ABBREVIATED RESETTLEMENT ACTION PLAN EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
Project Name: SNIM Guelbs II Extension Project
Country: Mauritania
Project Number: P-MR-BAA-002

The Société Nationale Industrielle et Minière (SNIM), a Mauritanian public company, exploits iron ore from the Guelb El Rhein site, located 25 km North-East of Zouérate in the Tiris-Zemmous Wilaya, in Northern Mauritania. SNIM’s objective is to double production from that site before 2012 with the Guelbs II project.

SNIM undertook an Environmental and Social Impact Study (ESIA) of the Guelbs II project. The study shows that the project implies defining the boundaries of a protection area in which no housing will be authorized. Nevertheless, the population will be allowed to enter the area to exploit the date grove, to work or for pasture. The project will thus require the resettlement of a small number of person and their houses that currently live in the protection area around the Guelbs site. The number of affected people is below 200. Thus, an abbreviated resettlement plan (ARP) was prepared as a complement to the ESIA.

The ARP elaborated for the Guelbs II project is in accordance with Mauritanian regulation and with AfDB’s involuntary resettlement policy. Individuals and households eligible for the resettlement plan are those who live permanently or seasonally in the protection area around the Guelbs site. The census which took place in July 2009 shows that 36 households, representing 154 people, live in the area: 22 permanent households and 14 seasonal households.

The establishment of the households in the project area results from spontaneous settlements that started about 10 years ago. Households settled in the area in order to be closer to their workplace at the SNIM or to benefit from the exploitation of the date groves, created near the SNIM installations. None of the residents in the area have formal legal ownership of the land and none of them has customary land ownership. According to AfDB policy, these people can still receive resettlement assistance in order for them to maintain or improve their livelihoods.

The public consultations that took place for the preparation of the ARP allowed obtaining social acceptability of the resettlement of affected households. It also allowed establishing their preferences with regard to the type of compensation they would like to receive. The affected households’ losses mainly concern housing. These are very modest and basic constructions. The affected households wish to resettle in Zouérate.

The ARP will provide in-kind compensation for the 22 households that live permanently, including their displacement to their new location inside Zouérate where they will benefit from access to basic social services. Cash compensation will be given to the 14 seasonal households. Finally, a complementary assistance, in the form of accompanying measures, will be offered to adversely affected populations.

The ARP will be carried out by SNIM, who will inform the households of the state of advancement of the project through a Population Representatives Committee. A follow-up commission will be in charge of verifying the effective implementation of the ARP. The commission will include local authorities, certain decentralized administrations and a member of the Population Representatives Committee.

The activities of the ARP will take place during the pre-construction phase of the Guelbs II project. The cost of the ARP (including compensations and all the activities including follow-up) is estimated at 40,300 Euros.