



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 05/22/2020 | Report No: ESRSC01404



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Tajikistan	EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA	P173804	
Project Name	Nurek Hydropower Rehabilitation Project Phase 2		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Energy & Extractives	Investment Project Financing	5/18/2020	6/29/2020
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources	Barqi Tojik		

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The project development objectives are to rehabilitate and increase the generating capacity of six power generating units of Nurek hydropower plant and improve their efficiency.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	191.90

B. Is the project being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

No

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project [including overview of Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to CPF]

Component 1: Rehabilitation of six generating units and other key infrastructure, and supply of machinery required for operation and maintenance of the power plant. This component will finance: (a) rehabilitation of six power generating units (generators, turbines, main inlet valves, and transformers), auxiliary systems and key balance of plant; (b) provision of spare parts; (d) rehabilitation of Nurek bridge; (e) rehabilitation of the powerhouse and some other buildings/structures at Nurek HPP that may require rehabilitation; and (f) purchase of machinery, including excavators, forklift trucks, truck cranes, required for operational and maintenance needs of the power plant.



Component 2: Technical assistance to BT. This would include: (a) Project management consultant (PMC) to assist with construction supervision of the project; (b) Panel of Experts (PoE) on matters related to dam safety and other critical aspects of the Project; (c) technical and other engineering studies, which may be required during project implementation; (d) consultant services to support BT with citizen engagement and gender-informed consultative processes during project implementation; (e) capacity building for Nurek HPP and BT staff in dam safety, operation and management of hydro facilities, project management, including fiduciary and safeguards aspects of the Project; and (f) incremental operating costs of the project implementing entity.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1. Detailed project location(s) and salient physical characteristics relevant to the E&S assessment [geographic, environmental, social]

Tajikistan (TJ) is a landlocked country located in southeast Central Asia (CA), bordering Afghanistan, China, Kyrgyz Republic, and Uzbekistan. Natural hazards such as floods, earthquakes, landslides, mudflows, avalanches and heavy snowfalls are common.

The Amu Darya is the largest river of CA and is formed by the confluence of its two most important tributaries, the Pyanj and Vakhsh Rivers. The Vakhsh contributes an average of about 26% of the annual flow of the Amu Darya, and the Pyanj about 40%. In the Amu Darya, as in the Vakhsh, the flow pattern is highly seasonal, with high flows in summer due to snow and glacier melt in the mountains, and low flows in winter since most of the precipitation in the catchment area falls as snow.

The Nurek Hydropower facility on Vakhsh river is located 70 km from Dushanbe, the capital city, in the Danghara and Nurek districts, in Khatlon Province. Its reservoir is located both in the regions of Khatlon and Republican Subordination. The total installed generation capacity of Tajikistan is 6,100 MW and HPPs account for 90 percent. The 3,000 MW Nurek HPP, with a seasonal reservoir, is the largest generating plant and generates 50% of the total annual energy requirements. In addition to electricity generation, the reservoir supplies irrigation water for about 70,000 ha of land via a tunnel with additional irrigation of tens of thousands of hectares made possible by further downstream regulation of the Vakhsh River at other smaller dams. Upstream of Nurek HPP, construction of another large-scale Rogun hydropower project is underway. This project will have an installed capacity of 3,600 MW upon completion and will generate about 14,400 GWh of electricity per year. Flows in Vakhsh River are seasonal and with a large seasonal variation between winter and summer flows. After the construction of hydropower projects on Vakhsh River, river flows are now regulated and controlled. The Vakhsh River is characterized by a high sediment load due to the intensity of erosion processes in its catchment, a concentration of suspended solids fluctuates during the year and reaches its maximum during the flood season, and water quality characterized by high salinity levels. Poor water quality has influenced the quality of fish habitats. According to the Rogun HPP ESIA, no long-range fish migration presently takes place in the Vakhsh River.

