

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET

CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: ISDSC1016

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 24-Sep-2014

Date ISDS Approved/Disclosed: 01-Oct-2014

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Kazakhstan	Project ID:	P152001
Project Name:	Syr Darya Control and Northern Aral Sea Project, Phase 2 (P152001)		
Task Team Leader:	Ahmed Shawky M. Abdel Gha		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	08-Dec-2014	Estimated Board Date:	22-Dec-2014
Managing Unit:	GWADR	Lending Instrument:	Investment Project Financing
Sector(s):	Animal production (30%), Flood protection (30%), General water, sanitation and flood protection sector (40%)		
Theme(s):	Infrastructure services for private sector development (14%), Rural services and infrastructure (29%), Water resource management (29 %), Other environment and natural resources management (28%)		
Financing (In USD Million)			
Total Project Cost:	126.00	Total Bank Financing:	107.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
Financing Source			Amount
Borrower			19.00
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development			107.00
Total			126.00
Environmental Category:	B - Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		

B. Project Objectives

The PDOs are to control flooding, achieve bulk-water savings, and improve water provision for developing aquaculture in the project areas along the Lower Syr Darya.

C. Project Description

The project would include three components, operating along the lower Syr Darya in Kazakhstan:

Component 1: Increasing the conveyance and flood-regulation capacity in the lower Syr Darya (US \$43 million):

This component will help increase the Syr Darya mean flow capacity in winter from 500 to 700 m³/s, thus reducing water losses (for improved water provision including to the Delta Lakes and NAS) and contributing to protect settlements, cultivable lands, roads, and rail infrastructure against floods. It includes 3 subcomponents:

- A. Riverbed straightening at Turumbet and Korgansha sections: to increase the river conveyance capacity, to pass winter floods and retain them in the flood-retention reservoir Koksarai. This includes cutting meanders at four sections along Syr Darya in Karmakchi district, thus increasing river slope, which increases the flow capacity;
- B. Rehabilitate and develop around 50 Km of flood protection dikes in Kazalinsk and Karmakchi districts;
- C. Rehabilitate the left bank irrigation off-take at Kzylorda barrage: the irrigation canal head works would be repaired and protected against high floods; to avoid inundation of 60,000 ha of irrigable lands and damage to civil infrastructure; and
- D. Construct road bridges near Birlik settlement in Kazalinsk district: This subproject will be the first road in Kazalinsk district which improves communication and transportation during the freight handling by motor transport. It will replace two existing low-capacity pontoon bridges by two modern bridges, thus curbing the risk of ice-jams in winter and also improving the river flow capacity (widening the river bed up to 200m).

Component 2: Improving water provision to the Syr Darya Delta Lakes (US\$78 million):

This component will involve two subcomponents operating adjacent to NAS, and benefiting from the water-regulation improvements resulting from Component 1:

- A. Rehabilitate delta lake systems in Aralsk district of Kzylorda oblast (Kamuishlibash and Akshatau lakes): This subcomponent will improve water supply to the lakes, by providing adequate hydraulic structures and conveyance canals, replacing the large number of makeshift intakes and temporary canals. By providing regulated water to the lakes together with operating better the Amanotkel weir and other control structures, the delta lakes will be revived, thus improving the biodiversity of the Syr Darya delta, fish production, and the processing of reeds used for fodder and house construction.
- B. Reconstruct/extend fishery ponds at Tastak site of Kamuishlibash fish hatchery (Aralsk district, Kzylorda oblast): this will help utilize the fish production capacity of the NAS, delta lakes and Syr Darya, through artificial stocking of valuable fish species breeding in the hatchery, thus improving the fishery-dependent employment.

