

Africa Minigrid Programme in Mali

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

AER-Mali	Renewable Energy Agency
AMADER	Rural Electrification Agency
AMP	Africa Mini-grid Programme
ANGMV	National Great Green Wall Agency
DNE	National Electricity Directorate
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESPs	Electricity Service Providers
GGW	Great Green Wall
KM	Knowledge Management
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
PPG	Project Preparation Grant
RE	Renewable Energy
QA	Quality Assurance
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SES	Social and Environmental Safeguards
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

1 Introduction

The purpose of developing a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Africa Mini-grid Programme (AMP) national project in Mali (hereinafter referred to as the 'AMP Mali' or 'the project') is to support the identification of key stakeholders and undertake the consultations required throughout the project cycle, i.e., project design during the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) stage, and project implementation during its 4 years' duration. The development and implementation of the SEP is also part of the UNDP Social and Environmental Safeguards (SES) requirements. Hence, the presented SEP will be reviewed and updated during the social and environmental assessment processes required for the development of the project's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).

1.1 Context

The Republic of Mali is a continental country with an area of 1.24 million km² for a population of approximately 21 million in 2022 and borders seven (7) neighboring countries in West Africa, thus positioning itself as the engine of economic integration of West African peoples. The territory abounds in significant potential exploitable energy resources (nearly 6 kWh/m²/d of solar irradiation with an almost homogeneous distribution and insolation reaching 10 hours; 1150 MW of hydroelectricity of which only 32% exploited and 1 GW of biomass under exploited). The country's electrification rate is 52% in 2021 and distributed very unevenly between urban areas (98%) and rural areas (24.12%). However, this rate is lower than the national objectives and the effective access to electricity for end users (residential, commercial and social) is sufficiently unsustainable for various reasons (including the high cost of electricity whose production remains dominated by totally imported thermal, timid penetration of renewable energy, energy efficiency and bioenergy technologies, frequent load shedding, etc.). This difficult energy situation is hampering the socio-economic development of an already fragile country with security, health, institutional, political and climate change challenges, particularly in rural areas with vulnerable populations.

1.2 Project description

This project approach is participatory and collaborative, capitalizing on synergies between the various interventions of different stakeholders, in order, together, to contribute to available, reliable, affordable energy access and greener energy in rural areas in Mali and to develop the market for green minigrids supported by the private sector. This will contribute to the sustainable improvement of livelihoods, inclusive poverty reduction while reducing GHG emissions. The project rationale is underpinned by a new approach to de-risking private sector and community investments in the rural decentralized renewable energy access market.

The project is having five (5) components which are:

Component 1 – Policy and regulation

It aims to foster stakeholder ownership of a national mini-grid model and the adoption of appropriate policies and regulations to facilitate investments in low-carbon mini-grids.

Component 2: Innovation of business models with the private sector

It aims to develop innovative business models based on cost reduction are implemented, with enhanced private sector participation in the development of green minigrid.

Component 3: Scaling up financing

It aims to set up financial sector actors ready to invest in a series of low-carbon mini-grids and concessional financial mechanisms to encourage large-scale investments.

Component 4: Digital, knowledge management

Digitization and integrated data are appropriated by stakeholders, in the development of the local mini-grid market. Knowledge, awareness and networking opportunities in the mini-grid market are known by stakeholders, including likings with international best practices

Component 5: Monitoring & evaluation

A cross-cutting component to support green and productive ecosystems in Mali's Great Green Wall strip through access to electricity

1.3 Project location

The activities of the AMP Mali project will be implemented on the route of the Great Green Wall zone located in the Saharo-Sahelian zone between the isohyets of 100 and 400 mm at the national level, covering 204 municipalities spread over all regions except those of Sikasso and Dioila.