Tigrovaya Balka State National Reserve, the only protected area downstream of the Nurek HPP, is located in the lowermost part of the Vakhsh river basin close to the border with Afghanistan. Tugai designates a specific type of floodplain habitat in desert areas of CA, characterized by a groundwater level close to the surface, which conditions a specific vegetation type of a number of tree species, reeds etc. and a habitat for many fauna species. Illegal and uncontrolled logging, hunting and fishing have led to a sharp decline of many species.

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity



Barki Tojik (BT) is a state-owned company and owns and operates several HPPs in the country. BT is responsible for the implementation of Nurek Hydropower project and remains the implementing agency for the proposed proposed Phase-2 Works. A dedicated unit 'Nurek Operation Unit' (NOU) within BT is responsible for the operation of Nurek HPP. Currently, safeguards planning and implementation capacity both at BT and NOU is limited. Project Management Consultant (PMC) are tasked with implementation of environmental due diligence hired by BT. The ESIA report prepared for the Phase-1 project recommended hiring individual environment and social consultant to liaise with PMC. BT has also hired environment and social individual consultant and also purchased equipment to undertake select environmental monitoring.

II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

The environmental risks associated with the Nurek HPP Rehabilitation Project are Substantial. Knowing the project scope, mainly rehabilitation works, potential risks and impacts are predictable, are of short duration and reversible with good mitigation measures. Major rehabilitation works are within powerhouse (replacement of turbines), switch-yard (auto-transformers) and within reservoir. Between 50-60 workers will be working with very heavy machinery at any given point in time within confined space and will be exposed to health and safety issues. These workers will also be exposed to asbestos and other hazardous waste present in the existing infrastructure including equipment. The project activities include under Phase-1 rehabilitation of spillway gates, spillway tunnels and power intake gates. These works are to take place within reservoir and pose environmental and OHS risks. Rehabilitation works though will be implemented during the season with low water flows. Significant OHS issues are expected due to the nature of work like; working in deep waters, at high altitude and deep excavation. In addition, any industrial waste leakage from the material present at Work site could enter into reservoir or river water and contaminate it. Exposure to extended Electromagnetic Field (EMF), chances of electrocution, excessive noise levels, traffic disruption and road safety are perceived risks during the construction/rehabilitation works.

Barki Tojik (BT) remains the main implementing agency and its capacity in addressing the environmental risks is moderate. Strong E&S implementation support through consulting services could alleviate some of the capacity constraints.

Social Risk Rating

Moderate

The project is predominately rehabilitation and capacity building. Works will be conducted within a confined area which will have minimal or no impact on communities. The risks from various tasks will be evaluated by the contractor and procedures will be developed and included in the Occupational Safety and Health Plan (for construction) and the Nurek Safety and Health Plan (for operations) to minimize the risks. If the Plan is properly implemented, risks would be considered minor to moderate.

The only impacts on reservoir or downstream water quality would be from spills of hazardous materials or the release of sanitary wastes. The risk of such potential impacts is considered to be minor if hazardous materials and wastes are managed properly and sanitary water is controlled and treated. Traffic risk will be controlled by the contractors' preparation and implementation of a Traffic Management Plan. As noted, this will include requirements that routes through Nurek City be planned to avoid sensitive areas such as hospitals and schools, and that traffic avoid rush

Public Disclosure



hours. With these controls, the potential impacts are considered to be minor. The project will have a generally positive effect on the economy of Nurek City and Tajikistan including:

- Increased employment opportunities for local workers, including both skilled and unskilled workers.
- Development of economic opportunities, such as rooming houses, restaurants and food suppliers, fuel suppliers, and providers of other goods needed for everyday life.
- Increased electricity production. As noted earlier, one of the nine turbines is currently out of service and the reduced efficiency due to the age and condition of the remaining turbines is the equivalent of another turbine out of service. Rehabilitation will return all turbines and generators to full efficiency, so electricity generation could increase by 10 percent or more during periods of high flows in summer.