Component 3: Enhancing river basin management, preparing the SYNAS3, and project coordination (US\$5 million):

This component will involve three subcomponents:

- A. Technical support for preparation of SYNAS3: the NAS restoration and the Kzylorda RBM Center;
- B. Strengthen the Government capacity in RBM (TBD by appraisal), through developing limited river-basin modeling and monitoring tools. These include: establishing new hydroposts and refitting gauging stations; developing an Early Flood Warning System; developing the Mike 11 model; and developing a Decision Support System (DSS) using state-of-the-art open-access sources (using SYNAS2 funds, also possibly complemented through support from the ongoing Central Asia

Energy-Water Development Program, CAEWDP). During SYNAS2 these tools will be developed mainly up to the level needed to support the NAS feasibility study (as needed to prepare SYNAS3), whereas during SYNAS3 these tools will be developed further to support operational decisions as part of the Kyzylorda River Basin Management Center that will be established by SYNAS3; and C. Project management, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), audit, and training.

D. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

The project area comprises the Syr Darya basin from the Chardera Reservoir on the Uzbekistan border to and including the Northern Aral Sea (NAS). Administratively, the project operates in parts of Kyzylorda and South Kazakhstan Oblasts within the basin of the Lower Syr Darya. The Syr Darya originates at the confluence of the Naryn and Kara Darya, in the Ferghana Valley. The project area is estimated at 230,000 km².

E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

Kazakhstan has adequate environmental legislation, institutional capacity, and mechanisms to deal with environmental issues arising during project preparation and implementation. This includes an environmental assessment procedure for projects, governed by a State Environmental Expertise Review. Environmental performance of the SYNAS-1 was ensured through the implementation of an environmental management plan (EMP) that identified preventive actions and mitigation measures to address potential adverse environmental impacts; its implementation was effected through environmental audits comprising systematic independent reviews of works construction sites and camps. The reviews included inspection of sites, consultations and interviews with clients, consultants and contractors, and examination of relevant supporting documentation. The audits ensured that the appropriate environmental impact prevention and mitigation measures were applied and that the works and outcomes were in accordance with the environmental and socio-economic enhancement and improvement plans and expectations. The same procedure will be institutionalized under SYNAS2, and World Bank reviews will confirm that the EMP for SYNAS2 will be implemented satisfactorily.

Similar to SYNAS, most environmental issues in SYNAS2 are related to construction activities. Construction activities are monitored by the construction supervision consultants and the Committee of Water Resources (CWR). As done with SYNAS, for SYNAS2 the CWR and its design/supervision/safeguards consultants will incorporate the EMP clauses into the bid documents and construction contracts, and then audit the contractors to ensure compliance. The social specialists in CWR and its consultants will monitor implementation of the land acquisition. The Bank will assess the capacity of these designated staff for SYNAS2 and provide guidance and training as needed.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Gulana Enar Hajiyeveva (GENDR)

Lola Ibragimova (GSURR)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/ BP 4.01	Yes	SYNAS2 is expected to deliver real environmental and social benefits to the Kazakh SyrDarya basin. The project will operate in areas already intensively transformed to be used

		<p>for municipal/public infrastructure, where neither construction nor operation would affect the environment in a significant scale.</p> <p>The project may have limited adverse environmental impacts due to its construction activities, being undertaken in an area with complex hydro-ecological systems, with poor socio-economic and health conditions of the related population. The project area contains several natural habitats, among them Important Bird Areas and valuable Tugay forests, which may be impacted temporarily by the construction activities.</p> <p>However, the project will have net positive effects by improving the hydrological regime (more stable conditions for wetlands, improved food dynamics in the floodplains). It is expected that Any adverse impacts of the construction and operation will be limited to the extent they can be easily outweighed by the socioeconomic and biodiversity benefits. This is a preliminary conclusion that is subject to the completion/clarification of the environmental and social assessment document (ESA), which is currently underway and will be completed before appraisal.</p>
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	<p>The project may have a limited potential impact on small areas of natural habitats, particularly during the construction phase. The project operates in areas involving or nearing natural habitats, ranging from the water bodies of the Syrdarya River, the Aral Sea, the Aydar-Arnasay lake system and the delta lakes to wetlands and terrestrial ecosystems in the SyrDarya floodplain, most notably semi-desert and desert ecosystems.</p> <p>The natural habitats also include protected areas in the zone of influence (e.g. the Zapovednik Barsakelmes, Zapovednaya Zona Arys-Karaktau, planned Nuratau-Kyzylkum Biosphere Reserve in Uzbekistan), areas with known high suitability for biodiversity conservation and sites that are critical for rare, vulnerable, migratory, or endangered species (e.g. assigned and potential Important Bird Areas</p>