The exact location of the pilot projects (4) within the AMP Mali framework will be identified during implementation phase based on a set of objective criteria validated by the IP – AER-Mali, the RPs - AMADER, DNE, and ANGMV - and all relevant stakeholders at the PPG phase validation workshop on 19 September 2022. Synergies with existing projects of partners within the GGW strip across Mali will be leveraged accordingly.

1.4 Potential social and environmental issues

The SESP has identified the following principles and project-level standards as relevant to the project:

- Overarching Principle 1: Leave No One Behind
- Programming Principle 2: Human Rights
- Programming Principle 3: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
- Programming Principle 4: Sustainability and Resilience
- Programming Principle 5: Accountability
- Project- level Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management
- Project- level Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risk
- Project- level Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security
- Project- level Standard 4: Cultural Heritage
- Project- level Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement
- Project- level Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples
- Project- level Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions
- Project- level Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency

Detailed analysis of the above is presented in the project's SESP and ESMF (Annexes 5 and 9 of the Project Document).

2 National Regulations and International Requirements

When this SEP was prepared, there were no legally binding policies or explicit regulations in Mali identified as relating to stakeholder engagement as a legal requirement. Nevertheless, the PPG consultations indicate that almost all government parties are conducting specific stakeholder consultation and engagement activities as part of their projects. The parties have expressed their willingness to be actively involved in the implementation of the SEP for AMP Mali and have offered to take the lead in coordinating stakeholders in the minigrid sector during the project period.

Mali does have though a [Decree No. 2018-0992/P-RM of December 31, 2018](#), establishing the rules and procedures relating to the strategic environmental assessment. This decree sets the conditions to ensure a high level of environmental protection, and to contribute to the integration of climate change, including mitigation and adaptation, in the preparation and adoption of policies, schemes, plans and programs, with a view to promoting sustainable development, and to subject policies, schemes, plans and programs that are likely to have significant impacts on the environment to a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

The project will comply with relevant international obligations for public consultation and disclosure requirements related to the social and environmental assessment process, as established by the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES) Guidance Note for Stakeholder Engagement. In preparing this SEP, the project also meets the requirements of the GEF Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy for stakeholder engagement.

3 Stakeholders' Identification

As part of the PPG development process, the project team identified several groups of stakeholders. A list of contacts is available [here](#).

3.1 State and local government authorities, national utilities, i.e., public sector entities

- Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water and its technical services;
- Ministry of Environment, Sanitation and Sustainable Development;
- Ministry of Economy and Finance
- Ministry for the Advancement of Women, Children and the Family
- National Directorate of Energy (DNE – Project RP)
- Malian Agency for the Development of Domestic Energy and Rural Electrification (AMADER – Project RP)
- Renewable Energies Agency of Mali (AER-Mali – Project IP)
- National Biofuels Development Agency (ANADEB)
- Electricity and Water Regulation Commission (CREE)
- National Agency of the Great Green Wall (ANGMV - Project RP)
- National Directorate of Agriculture (DNA)
- National Directorate of Animal Production and Industries
- National Local Authority Investment Agency (ANICT)
- Regional Development Agencies (RDA)
- Investment Promotion Agency (API-Mali)
- National Council of Employers of Mali;
- Agency for the Promotion of Youth Employment (APEJ)
- University of Technical Sciences and Technologies of Bamako (USTTB)

3.2 Private sector associations and companies

- 1) Private sector energy service providers, ESPs, (incl. for minigrids) in Mali
 - Groupe KAMA-SA
 - ACCESS
 - HORONYA
 - ABK
 - SONINKARA
 - SOLEKTRA SOLAR
 - EMICOM
 - ECOTECH
 - ZED-SA
 - YEELLEN KURA
 - SYNERGIE SA
 - AFRILIGHT
 - MES-INTERNATIONAL
 - AIRCOM
- 2) International minigrid developers and operators already present in Mali
 - Africa Green Tech
 - SAGEM COM
 - FLEXGRID
 - YANDALUX
 - OOLU-MALI
- 3) Telecom operators
 - Orange Mali
 - MouvAfrica Mali
 - Télécel
- 4) Industry Associations