Risks from Labor Influx are expected to be minor (see ESS2). All workers will be expected to sign a Workers Code of Conduct which will address sexual harassment and Gender Based Violence. Management, both contractor supervisors and implementing agencies, will be expected to monitor worker behavior to ensure appropriate code of behaviors are followed. The ESIA has identified potential risks, impacts, and mitigation measures to reduce severity of risks including community health and safety as well as worker safety. Throughout implementation of Phase 1, no concern has been raised by stakeholders on existing facility. The Grievance Redress Mechanism, established at national level - BT, and local level - power plant, has been used by stakeholders as a way in which to ask questions and access additional information.

The project will have overall positive impacts with continued employment as well as positive impact being lower energy costs. As this project is the rehabilitation of existing works, the risks to stakeholders is low to moderate. Works within powerplant will be confined to existing structures while bridge rehabilitation, which is primarily used to access Nurek plant facilities, will be rehabilitated in a way that allows continued use. Safety measures will be put in place to protect both workers and communities throughout project implementation with additional measures to ensure safety during operation.

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1. General Assessment

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

The borrower has prepared an ESIA report for the parent project under the old safeguard policies. This report will be revised and updated to account for the risks and impacts under the 10 Environmental and Social Standards. The potential environmental risks and impacts identified under the ESIA for the Phase-1 remain valid for the proposed Phase-2 as the scope of Phase-2 is scale-up rehabilitation activities. Rehabilitation of Nurek bridge has been included in the proposed Phase-2.

The proposed works for the bridge, at the existing location, include replacement and repair of abutments and piers; repair of reinforced concrete end span; slope protection of embankments; replacement of concrete deck and superstructure; and replacement of the entire steel substructure. Discussions with the project engineers indicate that part of the bridge will remain available for light traffic during the construction of rehabilitation works. Since no new



construction is involved for the proposed bridge rehabilitation works, a stand-alone ESMP for the bridge will be prepared to assess and mitigate the environmental and social risks and impacts.

Major environmental impacts as identified in the ESIA for the parent project are:

(i) Asbestos is present in equipment that is to be refurbished. Removal of and working in closed environment where Asbestos is present represents a major health risk for the workers and other people in the area. There is absence of necessary guidelines and standard operating procedures (SOPs) for hazardous waste management at BT. Current practices for the disposal of some hazardous waste include collection at the designated storage points operated by BT and sold to licensed operators for proper disposal.

(ii) The dismantling, installation and testing of large scale equipment (turbines and auto-transformers) in a limited work space poses health and safety risks (electrocution) for the workers and personnel; and

(iii) During the refurbishment of electrical components/devices, accidental stoppage of one or several units might happen leading to a reduction in power generation and fluctuation of tension in the electricity grid. This may lead to temporary disruption in the power supply for the public.

In addition to the above, potential health and safety risks for workers associated with working in deep waters, road safety, safety of communities, EMF risks will also be considered in the revision of ESIA report. The ESMP to be prepared for Nurek bridge will screen environmental risks and impacts related with and during the construction of bridge. These could include traffic disruption, excessive noise and dust levels, water contamination and road safety etc.

Phase-1 ESIA report presents rapid cumulative impact assessment, which will be updated for Phase-2. The conclusion of the Phase-1 assessment are that there are minimal incremental impacts from the rehabilitation works.

BT has awarded construction supervision consultancy contract to an international firm and major Works contracts are also won by reputable international firms. Contractors have included dedicated HSE staff to implement contractual obligations. The contractor is already mobilized and has subleased works to three subcontractors. Under the contractual obligations, the contractor prepared and submitted first draft of Construction Environmental, Health and Safety Plan (CEHSP) to the Engineer for approval. Since the Works are an early stage of implementation therefore no serious compliance issues have so far been reported. The project (PIG) has a two-member environmental team to assist and provide oversight for the project environmental requirements. Supervision consultants, on the other hand, are without environmental expert in its team but likely to hire a local specialist soon. The environmental risks for the project in the latest ISR have been rated as 'Moderate' and safeguards compliance as 'Moderately Satisfactory'. As this is rehabilitation with limited labor influx, the social risk is moderate. Mitigation measures will be put in place to further reduce risks for both communities and workers. Included in the mitigation is that all workers will be required to follow Codes of Conduct which require acceptable behaviors be followed.

