be covered by the project).

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<sup>17</sup> Particularly: SDG 1 "Poverty eradication"; SDG5 "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment"; SDG6 "Access to water and sanitation for all; SDG13" Fight against climate change "; and SDG1 "Preserve and restore terrestrial ecosystems".



Map 3: The Great Green Wall area in Mali



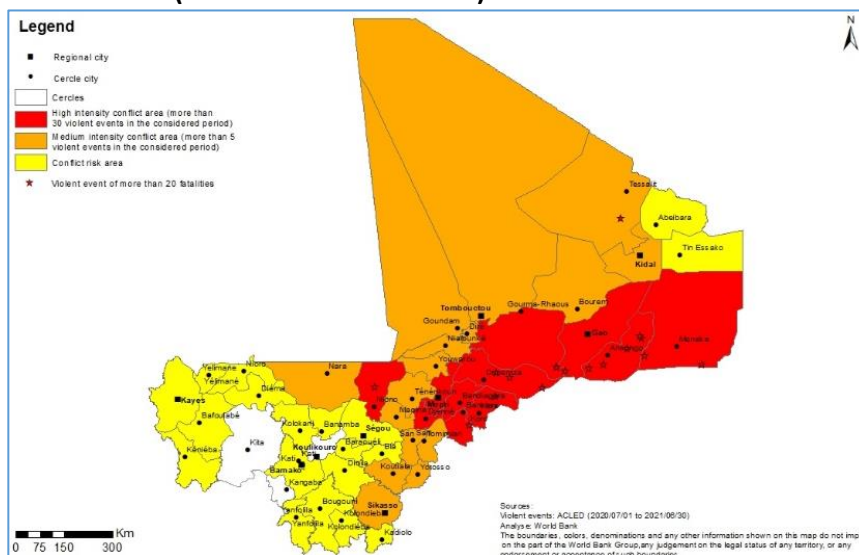
52. **The direct beneficiaries of the project are poor and vulnerable household groups** in communities, Civil Society Organizations (SCs and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, producer groups, grassroots associations and small and medium-sized entrepreneurs. The results of the preparatory studies will make it possible to better identify the expected beneficiaries (number, categories by gender and production system, geographical location, administrative districts, etc.).

**Security in targeted area:**

53. **The identification of project landscapes will use the Prevention and Resilience Index (PRI).** The primary data source is the Armed Conflict Location and Event Database (ACLED) complemented by qualitative information. Targeted regions are classified into three violence groups (high, moderate, and low) based upon the ACLED data (Figure 6).



Map 3: Violent event classification (June – 2020 – June 2021)



**Budget**

54. **The total budget of the proposed Project is US \$ 150 million**, half of which is in the form of a grant and the other in the form of a loan. (for a period of five years).

Legal Operational Policies	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	TBD
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

55. **The proposed project will be required to meet the *Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs)* in order to manage risks and impacts and improve environmental and social performance through a risk and outcomes-based approach.** Both from environmental and social point of view, the proposed program is expected to have a positive impact on selected landscapes, by strengthening sustainable management of their resources, and on all members of local communities, especially the poorest and most vulnerable ones, building their capacity to manage natural resources and supporting the development of more sustainable livelihoods. The program approach is participatory, all eligible sub-projects will be initiated and partly implemented by eligible beneficiaries. OCSs, including MSMEs and Producers’ organizations (including women and youth associations) will benefit directly from a variety of investments aimed at diversifying local livelihoods, creating new economic opportunities and growth, and strengthening their technical and management capacities. The environmental risks and impacts will be related to occupational health and safety, pollution due to solid waste, dust and noise, etc. In addition, most of the environmental impacts will come from construction waste generation and possible biodiversity impacts. Construction wastes are likely to include soil erosion, dust and other emissions (e.g., from vehicle traffic, land clearing activities, and materials stockpiles), etc. Impact on biodiversity cannot be excluded. Small and medium scale physical investments will have limited negative impact on