- Association of Private Operators of Rural Electrification in Mali (OSER)
- National Coordination of Farmer Organizations (CNOP)
- Professional Association of Banks and Financial Institutions (APBEF)
- Professional Association of Microfinance Institutions (APIM)

3.3 Development partners with minigrid and renewable energy projects in Mali

- African Development Bank (AfDB)
- World Bank (WB)
- West African Development Bank (BOAD)
- International Solar Alliance (ISA)
- Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)
- French Development Agency (AFD)
- European Union (EU)
- Abu Dhabi Fund for Development (ADFD)
- GIZ & Endeavor
- SNV

3.4 Local communities

Local communities relevant to the project can be categorized into two groups: pilot site communities and non-pilot site communities. Representatives of the pilot projects will be identified (local authorities, community association, association of women farmers, etc.). Both groups will be further explored during the feasibility studies that will be conducted during project implementation.

3.5 Additional groups to be further defined during implementation

- Direct beneficiaries
 - Academics, educational institutions and vocational training centers, such as:
 - Financial institutions and small investors:
- Indirect beneficiaries
 - Industry groups (agriculture, fisheries, manufacturing)
 - Non-governmental Organization (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations working on relevant projects and initiatives incl. NGO Geres among others
- Other groups of beneficiaries and affected persons
 - Workers unions
 - Women
 - Youth
 - Children
 - Disabled population
 - Human rights activists
 - Land rights activists
 - Minority and vulnerable groups

4 Stakeholder Consultation and Engagement during PPG Development

As part of the PPG development, and in addition to the desk review and data collection exercise, the PPG team composed of National and International Consultants identified key stakeholders and engaged with them in a series of in-person and online meetings. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the project objective, the suitability of the proposed strategy to the present needs of the stakeholders in particular, and Mali in general, its challenges and potential solutions, and its alignment with national plans and ongoing market development. The discussions also aimed to identify the gaps which AMP can work on to fill, especially in the presence of several projects targeting energy access and renewable energy development financed by development partners other than UNDP.

The following consultation and bilateral meetings were conducted online and in-person during the period from June 2022 to September 2022:

- 1) PPG Inception Workshop with stakeholders, organized and coordinated by UNDP with the support of the PPG team, held on 26 July 2022 in Bamako
- 2) PPG Inception Workshop with stakeholders, organized and coordinated by UNDP with the support of the PPG team, held on 19 September 2022 in Bamako and online for the RTA and PPG Team Leader
- 3) Online conference meetings with the following institutions:
 - AMADER
 - FAO
 - World Bank
 - African Development Bank
- 4) Local meetings
 - AER-Mali
 - DNE
 - AMADER
 - ANGMV
 - Working group AER-Mali, DNE, AMADER and ANGMV
 - Focus group with OSER, private sector operators and private sector RE & ancillary equipment providers
 - Focus group with productive representatives of youth and women
 - GIZ/Endev
 - SIDA
 - EU
 - Etc.

The dissemination of project information during PPG consultations and workshops was key. As such presentations for the inception and validation workshops were developed (all in French). Initial comments and feedback from participants in the meetings and workshops were summarized in the PPG Inception Report and PPG Validation Report. The comments and recommendations from stakeholders and the UNDP review team shaped the updated project strategy which has been presented to stakeholders on 19 September 2022 to obtain final comments on the design and validate the overall project strategy before submission to GEFSEC.