Areas where “Use of Borrower Framework” is being considered:

Given the environment and social risk profile of the project, Borrower's E&S Framework will not be used for the Project as a whole or for any of its parts.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Stakeholder consultations for the 2017 ESIA were conducted in April 2016 by the Public Organization Kuhiston, on behalf of Barqi Tojik (BT), in accordance with the World Bank (WB) procedures and the requirements of the national regulations for a project of this scale. In Nov. 2017, the LLC Infrasohtor Mushovir conducted the second round of consultations to obtain feedback on the original ESIA. On Sept. 16, 2019, LLC Infrasohtor Mushovir conducted a third round of consultations. The objective of these consultations was to inform the wider public and key stakeholders



about the progress of the project and its future plans, as well as to incorporate the comments and recommendations received during public consultations into the final ESIA. In addition, the consultation was intended to build the capacity of employees of the Nurek HPP and representatives of the BT Project Implementation Unit (PIU) through training on the procedures and methods for conducting public hearings and meetings for sharing the public information.

Stakeholder consultations, during the scoping for the current ESIA 2020 update report, have been led by Dr. M. Babadjanova on behalf of BT and a synopsis of the consultations is provided in a SEP, along with the summary reports of previous consultations. Finally, project details, including the scope and focus of the Phase 1, were also shared with the riparian governments as required by the WB's OP 7.50. Specifically, at the request of the GoT, the WB sent a letter, dated Dec. 12, 2016, signed by the Country Director for Central Asia to representatives of countries in the Amu Darya River basin. The letter contains description of the project development objective, project components, estimated cost of the project, and key conclusions from the ESIA regarding the downstream water releases. Additionally, following the request from the GoT, the WB also sent another notification to riparians on April 29, 2020 to inform about the details of the Phase 2 of the project.

Stakeholder identification - listed below- remained consistent for all Nurek HPP Rehabilitation Project consultations (April 2010, Nov. 2017, Sept. 2019, and Feb.y 2020). Stakeholders were identified at the National, Regional and Local levels. Each stakeholder was categorized based on: (i) their level of interest in the project (i.e., the extent the project would impact their lives); (ii) their ability to influence the project (positively or negatively); and (iii) the extent to which project managers needed to engage each group of stakeholders, i.e., from monitoring their interest and keeping them informed to managing their interests closely and ensuring that they are satisfied with project management's responses. The purpose of this classification is to allow outreach and consultation to be tailored to the interest and influence. Participation in each of the consultations was relatively consistent: the participants represented different ethnic groups, including Tojik, Uzbek, Russians, and Turkmen. Hence, the languages used for the consultations were Russian and Tojik. The age composition of the participants also varied, including elderly and youth. Representatives of the youth committees participating at the events reported they will be circulating the information among their peers during various events and meetings. Participants at all the regional and local level included representatives of the diverse stakeholders, such as heads of the mahalla (communities), heads of women committees (informal and formal), healthcare workers, including Sanitary and Epidemiological Services, environmentalists, heads of educational facilities, representatives of the Housing and Utilities companies, private entrepreneurs, unemployed, disabled persons, road and transport department representatives, farmers, NGOs, employment departments, financial department, Nurek HPP personnel, and eventually representatives of local authorities at district and oblast (region) level, as well as jamoat.

The meetings were also attended by elderly representatives from both Nurek and Dukoni jamoat. Consultations were held in an environment that enabled free and unintimidated exchange of ideas, concerns and recommendations, so everyone had a chance to speak. This was evidenced by the fact that women presented their concerns and shared their recommendations for managing the projects impacts. The national level consultation participants represented NGOs, academia, including the Academy of Science, and universities, donor agencies, Institute of Water Problems, private consulting companies, Assoc. of Hunters, Committee on Env. Protection and the Int'l Committee on Water Coordination.

