

## MAURITANIA

### REDUCING VULNERABILITY OF ARID OASIAN ZONES TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND VARIABILITY THROUGH IMPROVED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

**LDCF project grant: \$1,630,000**

**Co-financing: \$1,400,000**

**NAPA completion date: November 2004**

**Inclusion into LDCF Work Program:  
May 2007**

**CEO endorsement date: January 2009**

**Implementation start: March 2009**

#### PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND EXPECTED IMPACTS

This project proposes to create catchment devices and to promote the infiltration of runoff to replenish groundwater in the oasian zones to conserve water supply and, at the same time, improved management of the water demands based on improved hydro-climatic information is needed to ensure sustainable use of a diminishing resource.

The West African climate, particularly in the Sahel, including Mauritania, has been undergoing recurrent variations of significant magnitude since the early 1970's. The whole region has experienced a marked decline in rainfall since around 1968-1972. Mauritania has experienced chronic drought over the course of the last thirty years which has had negative impacts on the rural communities who have been subject to increased water stress. The response has been to further exploit both surface and groundwater resources with little planning. A major environmental vulnerability related to climate change which is resulting from current practice is a drop in the water tables, which has not ceased to decrease during subsequent years of precipitation deficits. The supply of water to cities and large towns in Mauritania is drawn from groundwater from the nearby oasian zones. Current practice is resulting in frequent deficits for human consumption and agriculture needs in these oasian zones

The long-term goal of the project is to improve water management in light of climate change impacts in order to improve ecological functioning and human well being. The project will address urgent issues through improved environmental management and, show how climate change information and improved data on water can be used to enhance resource management and decision making at several levels, including technical, policy, and community level demand side management.

The project will enhance the capacity of population for improved local water management is increased through improved awareness and implementation of water management strategies and techniques which are appropriate to a changing climate. The project will also ensure that the correct information and policy management systems are put in place to ensure improved medium and long term planning to sustain water resources in an increasingly arid climate.

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION**

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