Type of information disclosed along the PPG phase is as follows:

Table 1 - Stakeholder engagement during project development

Interaction type	Type of information disclosed	Location and dates	Individuals, groups and/or organizations consulted	Key issues discussed and concerns raised	Responses to issues raised	Process to provide feedback to stakeholders
Inception Workshop	Introduction to the scope of AMP program and national project, priorities, next steps (stakeholder consultations etc.)	Face to face: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26 July 2022 in Bamako 	All types of stakeholders were represented (46 participants) except for donor who were not able to join – see list of attendees in the annex	Interactive sessions focusing on (i) innovative minigrid business models based on specific productive use identified by the participants (specific value chains – commercial and social); and (ii) on levers (project components 1,3 and 4) supporting these innovative business model and the market scale-up. The approach to gender and social and environmental safeguards was shared with stakeholders.	Relevant value chains integrated in the ProDoc and stakeholder consultations	Stakeholder interview process initiated for individual inputs (incl. for donors and absent technical & financial partners who did not attend the inception workshops).
Stakeholder interviews	Obtaining input from stakeholders regarding priorities and needs, as well as challenges to overcome, to shape the project design.	Conducted online and face to face between July and September 2022, including via focus groups	All the ones listed above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Viable business models and tariffication scheme Purchasing power of residential customers 	Incorporated into the Project Document and concrete solutions proposed.	Validation workshop and documentation (in French) circulated for comments : results framework and activities,

Interaction type	Type of information disclosed	Location and dates	Individuals, groups and/or organizations consulted	Key issues discussed and concerns raised	Responses to issues raised	Process to provide feedback to stakeholders
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Growing security issues in Mali and impact on pilot project operators and communities ○ Interconnection / compensation ○ Synergies with other projects – double work ○ Institutional arrangement with 1 IP and 3 RPs ○ Integration of the GGW into the project ○ Sustainability post-project 		institutional arrangement especially with 4 key players for project execution
Sharing of project information with workshop invitation	Project brochure, result framework up to activities level, objective criteria for pilot site selection and potential types of pilots, institutional arrangement, for preparation	September 2022	Invitations across all stakeholder categories	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Validation Workshop	Overview of project design	19 September 2022 face to face in Bamako and online with Project RTA and PPG team Lead	41 participants from all stakeholder categories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project sustainability ○ Subsidies amount for private sector operators 	Project Document amended to reflect these concerns	Answers to questions during Q&A session at validation workshop

Interaction type	Type of information disclosed	Location and dates	Individuals, groups and/or organizations consulted	Key issues discussed and concerns raised	Responses to issues raised	Process to provide feedback to stakeholders
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hybrid community-private sector models viability ANGMV role in the project Environmental & Social aspects and assessment All stakeholders have a role to play 		Validation report and amended Project Document

5 SEP Development: Strategy for Stakeholder Engagement during Project Implementation

5.1 Purpose and objectives

Unlike grid-connected power plants, the successful operation of mini-grids requires continuous collaboration between operators and end-users. In the design of the pilots under AMP Mali, it is key to understand the needs and priorities of ESPs, but also the needs and priorities of the communities in which the minigrids will be located, to obtain the necessary local support and ensure sustainability and longevity of the intervention.

Furthermore, the enhancement of the commercial viability of minigrids depends on the level of information flow between stakeholders from the private sector and decision makers in the public sector. This flow will guarantee that the decisions made are well-informed and constitute the best use of resources to serve the best interest of the country and beneficiaries. The flow will also guarantee that investors, developers and ESPs, as well as communities, are actively engaged in the development of regulations governing the energy sector before they become legally binding and are given the opportunity to utilize their technical expertise in the formulation of national plans and laws aiming to increase energy access rates and elevate the living conditions for populations in the rural areas. The National Inclusive Off-grid Platform under Component 1 in close collaboration with all other Components are hence key.

Hence, this SEP is developed to ensure tripartite engagement of public entities, private sector actors, and representatives of beneficiaries/communities in all stages of pilot development and overall project implementation.

5.2 Engagement methods and communication media

The following list presents the main engagement media to be utilized by the project team during implementation to ensure continuous engagement and active participation of stakeholders.