Following disclosure of updated draft ESIA and the updated SEP, BT will hold additional consultations, again to convey information on the project and to receive information and concerns from stakeholders. These will be summarized in the final ESIA if they are significantly different than have previously been raised. Following this, BT will continue the same practice of consultations at least annually, with additional consultations if needed to communicate with



stakeholders. Consultations will be conducted in such a way as to eliminate the risk of spreading viruses (ie. COVID-19). Consultations will be conducted electronically and via phone, especially targeting any persons or households directly impacted by the project.

A SEP is currently being drafted and will be finalized prior to appraisal. Stakeholders have been identified and consulted for preparation of ESIA's. This includes: Stakeholders at national level:

Min. of Energy and Water Resources

OJSHC Barqi Tojik

Nurek HPP

Committee on Env. Protection

State Investment and State Property Management Committee

Min. of Health and Social Protection of Population

Min. of Labor, Migration and Employment

Min. of Econ. Dev. and Trade

Min. of Ag.

Committee on Emergency Situations

Agency on Land Reclamation and Irrigation

Bilateral and multilateral agencies

TajCnet

Institute of Water Problems, Hydropower Engineering and Ecology under the Academy of Science of Tajikistan

Private Sector

Regional Level Stakeholders:

Tigrovaya Balka Natural Reserve

Community based natural resource management organizations, WUAs, farmers

Local Level Stakeholders:

Communities of Nurek: Nurek City, Dukoni and Puli Sangin jamoats

All relevant local authorities

Local groups: as heads of the mahalla (communities), heads of women committees (informal and formal), healthcare workers, including Sanitary and Epidemiological Services, environmentalists, heads of educational facilities, representatives of the Housing and Utilities companies, private entrepreneurs, unemployed, disabled persons, road and transport department representatives, farmers, NGOs, employment and financial departments, Nurek HPP personnel, and eventually representatives of local authorities at district and oblast (region) level and area jamoats.

Stakeholders identified for project consultations during implementation:

Local population in the Project Area of Influence

NGOs and CBOs

Gov. agencies

Related businesses

Project Employees

Consultations during implementation: Since the 2017 SEP, consultations have been held annually. As project implementation enters Phase 2, additional consultations will be organized at least once a year. Each consultation, as needed, will include a feedback consultation or communication to respond to issues that were not resolved in the consultations. It is expected that groups listed above cover all potentially impacted groups, including anyone who may be considered a vulnerable group. If a vulnerable group is identified, and not included in the existing stakeholder groups listed above, then measures will be put in place to ensure active stakeholder participation.



Phase 1 has an established GRM at both BT, national level, and at power plant site. The GRM has not received complaints and has been used for asking questions.

B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts

A brief description of the potential environmental and social risks and impacts relevant to the Project.

