



Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 10/07/2025 | Report No: ESRSA04508

**I. BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Operation Data**

Operation ID	Product	Operation Acronym	Approval Fiscal Year
P507207	Investment Project Financing (IPF)	BWSSAP	2026
Operation Name	Burundi Water Supply and Sanitation Access Project		
Country/Region Code	Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)	Region	Practice Area (Lead)
Burundi	Burundi	EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA	Water
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Republic of Burundi - Ministry of Finance, Budget and Digital Economy	Ministry of Infrastructure, Social Housing, Transport and Equipment, REGIDESO	08-Oct-2025	10-Dec-2025
Estimated Decision Review Date	Total Project Cost		
29-Sep-2025	90,000,000.00		

Proposed Development Objective

To increase access to climate-resilient water supply and sanitation services and to strengthen the capacity of water operators

B. Is the operation 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 Activities

The Burundi Water Supply and Sanitation Access Project aims to increase access to climate-resilient water supply and sanitation services and to strengthen the capacity of water operators. The project aims to provide safely managed drinking water services to previously unserved populations and to improve the quality of services from basic to safely managed drinking water services in Bujumbura through expanding production capacity , distribution systems and household connections. For rural areas, the project aims to improve access to at least basic water supply and sanitation



services in selected communes prioritized by the government. Moreover, the project will improve access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities in selected schools and health centers within the rural communes. Aligned with the regional Multi-phase Programmatic Approach (MPA) on Accelerating Access to WASH services in the Eastern and Southern Africa (AFE) region - the AFE WASH Access MPA, the proposed components are the following: Component 1: Strengthening National WASH Platform, Governance and Reforms. Subcomponent 1.1. National WASH Programming and Platform is aligned with pillar 1 of the AFE WASH Access MPA and finances technical assistance, training and equipment to develop and implement sector-wide monitoring platforms for WASH access, medium term investment plans, joint sector reviews and future investment preparation studies, such as for Gitega. Subcomponent 1.2 Advancing Governance and Reforms is aligned with pillar 2 of the AFE WASH Access MPA and finances technical assistance, training and equipment to address governance bottlenecks and support the implementation of reform measures to enable private capital mobilization for investments in the sector in the medium term. This includes the development of regulatory instruments and policies, tariff studies, transaction advisory services, capacity development for sector ministries, the national water and sanitation regulatory entity and other sector stakeholders, as well as selected communes benefiting from investments. Component 2: Service Providers Performance Improvement: This component, mapped to pillar 3 of the AFE WASH Access MPA, finances works, equipment, technical assistance, training for the national water utility REGIDESO as well as for rural water supply providers and the rural water agency. Subcomponent 2.1 finances the implementation of REGIDESO's Performance Improvement Action Plan, including Non Revenue Water (NRW), digitalization, and water quality management improvements, household connections and technical advice for REGIDESO to develop a pro-poor household connection policy and funding mechanism. Subcomponent 2.2. finances the preparation of delegation contracts between communes and private water operators, capacity development for professionalization of domestic private water operators, household connections for rural population, as well as vocational and professional development programs for job creation in the water sector. Component 3: Leveraging Finance to Increase Climate-Resilient WASH Access . This Components aligns with Pillar 4 of the AFE WASH Access MPA. Subcomponent 3.1 finances infrastructure investments in climate -resilient urban water supply distribution and production systems for Bujumbura, including civil works for a new water intake and water treatment plant, pumping station(s), transmission mains, reservoirs and distribution network, as well as related electro-mechanical equipment and SCADA systems. Subcomponent 3.2 finances rehabilitation and construction of solar-based climate-resilient rural water systems in selected commune(s), behavior change campaigns, material support for durable sanitation facilities, and education activities for girls on menstrual hygiene management. Component 3 also finances resettlement costs related to the water supply infrastructure investments. Component 4: Project Management and Coordination. This component finances the overall project management, monitoring and coordination costs, including operating costs and participation in international and regional knowledge and learning activities. It also finances the coordination costs for Burundi stakeholders related to their effective participation in the AFE WASH Access MPA.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

Burundi is an FCV context, and it is one of the seven member states of the East African Community (EAC). The country is part of the Albertine Rift, the western extension of the Great Rift Valley, and is situated on a rolling plateau in the center of Africa. The average elevation of the central plateau is 5,600 feet (1,707 meters), with lower elevations at the borders. The highest peak, Mount Heha, at 8,810 feet (2,685 meters), is located southeast of the capital, Bujumbura. Repeated episodes of conflict and fragility have created an uncertain and risky environment which has constrained investment, leading to low performing and volatile economy.