1) In-person meetings:

- Consultation workshops: These workshops will have a pre-structured agenda which will be designed to present a specific result/report and discuss with stakeholders the best way forward. These workshops will also be an opportunity to gain consensus from stakeholders on a specific action plan prior to proceeding with implementation. Therefore, stakeholder consultation meetings and workshops are included in the project design as part of the main activities to be carried out by the consultants in charge of each output.
- Interviews and focus group: These will be conducted with different groups of indirect beneficiaries, with special attention to ESPs and NGOs, to overcome their generally low participation capacity and ensure that their input is integrated in the different stages of project implementation. The Project Manager will be responsible for ensuring that these interviews and focus groups have been conducted by the responsible consultants, as appropriate.
- Community based consultations: These consultations will focus on the pilot locations to identify and discuss stakeholder concerns within the community environment but will also extend to neighboring villages and communities. The SES Officer will be responsible for conducting these consultations on a regular basis and reporting to the Project Manager and M&E Officer per the project's ESMF.

2) Written communication:

- WhatsApp: The use of WhatsApp is widely accepted and time for reaction and action is relatively quick.
- Emails: While e-mail communication is widely used in Mali, the reactivity and action taken based on emails is relatively low. Emails will be used as the main tool for organizing meetings, i.e., sending invitations to participants, sending the meeting minutes after the meeting, etc. To ensure invitations are well received and accepted, calling each of the participant is often a prerequisite for their attendance in Mali – as a reminder.
- Letters: Being the formal method for communication and conveying messages between public parties, letters will be requested by the project team and provided by the relevant authority, as appropriate.
- Survey forms: Several activities under the project implementation strategy constitute undertaking a needs assessment or other types of analyses, with some involving undertaking a survey to collect information. The responsibility for the surveys is that of the consultant undertaking the analysis. However, the SES Officer will be responsible for supporting the project consultants with the sampling process and surveying

procedure to the results are as representative and inclusive as possible. A thorough follow-up per WhatsApp and calls will be necessary for surveys sent online as well as the ones not filled in during a face-to-face meeting.

- Project brochures and manuals to present the results of specific studies and outcomes of certain activities.
- 3) Online meetings and phone calls: Virtual communication is sometimes preferred since it is quicker and easier compared with email and letters, and a viable alternative to in-person meetings. Online applications and telecommunication tools will be used throughout project implementation to facilitate the work and ensure the project team has easy access to stakeholders, and vice versa.

Although the mode of communication may vary according to task and participant, yet all consultations and engagement activities will be undertaken with the goal of ensuring full participation of relevant stakeholders, whereby all participants will be provided sufficient notice to prepare well and provide input for the project and its successful implementation. Moreover, AMP Mali will also use all possible opportunity, i.e., workshops, meetings, trainings and awareness events, to promote diversity and gender balance. Balanced representation of relevant stakeholders will be ensured by reaching out to both men and women and different groups through appropriate communication means and encouraging their participation, noting the most socially and culturally acceptable language and method of communication for each group of stakeholders.

In addition:

- To account for the safeguards, the research will include socio-economic-environmental aspects (not only socio-economic), including on relevant studies such as DREI analysis and other aspects to be covered based on an adaptive management approach (Output 1.3.), opportunities to boost economic and social activities through electricity access and productive (Output 2.2.), the 4 minigrid pilot sites (Output 2.1.), and Outcome 4 regarding knowledge sharing, awareness raising and Outcome 5 on Monitoring & Evaluation.
- A participatory process as undertaken during PPG will enable establishing an inclusive manner that ensures stakeholder diversity (i.e. gender-balance, environmental and social activist groups representing the wide variety of the stakeholder groups presented in the stakeholder table) is included in all outputs of the project, especially the National Inclusive Off-grid Platform (Output 1.1.), capacity building and awareness raising efforts (throughout the project and especially Outputs 1.1., 1.4., 1.5., 2.2, 2.3., 3.2., 4.5), the development, management and maintenance of the minigrids of 4 pilots (Output 2.1), etc.
- The joint decision-making to account for the safeguards will be via a partnership undertaken with local communities, NGOs, or other project stakeholders, especially via the National Inclusive Off-grid Platform (Output 1.1), the Quality Assurance and Monitoring Framework (Output 4.13), as well as the Project Monitoring & Evaluation (Outcome 5).