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

As much as possible, labor will be sourced locally, either from Nurek City or other nearby communities. The project will continue to use current workers already engaged in works and operations. If additional labor is required, it is not known where additional labor will originate from, although efforts will be made to hire locally. A large influx of labor is not expected and therefore the risk posed is low. Power plant workers are already in place and will remain that same, as well as PIU staff which serve primarily an admin function. Primary supply workers are not known at this time, however, it is likely to be aligned with existing Phase 1 contractors. A LMP will be prepared prior to appraisal and Workers Codes of Conduct (CoC) drafted while final CoC completed once contractors identified and in-country . The ESIA report for the project will be updated to include sections on OHS and Community Safety. In accordance with the updated ESIA for the Rehabilitation project and ESMP for Nurek bridge, the signed contracts for power plant rehabilitation works procured in Phase 1 of the project included requirements for Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) plan in line with World Bank Group Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines. The additional contracts to be signed under Phase 2 of the project, including those for rehabilitation of the Nurek bridge and other smaller scale civil works for rehabilitations of buildings/structures at Nurek site, would also include such requirements. A specific Worker Health and Safety Plan will also be developed to cover site-specific job hazards, provision of preventive and protective measures for all hazards; information about safe working methods; and road safety measures. The plan will also include procedures on incident investigation and reporting, recording and reporting of non-conformance, emergency preparedness and response procedures and continuous training and awareness to workers. Civil works contracts will incorporate environment and social mitigation measures. Although there is no anticipated risk for discrimination, the ESIA has outlined mitigation measures to address discrimination, especially with regards to gender. Barqi Tojik will consider labor management policies in its hiring and operation which includes gender non-discrimination policies, codes, and laws. Barqi Tojik will require contractors to establish and achieve realistic goals for hiring women in a variety of positions. Additionally, there is no expected risk of child or forced labor. Contractors will be required to follow labor laws which prevents the use of child or forced labor. The Task team has shared with BT Bank developed Advisory Notes on COVID-19 pandemic prevention and control at construction sites. Tajikistan has only recently started reporting COVID-19 cases. There has been no reported COVID-19 case from the work sites. As such, no national guidelines have been issued. The project, however, will follow WB guidance with regards to pandemics (currently COVID-19) as well as any national guidelines that may be issued by government authorities.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

During the rehabilitation process, the main hazardous waste will include large volumes of asbestos that is contained in old equipment and structures and oils contained in turbines or other devices of the powerhouse and substation. BT level regulations and practices for hazardous waste management are not adequate. Specifically, BT does not have



any standard procedures to manage asbestos containing material in an environment friendly manner. In addition, there could be spills of fuels, oils, or chemicals that enter the reservoir or the downstream river. Pollutants in industrial wastewater entering into river or reservoir may include acids or bases, soluble organic chemicals, nutrients (phosphorus, nitrogen), heavy metals (e.g. cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, nickel, zinc), cyanide, toxic organic chemicals, oily materials, petroleum compounds, and volatile materials. Any or all of these materials may be present on site in lubricants and solvents, spent solvents and oily rags, paint and empty paint cans, chemicals and their containers; used lubricating oils, and diesel and other petroleum-based products.

Estimation of GHG reduction benefits is underway for entire Project and Phase 2. This is being carried out as part of the update of the economic analysis of the overall Project and its Phase 2. The details would be included in the updated ESIA and the PAD for Phase 2.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

Rehabilitation works are associated with exposure risks to asbestos containing material, hazardous waste, dust/noise, soil disturbances, temporary road blockades, traffic management, waste disposal, labor influx and associated disturbance to local communities and workers' camps management. Addressing these issues demands detailed mapping of the communities likely to be affected and an assessment of the impacts thereof. The ESIA will be updated to enable the identification of stakeholders and the likely impacts due to the project. In particular, the ESIA and ESMP will evaluate and put in place a mechanism to manage potential hazardous waste risks, health and safety risks when working in deep waters, road safety risks and risks to workers, nearby communities and other road users. The ESIA will be updated to include the assessment of the potential scale and risk of the Phase 2 due to; natural hazards associated with earthquakes, landslides, and avalanches ; and labor influx on safety of local communities, availability of basic needs and services.

A significant portion of the rehabilitation project is intended to improve dam safety. The specific improvements to be undertaken will depend on the results of ongoing and planned studies and could include structural improvement measures like rehabilitation of spillway tunnels and installation of flood forecasting/warning system. The independent panel of experts comprising of dam safety specialist, geologist, and an electro-mechanical expert is in place on matters related to dam safety, its appurtenant structures, the catchment area, the area surrounding the reservoir and downstream areas, and other important matters. The panel works on the stand-by to guide and advice BT on any issues and are engaged almost constantly. These actions will significantly improve dam safety and its operation. Phase 2 will not have additional security risks. As this is a dam and a power plant, security measures were put in place, and the area secured, prior to WB's involvement in Phase 1 and will remain in place. Persons entering the site are require to have authorized clearance which is checked at entry and again once inside the main entrance at a secondary check point.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

