

MAURITANIA

BASIC FACTS ABOUT PEI MAURITANIA

Timescale: Phase I-II 2007-2013, Phase III 2014-2017.

Partners: The Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Development and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development, and key sector ministries for: oil, energy and mines; water resources and sanitation; fisheries and maritime economy; rural development and agriculture; and the UNDP country office.

Focus: Reinforce national capacities to integrate and implement poverty-environment objectives into policy planning and budgeting processes.

MAINSTREAMING CONTEXT

Climate change has exacerbated desertification in Mauritania which has negatively impacted the national economy and contributed to the impoverishment of the most vulnerable groups. Urban areas have been particularly affected fuelling urban poverty. The high pressure on resources coupled with poor environmental governance impedes the achievement of the national development goals.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Raise awareness on poverty-environment linkages among relevant stakeholders by carrying out public environmental expenditure reviews and studies on ecosystem services, environmental economics and indicators, as well as by arranging mainstreaming trainings at national and regional level.

Support the government to include poverty-environment linkages in national and local development policies, including the “Cadre Strategic pour la Lutte contre la Pauvreté” (CSLP) I (2006-2010) CSLP II (2011 – 2015) and the forthcoming CLSP III (2016-2020).

Provide support to the Water, Energy and Fishery sector to mainstream poverty-environment linkages and indicators into their plans, budgets and monitoring frameworks.

Support the strengthening of the public financial management system to support the implementation of the CLSP III, and ensure budget allocations for poverty-environment objectives.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Increased awareness and capacity on poverty-environment mainstreaming among key stakeholders through the dissemination of a number of strategic studies that demonstrate the evidence of poverty-environment linkages, and related capacity building on the use of integrated ecosystem assessments, economic tools and instruments, and poverty-environment indicators.

Poverty-environment objectives integrated into the economic and social pillar of the PRSP 3, the environment section of the UNDAF 2012-2016 and the national environmental action plan. Further, budgeting tools and instruments for poverty-environment mainstreaming have been developed, including indicators, tax systems, budget guidelines and databases.

Enhanced government commitment to tackle the impacts of climate change on the national economy. The Government has developed a national strategy on climate change and an agenda 21 for Nouakchott City. The Agenda 21 identifies climate change adaptation and mitigation actions related to governance, land tenure, sand occupation and poverty.

Government shows sustained commitment to address poverty-climate issues by continuing to allocate more than 15% of its environmental budget for climate change infrastructure, such as green walls, to protect the city of Nouakchott against the effects of climate change. The Government has further reinforced the implementation of the Green Belt movement program and invested over US\$2 million public funds to protect Nouakchott from the advancement of dunes as well as a rise in the sea level.

Mobilized Millennium Development Goal Fund (MGD-F) funding related to the 'environment and climate change' thematic window in Mauritania. The PEI component under the MDGF was highlighted in the [MDGF publication as an example of good practice](#).

LESSONS LEARNED

Political instability complicates poverty-environment mainstreaming and weakens national ownership. To mobilize political support for poverty-environment mainstreaming it is crucial to engage with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance.

It is important to have a strong communication strategy to disseminate the results and enhance the influence and use of the program outputs. Further, ensuring the implementation of poverty-environment objectives in plans and policies requires attention to budget processes and sector engagement.

WAY FORWARD

Increase political commitment and strategic engagement by introducing the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs as the lead government partner for PEI whilst ensuring the engagement of key sector ministries such as environment, mining, fishery and rural development.

Ensure enhanced focus on budgets and investment plans, on managing natural resources to reduce poverty and on how productive sectors can use natural resources sustainably to support pro-poor economic growth.

Incorporate, in a more substantive way, climate change mainstreaming into planning processes with a special focus on urban areas that are severely affected by climate change.