The proposed Project is Phase 3 under the Accelerating Access to WASH in the Eastern and Southern Africa Region MPA (P512763), which is scheduled for Board approval in September 2025. The Project will include infrastructure investment in water supply systems in urban and rural areas, WASH facilities in schools and health centers and household latrine construction in rural areas and technical assistance to support technical studies, capacity building, reforms and policies. The Project will be implemented in Bujumbura and in rural communes prioritized by the Government that include Bituhinda, Muyinga, Rwibaga and part of the commune of Mugere. The focus of the project is on : (i) water supply investments in the city of Bujumbura and measures (provision of equipment, technical assistance) to improve the performance of REGIDESO water operations; and (ii) the rehabilitation/expansion of existing and construction of new water systems in the four (04) rural communes. The implementation of the rural water supply works will exclude remote or highly isolated areas, thereby restricting the potential risks, benefits and impact on communities residing in isolated regions.

Water supply investments will involve the use of waters in the Lake Tanganyika. Lake Tanganyika and its Basin are endowed with exceptionally large and highly diverse heritage of flora and fauna. The lake is a global hotspot of biodiversity and an extremely valuable aquatic ecosystem containing almost 17% of the global available surface freshwater supply and some of the largest freshwater fisheries on the African continent. The lake and its Basin provide a diverse range of ecosystem services that sustain the livelihoods of millions of people. Lake Tanganyika borders Burundi for a distance of approximately 150 kilometers of coastline, mainly along the western coast of the country, from the northern border with the Democratic Republic of Congo to the southern tip towards Tanzania. This portion represents a significant part of the country's lakefront, although Burundi holds only about 8% of the total area of the lake (about 2,632 km² of the 32,900 km² of Lake Tanganyika).

Burundi has the lowest per capita greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) globally. Climate change poses a serious threat to its weak infrastructure and livelihoods. Changes in rainfall patterns have led to increased frequency of extreme weather events such as floods, storms, landslides, and prolonged dry spells, which harm crop yields and threaten food security, especially in the northeastern part of the country. The feasibility studies and the APS for the selected systems are expected by December 2025. The APD and the ESAs will be completed by March 2026. Based on feasibility studies, specific rural sites will be defined and assessed accordingly.

D.2 Overview of Borrower's Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The Project will be implemented through two (02) dedicated Project Implementation Units (PIUs) : (i) the PIU hosted within the Ministry of Mineral Resources, Energy, Industry, Trade and Tourism (MINRMEICT) in charge of project activities under component 1, subcomponent 2.2, subcomponent 3.2 and subcomponent 4.1; and (ii) the PIU embedded within the state-owned utility REGIDESO for project activities under subcomponent 2.1, subcomponent 3.1 and subcomponent 4.2. Although the MINRMEICT-PIU will be responsible for overall coordination, both will oversee procurement, financial management, and environmental and social compliance of investments under their responsibility.

MINRMEICT and REGIDESO have limited capacities in managing project E&S risks, particularly under ESF. The preliminary assessment of their capacities carried out during preparation has identified the staffing needs of the implementation units of MINRMEICT and REGIDESO. The MINRMEICT-PIU will include three (3) E&S specialists for which an environmental specialist and a social development specialist have already been recruited. The GBV specialist will be



hired shortly. The REGIDESO-PIU will include salaries REGIDESO's E&S staff, strengthened by an external consultant in charge of building their capacity in E&S risk management under ESF for 24 months.

Various ministries and public entities will be involved at national, provincial, and communal levels, a capacity assessment for E&S risk management will be conducted as part of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and a capacity-building action plan proposed. The Burundian Office for the Protection of Environment (OBPE) regulates Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) and issues Environmental Compliance Certificates under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment. A collaboration arrangement will be signed with the Burundian Office for the Protection of Environment (OBPE) no later than 30 days after the Effective Date to manage E&S risks and impacts of the Project.

II. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

The Environmental Risk Rating is considered Substantial. The primary environmental risks and impacts are anticipated from activities under components 2 and 3. These activities involve construction and rehabilitation of water infrastructure, including water intakes, treatment plants, pumping stations, transmissions lines, reservoirs, distribution networks, and sanitation facilities in Bujumbura as well as water supply investments in Gitega. Key anticipated direct, indirect, and cumulative risks and impacts include potential impacts on water resources and aquatic habitats due to water abstraction from Lake Tanganyika and other sources, temporary disruption of utility services in the project areas, traffic disruption due to excavation of trenches and pipeline laying along main roads and streets, potential for increased turbidity and sedimentation downstream affecting aquatic habitats, risks of water pollution from construction activities, potential spills and inadequate wastewater management, risks related to chemical and hazardous material management, waste generation, occupational, health and safety risks for workers during construction and operation, community health and safety risks associated with the construction sites and increased traffic and potential land degradation due to the extraction of construction material. The project will also support technical assistance (TA) activities of Types 1, 2, and 3 under components 1, 2 and 3, which include the preparation of investment plans, feasibility studies, investment preparation studies, transaction advisory services, capacity building, and the development of national legal and regulatory texts and policies. While these activities themselves may not have direct environmental impacts, they could lead to downstream environmental risks due to potential new investments that need to be assessed and managed. This classification also considers the capacity of the Borrower and all stakeholders involved in this project, including public and private sector companies, to manage potential risks.

A.2 Social Risk Rating

Substantial

The social risk rating is considered to be Substantial, given the nature of the activities and their implementation in densely populated urban areas of Bujumbura, and in the four selected rural communes, and also considering the downstream impacts of the planned TA activities, which are not expected to exceed the substantial risk profile either. The key social risks associated with the Project identified include (i) potential exclusion of women and members of vulnerable groups from project benefits (which may included displaced population and indigenous peoples), along with potential elite capture, especially from activities such as training and capacity building and the equitable



household connections under component 3 and 4; (ii) community health and safety risks, including those associated with the labor influx associated with the civil works, which may increase the transmission of communicable diseases and the level of SEA/SH risk; (iii) potential for land acquisition and economic displacement, temporary and permanently, particularly in relation to the activities planned to be supported under components 3.1 and 3.2; (iv) risks associated with the downstream impacts of the TA activities to be supported, including those related to the policy reforms to be supported, some of which may potentially experience stakeholder opposition to some of the proposed policy reforms; (v) potentially adverse economic impacts on vulnerable groups during the transition from unpaid to paid access to drinking water, particularly if differentiated approach for them, like social tariffs, are not adequately considered during the reform process.

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

B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

ESS1 - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Relevant

The project will finance investments in water systems/production and sanitation in Bujumbura and Gitega (only studies at this stage) that may have potential environmental and social (E&S) risks and impacts. The main potential E&S risks and impacts are on water resources and aquatic habitats due to water abstraction from Lake Tanganyika and other sources, disruption of traffic in the project area, potential for increased turbidity and sedimentation downstream affecting aquatic habitats, risks of water pollution from construction activities, potential spills and inadequate wastewater management, chemical management, waste generation, occupational health and safety risks for workers during construction and operation, community health and safety risks associated with the construction sites and increased traffic and potential land degradation due to the extraction of construction material. To manage these risks and impacts, including those related to ancillary works, an Environmental and Social Assessment will be conducted through several instruments. Considering that the specific locations of some project investments are not yet known at this stage, the Borrower is preparing an ESMF, a draft of which will be available by the end of appraisal. The ESMF will establish the procedures and guidelines for screening sub-projects, conducting site-specific assessments, and developing appropriate mitigation measures. It will also include a capacity-building action plan to strengthen the borrower's capacity to manage ES risks and impacts according to the ESF. For investments in the water supply system for Bujumbura, including the water intake in Lake Tanganyika, the construction of pumping station, the construction of the water treatment plant, reservoirs and distributions networks, for which feasibility studies are already under preparation, the ESIA/ESMP and RAP will be prepared during implementation and disclosed prior to the commencement of bidding processes. In the case of the RAP, its compensation measures will need to be carried out prior to civil works in the affected areas. The instruments will include a SEA/SH Action Plan as well. Regarding the TA activities proposed under components 1, 2 and 3, the Borrower will prepare Terms of Reference (ToRs) and outputs acceptable to the Bank and will include environmental and social considerations that are consistent with ESSs 1-10. To date, no associated facilities have been identified under the project. However, if an associated facility is identified during the preparation of the specific activities, an assessment of its potential environmental and social risks and impacts will be reflected in the relevant instruments (ESIAs, ESMPs) to be prepared by the project during its implementation. The Borrower has prepared, jointly with the Bank team, an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP). The ESCP includes the materials measures and actions required to address the identified ES risks and impacts, timelines, responsible parties and monitoring indicators. As required by the ESCP for E&S staff, the