		<p>and potential Ramsar sites), and the Tugay forests in the Syrdarya floodplain with ecosystems specific to Central Asian rivers, being in extreme decline and inhabited by several endemic and vulnerable species. The project will however have a net positive impact on these habitats due to the improvements in biodiversity.</p> <p>Of particular relevance are the areas where river meanders will be straightened. The draft ESA has preliminarily assessed that SYNAS2 impact on the habitats (if any) would be limited as the affected river stretch is merely within 6 kilometers long, and any impact will be small enough to be easily offset by the SYNAS2 improvements. The offset measures include improving the natural habitats, and the compensatory effect is currently being assessed as part of finalizing the ESA (due completion by the appraisal). The straightening will prevent the river (during high flows) from overtopping a dike which protects a nearby settlement, including farms used for hay production.</p> <p>Given a limited risk for degradation of any of these habitats as a result of project (construction) activities, the project triggers this safeguard policy and will address these issues during project design, construction and operation phases. The ESA will project will do this by means of the site-specific EMPs, which will give particular attention to project impacts on natural habitats in the subproject areas, and thereupon, include appropriate measures to minimize habitat degradation and compensate for any loss that might occur.</p>
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	No	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	The project does not anticipate physical resettlement; however construction of flood protection dikes and bridges might require land

		acquisition for permanent or temporary use. The client prepared a draft Land Acquisition Policy Framework, and will prepare (during project implementation, pending the detailed designs) site-specific Land Acquisition Plans as applicable.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	Yes	<p>Under SYNAS-1, following a dam safety review prepared for the Chardara Dam included in the project, an independent panel of experts (IPOE) consisting of international and national experts reviewed the design and oversaw the implementation of mitigating measures to ensure dam safety. Thereupon in 2008 and 2011 dam-safety assessments were undertaken and concluded that there are remaining safety measures that need to be undertaken.</p> <p>Further safety related works supported by the state Government budget would be carried out on the Chardara Dam, including an additional spillway (TBC by appraisal) to be located at the left abutment of the dam will increase the spilling capacity of the dam and reduce the risk of dam breach in case of extreme floods exceeding 1,000 year flood. A conveyance canal crossing the Kyzylkum main irrigation canal will link the spillway with the Syr Darya to safely discharge the spilled water back into the existing riverbed .</p> <p>By the concept-review meeting, the Bank's dam-safety Advisor requested updating the aforementioned 2008 and 2011 safety assessments and related plans (e.g. Framework for an Emergency Preparedness Plan), focusing on the immediate safety measures such as the toe drainage and the vibration in one bottom outlet. Whereas, the issue of developing an additional spillway seems to be a longer-term less-critical one (TBC by the appraisal). Depending on the outcome of the updated safety assessment, during the pre-appraisal the Team will agree with the Government on the approach and the timeline of addressing any immediate dam-safety works (possibly through Government parallel financing).</p>

Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	Yes	As with SYNAS and IDIP2, SYNAS2 triggers the safeguard policy for Projects on International Waterways (OP 7.50). The Syr Darya and the Aral Sea are international waterways for purposes of this safeguard policy. The Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan, pursuant to paragraph 7(a) of the policy, has agreed to inform the Governments of the relevant riparian states (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan) of the project with a notification letter providing the relevant details of the project.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS: 15-Oct-2014

B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed.
The specific studies and their timing¹ should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS:

The project Environmental Impact Assessment and Management Plan has been prepared back in 2008 and recently being updated. Once it is reviewed and cleared by the Bank it will undergo disclosure both in-country and in the Infoshop. Resettlement Policy Framework is also being updated by the client and will be disclosed.

IV. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader:	Name: Ahmed Shawky M. Abdel Gha	
Approved By:		
Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Name: Agnes I. Kiss (RSA)	Date: 26-Sep-2014
Practice Manager/ Manager:	Name: Dina Umali-Deininger (PMGR)	Date: 01-Oct-2014

¹ Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.