

**GCF Observer Network of Civil Society, Indigenous Peoples, and Local Communities**

Intervention on

## **FP266: Strengthening the resilience of ecosystems and populations in four regional hubs in northern Mauritania**

**Access the document:** <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gcf-b42-02-add08>

We welcome this project, which features numerous community-based interventions and grant-based investments from the GCF. It aligns closely with the pressing needs of communities in the global South, especially those facing multidimensional poverty, and demands higher levels of grant concessionality to effectively adapt to the impacts of climate change.

We are particularly impressed by the various commune-level initiatives aimed at building community resilience, including the establishment of the Small Grants Program, rehabilitation of degraded lands, sand-dune fixation, water resource management through community water user groups, climate-resilient agriculture, and livelihood diversification through ecosystem-based adaptation in the focal communities.

However, we would underscore the importance of conducting participatory and consultative approach in engaging the beneficiaries including Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and nomadic pastoralists. It is widely acknowledged that Indigenous groups and local communities across Africa possess diverse, well-established knowledge of water and sanitation practices, which are highly contextualized to their local environments. The project could significantly benefit from engaging local communities and leveraging their deep knowledge pool, particularly in the proposed project's water resource management and knowledge management components.

Furthermore, we are concerned that water user groups may not function effectively without the buy-in and ownership of local communities. We strongly recommend that, prior to project approval, a strategy to incorporate local community knowledge is integrated into relevant plans, and that efforts to identify Indigenous Peoples and local communities continue throughout the project's execution as an iterative process.

We look forward to seeing the project strengthen its engagement with local and indigenous communities to ensure its success and sustainability. The observer network of civil society, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities is willing to help in these processes.