MINRMEICT-PIU will include three (3) E&S specialists for which an environmental specialist and a social development specialist have already been recruited. The GBV specialist will be hired shortly. Two (02) salaried REGIDESO E&S staff will be appointed for the REGIDESO-PIU, supported by an external consultant to strengthen their capacity on E&S risk management.

ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

To ensure stakeholder involvement throughout the project cycle, the Project preparation Team has organized site visits and consultative meetings with institutional stakeholders, to inform project design and the preparation of the E&S risk management instruments. Once technical studies are finalized and detailed information on project sites is available, the team will continue engaging with communities through meaningful interactions, ensuring timely, understandable and accessible information. The engagement must be free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, and intimidation. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) shall outline the characteristics and interests of relevant stakeholder groups, including commune administrations, local water committees, beneficiaries (with a special focus on women), and directly impacted project-affected persons and vulnerable groups including Batwa and refugees. The SEP will be disclosed prior to Appraisal, and will include a record of stakeholder engagement activities carried out during so far during preparation, and the activities planned during project implementation.

ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

This standard is relevant. The project will engage direct workers, contracted workers and potentially primary supply workers involved in the provision of essential goods/materials. Government civil servants within MINRMEICT, AHAMR, AREEN, and REGIDESO will also be involved. The Borrower will prepare labor management procedures (LMP) to address key worker issues, such as working conditions, worker relationships, workforce protection, non-discrimination, child and forced labor prevention, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements, and guidance for employing youth and women (except minors, since child labor will be prohibited). The LMP will feature a labor-specific grievance mechanism sensitive to SEA/SH, based on national laws, ESS2 provisions, and labor issue management. It will also include a code of conduct prohibiting SEA/SH and sanctions for misconduct. Occupational Health and Safety (OHS): To ensure the health and safety of workers during the construction and operational phases, requirements for Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) will be developed through specific ESIA/ESMPs and contractors will develop and implement site specific Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) plans in line with World Bank Group Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines (for construction activities), for water and sanitation and other relevant International Good Practices. The plan will include procedures on incident investigation and reporting, recording and reporting of non-compliance, emergency preparedness and response procedures and continuous training and awareness to workers. OHS requirements will be incorporated in the bidding documents and contracts. Workers Accommodation: where on-site accommodation is confirmed, a Labor Camp Management Plan will be required as part of the Contractor-ESMP (C-ESMP). The LMP shall be prepared no later than 30 days after the Effective Date.

ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Relevant

ESS3 is relevant. Investments under this project will entail risks and impacts relevant to ESS3 requirements, which include raw material and resource use, energy use, generation of hazardous/non-hazardous waste, handling and use of hazardous materials, increased water demand, noise and air pollution. Assessment of risks and impacts and



