



The World Bank

NIGER BASIN WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABLE ECOSYSTEMS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (APL2A)

The Kandadji Program in the Sahel

At A Glance

- The Niger Basin Water Resources Development and Sustainable Ecosystems Management Program (APL2A) which will contribute to the funding of the Kandadji Program, is a transformational initiative to increase food production, generate more electricity, boost jobs, and create economic opportunities for families and communities in the Sahel.
- The Kandadji Program marks a comprehensive, regional effort to address economic, environmental and social challenges being faced in Niger basin countries in the Sahelian region. It involves construction of the Kandadji dam on the Niger River (187 and 489 kilometers upstream from the capital city, Niamey, and the Nigerian border respectively, and 60 km downstream from the Malian border) and associated investments to increase power generation capacity, boost agribusiness, increase irrigation and support local community development.
- The Niger River is the economic mainstay for nine riparian, Sahelian countries in its basin – Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. At 4,200 kilometers, the Niger River is Africa’s third longest river, with the basin covering a surface area of nearly 1.5 million square kilometers.
- The Kandadji Program is directly focused on people-centered development. Niger is a large, landlocked, mostly desert country with an area of 1.26 million square kilometers and a population of about 16 million. Niger is ranked 186th out of 187 countries on UNDP’s Human Development Index and its per capita GDP was US\$720 in 2010.
- Looking through a regional development lens, seven of the nine basin countries are among the 20 poorest countries in the world. About 70 percent of the 100 million people that call the basin home live in rural areas where food security and social well-being are directly dependent on the river and existing water infrastructure. This population is highly vulnerable to extreme weather events such as recurrent drought, a situation exacerbated by climate change.
- Niger’s economy is currently buffeted by severe external shocks such as insufficient rainfall leading to recurrent food crises, and the political crisis in Mali which caused refugees to cross the border into Niger.

Project Information

The Kandadji Program will be implemented in three distinct phases.

- Phase I, which started in 2009 and is expected to be completed in 2016, comprises the Kandadji dam and its reservoir (storage capacity of about 1.56 billion cubic meters, and about 26 feet high), the hydro-mechanical equipment for the 18 gates, economic and local community development, and implementation of environmental and social mitigation measures for resettled people;
- Phase II comprises construction of the hydropower plant, transmission lines, road, irrigated agricultural development, and expanded local and community development in the reservoir area and downstream, and
- Phase III focuses on the development of about 40,000 hectares of irrigated agriculture and the scaling-up of the economy and local community development of the region (including fisheries, livestock, agribusiness and trade).

Environmental and Social Safeguards

The Kandadji Program is a complex project with significant technical, environmental and social risks and impacts requiring various mitigation measures and offsets. Accordingly, the project has been designated Category A as per the Bank's policy on Environmental Assessment, and will be implemented according to strong social and environmental safeguards. Significantly, nearly 38,000 people will need to be relocated due to construction activities and impounding of the reservoir of the Kandadji Program. Proactive communications, public consultation and assistance to displaced persons so as to improve or at least restore their standards of living will be key interventions during implementation.

Project Financing

- The Kandadji Program (Phase I and Phase II) is expected to cost US\$785.04 million. The Bank's contribution of US\$200 million will be in the form of concessional financing, a credit from the International Development Association (IDA), the Bank's fund for the world's poorest countries. The Bank is also providing a US\$3 million grant to the Niger Basin Authority to support regional cooperation in the Niger basin.
- The Kandadji Program is co-financed by the African Development Bank and nine other donors, in partnership with the Government of Niger and participating riparian states.

For more information, please visit: www.worldbank.org/niger, www.worldbank.org/africa, www.worldbank.org/ida

Media Contacts:

Washington:

Phillip Jeremy Hay, +1 202 473 1796, phay@worldbank.org
Sarwat Hussain, +1 202 473 4967, shussain@worldbank.org