This project is a rehabilitation. The rehabilitation of generators will be within existing structures. The rehabilitation of bridge will require temporary use of land, but land use will entail un-occupied, un-used land within right-of-way of existing bridge. There will be no changes in downstream livelihood activities and therefore, economic displacement is not expected. Bridge rehabilitation will not restrict the movement of people who utilize the bridge, which is primarily used to access Nurek plant facilities, and rarely used by the general public.



ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Downstream of the Nurek HPP, the floodplain of the Vakhsh River and riparian vegetation are particularly important. The ecosystems of the Tigrovaya Balka floodplain, near border with Afghanistan, depend on a meandering river and its dynamics. Both amphibian species and five reptile species can be found in the overall floodplain area. The Vipera lebetina (Blunt-nosed viper) is categorized as an endangered species by IUCN. Just nine species of mammals have been identified for the floodplain. Lutra seistanica (Eurasian otter) is one of the key species in the floodplain habitat and is categorized by IUCN as near threatened. However, its presence in the floodplains downstream of Nurek HPP has not been confirmed. Forty-four bird species are found in the floodplain, 26 of them nest in the floodplain. Eighteen species of birds, mainly water birds (ducks, goose, little egret, grey heron etc.), can be considered as migratory species for spring or autumn, as stated in the ESIA report for the Phase-1 project. The Phase 1 or Phase 2 of the project do not alter the flow regime and therefore do not have any direct impact on the biodiversity downstream in the floodplain area or the ecosystems of the Tigrovaya Balka floodplain.

ESS7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

ESS7 based on current information is not relevant.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

This project is rehabilitation and will not impact outside of current footprint and right-of-way that does not contain cultural heritage.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

The project does not involve any FIs as defined in the Standard.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways

Yes

OP 7.50 is applicable to the project since the Nurek dam is located on the Vakhsh River in western Tajikistan. The Vakhsh River is one of the main tributaries of the Amu Darya River, which is considered an “international waterway” for purposes of the Policy. The other riparian states to the Amu Darya are Afghanistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, all three being downstream riparians.

The policy applies, inter alia, to hydroelectric projects that involve the use or potential pollution of international waterways. Therefore, at the request of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Bank will send notification letter to riparians.

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas

No

III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

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A. Is a common approach being considered?

No

Financing Partners

None.

B. Proposed Measures, Actions and Timing (Borrower’s commitments)

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

Revision and updating of ESIA report prepared for the parent project to account for the risks and issues covered under the Bank's ESF.

Prepare an ESMP for Nurek bridge, a new activity, not included in the parent project.

Labor Management Plan prepared prior to Bank Board Approval.

Stakeholder Engagement Plan prepared prior to Bank Board Approval.

Possible issues to be addressed in the Borrower Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP):

The ESIA has addressed environmental and social concerns and actions, including addressing what actions need to be taken to eliminate gender based violence (GBV). Although the project does not expect an increase in GBV, as this is a WB project involving civil works and associated labor, the project will take the opportunity to address this topic as a precaution as well as an awareness raising opportunity. As GBV is often a difficult topic of discussion in many cultures, it is highlighted as an inclusion of Codes of Conduct to ensure it is a topic included in trainings. Actions addressed in ESIA will be a part of the ESCP, including establishing Codes of Conduct for all project workers which will be closely monitored.

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS

25-May-2020

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower:	Ministry of Finance
Borrower:	Ministry of Energy and Water Resources

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Barqi Tojik

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Public Disclosure



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VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Artur Kochnakyan
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	John Collier Recommended on 22-May-2020 at 09:14:32 EDT
Safeguards Advisor ESSA	Nina Chee (SAESSA) Cleared on 22-May-2020 at 17:33:45 EDT