*Project Affected People (PAPs)* in terms of physical relocation, land acquisition or economic displacement as well as conflicts related to the selection and targeting of beneficiaries for productive alliances and value chains and possible misinformation regarding the project. Forms of physical displacement are unlikely, but some forms of economic displacement cannot be excluded (with loss of land, assets or more or less temporary access to these assets), which notably would give rise to a loss of income or other means of subsistence). All these risks / impacts will be assessed, and adequate mitigating measures identified. The activities to be financed by the project will follow the steps of the environmental and social screening process, which will determine the extent of the negative impacts of the various sub-projects on the human and biophysical environment.

56. **To make the Project fully compliant with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESS)**, the Government of Mali, with the support of the World Bank, will prepare prior to appraisal an *Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)*, setting out the necessary actions to ensure that the project complies with the ESSs. The *ESCP* identifies the material measures and actions that are required as well as their timeframe and dates of completion and defines the responsibilities of different institutional partners.

57. According to the *ESCP*, which is an integral part of the loan legal agreement, the following documents have to be prepared and related consultations will be held prior to appraisal:

- *Environmental and social Management Framework (ESMF)*, to address all the ESSs (to be prepared by appraisal);
- *Resettlement Policy Framework (RFP)* in line with ESS5 (to be prepared by appraisal);
- *Labor Management Procedures (LMP)* in line with ESS2 (it will include detailed a *Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)* (to be prepared by Board approval);
- *Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)* in line with ESS10 (to be prepared by appraisal).

58. Procedure and Action Plan for Mitigating the Risks of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), Violence Against Children (VA), Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (EAS), and Sexual Harassment (HS) will also be prepared, as well as Security Management Plan.

59. Furthermore, in accordance with the ESS4 on "*Health and Safety of Populations*", the implementing agency is committed to avoiding or minimizing all risks and negative effects, with particular attention to groups that, due to their particular situation, can be considered vulnerable.

### Gender inclusion

60. **Gender-lens will be applied to the Project.** Female participation in project design and implementation as well as access to project benefits is prioritized in all project components. Separate (women-only) consultations during the planning phase) will allow women to express themselves more freely. More specifically, the project will contribute to remove constraints for more and better jobs and barriers to ownership and control of assets for women. To address such constraints and increase income-earning opportunities for women, the project will put in place the following actions (under Component 2): (i) women-focused awareness raising and outreach activities on market/investment/jobs opportunities; (ii) targeted support and technical assistance packages to women entrepreneurs (MSMEs), women-led groups (CSOs) and female producers which will provide both hard and soft skills trainings such as business plan development, mentorship, network support for market access, leadership trainings etc.; (iii) options for childcare support while female beneficiaries are attending trainings; and (iv) forms of positive discrimination in screening process and eligibility criteria for matching grants and co-financing grants benefitting women entrepreneurs (MSMEs), women-led groups) and female producers. The progress towards increasing economic opportunities for women will be measured through adequate indicators.



## Citizen engagement

61. **The Project explicitly supports the engagement of stakeholders and beneficiaries** through consultative processes, engagement in local-level planning, and feedback mechanisms to elaborate and adjust the integrated landscape management approach, as well as access to economic opportunities. Feedback mechanisms will be developed to ensure transparency, accountability, and learning, as well as a continuous dialogue with local-level beneficiaries and other stakeholders. The specific elements of the framework for citizen engagement include: (i) support for the engagement of local rural communities in the planning and management of landscapes, including monitoring; (ii) support for community engagement in determining local investment; (iii) support for a feedback mechanism from stakeholders and beneficiaries, designed to process concerns and questions from beneficiaries and other stakeholders at various levels (regional to local). The protocol and mechanisms for elements of the citizen engagement framework will be detailed in the POM. The quality of its implementation and progress will be monitored at both the regional and national levels, through supervision and dialogue.

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**APPROVAL**

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**Approved By**

Country Director:	Clara Ana Coutinho De Sousa	19-Nov-2021
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