5.3 Public Disclosure of Information (PDI)

Project-affected, marginalized, and disadvantaged stakeholders at all 4 selected pilot sites will be further during project implementation, including persons with disabilities and other disadvantaged groups as per the list of stakeholder groups provided above. For each group, the following assessments will be conducted as part of the stakeholder engagement, taking into account their involvement in each project component:

- Identify limitations for understanding project information and participating in consultation process (e.g., language differences, lack of transportation, accessibility of venues, disability)
- Develop measures to support and accommodate engagement (e.g., provide information in accessible formats, choose convenient locations for consultations, ensure venues are accessible, provide transportation to meetings, change time of meetings to accommodate needs, provide facilitation and explain complex issues and terminology, provide support workers for assisting participants with disabilities, provide simultaneous interpretation (including sign language).

At national level, methods to receive feedback and to ensure ongoing communication with stakeholders (outside of a formal consultation meeting) will be developed as part of the project's knowledge management and dissemination plans (as part of the implementation of Component 4).

5.4 Diversity, inclusion and gender-balance

The inclusion of women and other relevant groups will be made possible through enhancing opportunities, improving access to resources, making their voice heard and respect for their rights. The process begins with appropriate identification of these groups and/or representatives and engaging them through the various project activities using the following two approaches:

- 1) Conducting context specific gender analysis using gender and mini-grid analysis framework and develop participatory action plans at community level at locations where pilot projects and productive use will be supported. The analysis will be sensitive in scheduling community level meetings selecting appropriate time and location, give deliberate attention to the participation of diverse groups to listen to their voice and apply appropriate language that fit to the audience level. It will also explore the existing status of the different groups their roles, responsibilities, opportunities, and deprivations and seek participatory solutions in their engagement as consumers and actors at various levels of the mini grid value chain.
- 2) At every stage of the project implementation the project team will make specific effort to make sure opportunities are created and accessed by women and other vulnerable groups while implementing institutional level capacity building trainings, policy level discussions, access to education and financial opportunities. The project team will also track progresses through routine monitoring and supervision based on a checklist of indicators which are formulated at the inception phase of the project. In addition, the project will communicate the steps for appealing grievance in and subsequent redress mechanisms in case complaints arise from this group. All in all, maximum efforts will be exerted to make communications between beneficiaries which includes women and other relevant groups with the project to be built in spirit of mutual understanding, positive relationship, and partnership for successful implementation of the intervention.

6 SEP Implementation: Resources, Responsibilities and Timeline

Responsibilities

As part of the management arrangement, the project will hire a SES and a Gender Expert to oversee respectively the implementation of the ESMF and continuous review and update of associating studies, and the Gender Action Plan (GAP); both including the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). Hence, these Experts will be the responsible person for SEP implementation, collaborating with the PMU and reporting directly to the Project Manager (PM).

Before each activity starts, these 2 experts will have approved the detailed plans ensuring the responsibilities. For example, Component 1, outcome 1, indicator 6 reflects that the stakeholder engagement plan will be done via the online tools that will be designed through a “consultative process involving key stakeholders (i.e. relevant ministries, local authorities, rural populations, private sector, media, etc.)”. Similarly, each component/outcome/indicator will reflect the appropriate inclusiveness as the project advances.