proposed mitigation measures will be included within scope of the ESMF, and in site specific ESIAs/ESMPs, as relevant. These instruments will include standard operating procedures and good construction management practices, including those proposed in WBG EHSs. Resource Efficiency Measures: The project will incorporate measures for energy efficiency, particularly in urban water systems managed by REGIDESO. This includes optimizing existing water treatment plant capacity, reducing Non-Revenue Water (NRW) through digital applications and automatic control systems (SCADA), and increasing energy efficiency in pumping stations. Water conservation strategies, including NRW reduction and efficient water use practices, will be explored. Considering that construction and rehabilitation activities will require materials which include stones, sand, concrete blocks and timber, the Borrower will request all contractors to obtain these materials from legally established quarries and certified suppliers, without any risk of conflict. Air emissions: during the construction phase, air emissions will include exhaust from vehicles and machinery, and fugitive dust generated by construction activities. Those most likely to be affected are workers and people living within proximity of the work sites. The implementation of mitigation measures such as dust suppression and vehicle maintenance will be applied to minimize the impact of air emissions during construction and transportation of material; residual impacts are expected to be limited in scope and duration. Noise: During the construction phase, noise could be generated from construction machinery and vehicle movements. This noise pollution relating to the construction work would be limited to the duration of the work. However, appropriate measures must be taken during the operation phase of certain infrastructures such as water treatment plants to minimize noise pollution for nearby residents. The ESMF and ESIA/ESMP will include mitigation measures to minimize and manage the noise levels such as by applying standard restrictions on working hours on site. Water use : water production capacity is largely insufficient in Bujumbura and Gitega and less than half of the people connected to the water network have regular daily water supply. Water use efficiency will be taken into account in the technical designs of water and sanitation infrastructure. The Borrower will assess the potential cumulative impacts of water consumption on communities, others users and the environment, and will identify and implement appropriate measures identified as part of the ESIA. Since the project supports investments to increase access to drinking water supply and sanitation (WSS) services in targeted areas of Bujumbura and Gitega, a water balance will be assessed as part of site-specific ESIAs/ESMPs and adequate measures will be proposed to minimize the depletion of water resources. Water Pollution Prevention: Measures will be implemented to prevent contamination of surface and groundwater from project activities. This includes managing runoff from construction sites and ensuring proper wastewater management from water treatment plants and sanitation facilities. Specific measures will be detailed in the ESMP. Waste management: construction/rehabilitation activities will generate solid and liquid waste, which will primarily consist of excavated soil, and hazardous waste such as hydrocarbon oils from construction machinery and vehicles as well as waste from the water treatment facilities. The waste generated by construction works will largely be disposed of at approved sites in accordance with national laws and regulations. Appropriate mitigation measures to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes will be included in the ESMPs. These will detail specific procedures for waste generation, collection, storage, transportation and disposal. In the event that the works require the replacement of asbestos pipe networks, an Asbestos and other fibrous materials Management Plan will be prepared and implemented before starting any field work. Hazardous materials management: During the operation of water treatment facilities, chemicals will be used in water treatment. Protocols for the safe handling, storage, transport, and disposal of any hazardous materials will be established in line with World Bank Group Environmental, Health and Safety (WBG EHS) Guidelines as part of the site-specific ESIA/ESMP. GHG emissions: The analysis conducted during preparation shows that the project is not expected to generate significant GHG emissions. Pesticides: The project is not expected to include the procurement or use of pesticides.