Resources

The fees for these 2 experts are accounted for in the project’s budget. Moreover, the project budget for each component allocates an amount for expenditures on training, workshops, conferences, etc. Expenses under this category are expensed to the UNDP-GEF under an independent budget code (75700) and include allocation of funds to ensure proper consultation of stakeholders from the different groups throughout project implementation. Based on the work requirement during implementation, the project may hire a qualified Community Liaison Officer to undertake all or portions of the stakeholder engagement activities. This may include, where necessary, community facilitators/assistants who are able to work in local languages (where relevant, ideally from the same ethnic group/culture).

Timeline

The timeline for stakeholder consultation on specific project activities will follow the overall work plan for the project. Additional consultations will occur as part of conducting the mid-term review and terminal evaluation missions. That said, these 2 experts shall develop a schedule for regular visits and calls with different groups of stakeholders to ensure continuous engagement from project start to end.

Before each activity start, the 2 experts will have approved the detailed plans ensuring the timeline provides a schedule outlining dates/periodicity and locations where various stakeholder engagement activities, including consultation, disclosure, and partnerships will take place and the date by which such activities will be undertaken to the extent possible. Similarly, each component/outcome/indicator will reflect the appropriate inclusiveness as the project advances.

The following table presents the preliminary SEP developed during PPG development, noting that:

- 1) During Year 1 of project implementation, further assessments will be conducted, providing more details on the project stakeholders and allowing further consultations to take place, i.e. prior to the on-site installation works. The 2 experts will be working in close collaboration with technical consultants in charge of specific activities and studies.
- 2) The assessment of the participation capacity of the various stakeholder groups influenced the project design and strategy. For example, a new output has been introduced to help establish and capacitate an energy/minigrid industry associations to enhance and promote active participation by the private sector in minigrid planning and development. Similarly, the AMP strategy emphasized the need to include SES assessments in the site selection processes to overcome the low participation capacity by local communities in the baseline.

Table 1. Preliminary SEP

#	Stakeholder Group	Role/Relevance	Interest in the project	Influence on the project	Participation capacity	Perception of problem
1	State and local government authorities, i.e. public sector entities	Project partners and co-financiers	Public sector has been involved in project design, and is expected to plan a key role during implementation.	High	High	Will require skills, activities and measures new to their usual practice and scope.
2	Private sector associations, and ESPs involved in the 3 project's pilots	Project partners and direct beneficiaries	Given the nature of the minigrid regulatory framework and market in Mali, the private sector is crucial for project success.	High	Moderate	Lack of certainty in the market nationally to de-risk investment
3	Development partners	Co-financiers	The project is designed to build upon ongoing work and collaborate with development partners to avoid work-duplication to the extent possible.	Moderate	High	Improved coordination and collaboration to generate synergies and leverage efforts and impacts
4	Communities in pilot sites (and further)	Direct beneficiaries and affected persons	End-users of electricity to be generated from the pilot projects.	High	Low	New set of problems for some and opportunities for others. Need for awareness raising, capacity building and access to financing
5	Academics, educational institutions and vocational training centers	Direct beneficiaries and project partners	Recipients and providers of training and future implementers of the academic certification programme.	Moderate	High	Difficulties to find students In RE, lack of awareness raising & communication,
6	Financial institutions and small investors	Direct beneficiaries	Recipients of training and future implementers of innovative financing schemes and incentive mechanisms.	High	High	Lack of certainty in the market nationally to de-risk investment
7	Developers and ESPs not involved in the pilot project(s)	Indirect beneficiaries	Affected by project outcomes and potential beneficiaries of replication. Would benefit from some capacity building efforts as well.	Moderate	Moderate	Lack of certainty in the market nationally to de-risk investment; lack of capacities and experience in minigrids
8	Industry groups (agriculture, fisheries, manufacturing)	Indirect beneficiaries	Affected by project outcomes and potential beneficiaries of replication.	Low	Moderate	Lack of energy access to improve their profitability and optimize resources
9	Communities in non-pilot location	Indirect beneficiaries	Affected by project outcomes and potential beneficiaries of replication. Study visits and awareness raising	Low	Low	New set of problems for some and opportunities for others. Need for

Table 1. Preliminary SEP

#	Stakeholder Group	Role/Relevance	Interest in the project	Influence on the project	Participation capacity	Perception of problem
			campaigns at national level (Component 4)			awareness raising, capacity building and access to financing
10	NGOs and civil society groups	Indirect beneficiaries	Especially the groups working on energy access, climate change, renewable energy development, etc.	Moderate	Moderate	Disadvantaged groups are usually left behind/outside of the project benefits (i.e., women, poor, disable, indigenous...) – included in the project
11	Other groups	To be identified as part of pilot site assessments and national studies to be conducted				To be determined

7 Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

The risk assessment conducted as part of developing the SESP for the project indicates that there is a likelihood of reprisals and retaliation against stakeholders. AMP Mali intends to follow a policy of zero tolerance for such actions and develop possible preventative and response measures specific to the circumstances together with relevant stakeholders. Measures may include respect for confidentiality; adjustments to means and timing of communications, meetings, transportation; use of trusted intermediaries, interpreters, facilitators and other consultants; clear response protocols for notification, reporting, and support for protection strategies.

Furthermore, and as part of the project's compliance with the UNDP SES requirements, the project shall ensure setting up a suitable Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). This includes a procedure for stakeholders and affected communities to express their grievances and communicate their concerns and recommendations to the project team, as well as a procedure for the project team to address these grievances by taking the necessary actions, i.e., providing clarifications, opening investigations, or making changes to the project's implementation plan as may be required.

In the area of ensuring open communication on grievances, the project intends to implement the following measures:

- 1) Two boxes will be installed at the pilot project sites. The first will be placed inside and the pilot boundaries while the second will be located outside the project boundaries. These boxes will be checked on a regular basis by the project's M&E officer to check for new comments from stakeholders.
- 2) The phone numbers for the project's Gender and SES Experts will be displayed at several central locations around the pilot location, i.e. community centers at villages receiving electricity from the pilot project and nearby villages as appropriate.

The responsibility of responding/addressing the grievances received will depend on the nature of the grievance. Nevertheless, the Gender and the SES experts will be responsible for following up until actions are taken to close a grievance, including communicating with relevant persons and/or authorities on behalf of the project. Further details on the GRM will be developed during Year 1 of project implementation and prior to starting the work on the pilot project(s).

In addition to the developed GRM, stakeholders will be informed of the availability of UNDP's Accountability Mechanism (Stakeholder Response Mechanism, SRM, and Social and Environmental Compliance Unit, SECU) as additional avenues of grievance redress.

8 Monitoring and Reporting

As project information changes, the SEP should be reviewed and modified accordingly to ensure its effectiveness in securing meaningful and effect stakeholder participation. Hence, the SEP presented in this document will undergo continuous review and development by the project's SES and Gender experts throughout the project lifetime. Similarly, the scope and focus of the SEP will be modified to reflect the lessons learned from the implementation of SEP in Mali, but also in other national projects participating in the Regional AMP. Equally important is the review and update of SEP procedure based on the feedback that would be received form the project team and stakeholders.

The continuous review and update of the SEP will be implemented as part of the implementation of the overall M&E plan for the project (Annex 5), as well as the operationalization of the M&E systems developed under Components 4 and 5.

Before this activity starts, the SES and the Gender experts will have approved the detailed plans ensuring the following:

- The Monitoring and Reporting involves project stakeholders (including target beneficiaries and project-affected groups) or third-party monitors in the monitoring of project implementation, potential impacts and management/mitigation measures.
- The Monitoring and Reporting describes how and when the results of stakeholder engagement activities will be reported back to project-affected and broader stakeholder groups. Examples include newsletters/bulletins, social and environmental assessment reports, monitoring reports.

9 Annex 8A – Inception Workshop - Attendees List

See Annex

10 Annex – Validation Workshop - Attendees List

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