ESS4 - Community Health and Safety

Relevant

ESS4 is relevant. Project activities may have negative risks and impacts on the health and safety of the communities surrounding the work sites. Anticipated risks and impacts include community health and safety risks associated with construction and rehabilitation work, traffic safety, community exposure to labor influx, downstream water pollution, exposure to diseases, noise, dust, vibration, hazardous materials, emergency preparedness and response, and transmission of communicable diseases. There are also risks associated with SEA/SH. As part of the ESMF, the borrower will conduct an assessment of the potential impacts of the project activities on the health and safety of the communities. Other assessments will be conducted through site-specific ESIAs/ESMPs to be prepared by the borrower. These instruments will include standard operating procedures and good construction management practices, include those proposed in WBG EHS Guidelines and the SEA/SH Action Plan. Project-related vehicle movements, particularly during construction, will increase traffic and pose risks to pedestrian safety. Excavation of trenches and pipeline laying along main roads and streets will cause traffic disruption. In addition, increased movement of vehicles transporting equipment and materials on roads near communities, particularly schools, may pose safety issues. A traffic management plan will be developed as part of site-specific ESIAs/ESMPs to manage and minimize traffic disruption due to excavation of trenches and pipeline laying along main roads and streets. The Plan will be developed in consultation with local authorities and communities and will include measures such as speed limits, signage, traffic diversions, and pedestrian safety measures. Road safety awareness campaigns will be conducted to educate the public about safe driving and pedestrian practices. During operation phases, repair and maintenance of pipelines and manholes may pose safety risks to local communities from open ditches and open manholes etc. Appropriate measures will also be developed in the operation's ESMP to protect the communities from being injured during construction, rehabilitation and repair and maintenance works and incorporated under the contractor C-ESMP, as part of the operations and/or defect liability period. Any incidents or fatalities on any of the sites will be immediately reported to the Bank team during project implementation. The project will ensure that project infrastructure is designed to be accessible to all community members, including people with disabilities. This will include incorporating universal access principles into the design of water points, sanitation facilities, and other infrastructure. Consultations with people with disabilities will be conducted to ensure that their needs are addressed. The project will develop an Emergency Response Plan (ERP) to address potential accidents, natural disasters, and project-related emergencies affecting communities. The ERP will include procedures for communication, evacuation, and medical response. Emergency drills will be conducted to ensure that communities are prepared for emergencies. The project will also support community-based disaster preparedness initiatives. The project may involve the handling, storage, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials, posing risks to communities. The project will develop and implement a Hazardous Materials Management Plan, which will include procedures for safe handling, storage, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials. Workers will be trained in hazardous materials management procedures. The project will also ensure that communities are informed about potential risks and mitigation measures. The project will implement measures to prevent the spread of communicable or vector-borne diseases due to project activities. This may include measures to prevent stagnant water, improve sanitation, and promote hygiene. The project will also work with local health authorities to monitor and respond to any outbreaks of disease. Education programs for girls on menstrual hygiene management will be implemented.

ESS5 - Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Relevant

ESS5 is relevant because project activities excepted under components 3 and 4 may require some land acquisition for water supply infrastructure in rural and urban areas, the installation of the water pipes along the right-of-way may



affect homes, assets and economic activities of the local populations, as part of the planned works in urban areas and rural communes, may potentially lead to land acquisition and economic activity disruption on a temporary and permanent basis. While technical and the feasibility studies are still ongoing, no specific cases requiring physical resettlement have been identified yet. Once studies triggered the need of land acquisition and/or created economical displacement, base on the scope, during the implementation, as indicated in the ESCP, that the social impacts mitigation measures must be handle through the preparation of the ESMPs, for indirect economic impacts not associated with physical resettlement, and/or resettlement actions plans to be prepared during implementation and their compensation measures implemented prior to the commencement of civils works in the affected areas.

ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Relevant

ESS6 is relevant. The project activities are mainly taking place in inhabited urban and rural areas to meet their water and sanitation needs and are not expected to take place in or near protected areas or critical habitats. However, potential impacts on aquatic ecosystems could arise from the construction of water intake structures in Lake Tanganyika or other water sources. These structures may interfere with fish and other aquatic organisms. Increased turbidity and sedimentation downstream of construction sites could also negatively affect aquatic habitats. The project will apply the mitigation hierarchy and precautionary approach to address potential impacts on biodiversity. The precautionary approach will be applied where impacts are uncertain. A screening process will be put in place to improve project sites selection to avoid selecting areas with high biodiversity values. A negative list will be included in the ESMF to exclude any activity or subprojects that would involve significant conversion or degradation of critical habitat or take place within protected areas. With the aims of achieving net gains and no significant degradation or conversion of critical habitats, a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) will be prepared as part of the ESIA/ESMP for the construction works of the water supply distribution and production systems in Bujumbura in a manner acceptable to the World Bank. The BMP will consider relevant threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, especially focusing on habitat loss, interference with fishing, degradation and fragmentation, invasive alien species, over-exploitation, hydrological changes, nutrient loading, and pollution. It will outline specific measures to mitigate and manage biodiversity impacts, including habitat restoration, species protection, and monitoring programs. The project will assess the sustainability of natural resource sourcing by primary suppliers, if relevant. This may include assessing the environmental practices of suppliers of construction materials and other inputs.

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

Relevant

This standard is relevant. Batwa communities are present in Burundi. Project activities will be carried out in urban and rural areas, where Batwa families are often integrated into broader Burundian communities that include Batwa and non-Batwa groups. The applicability of ESS7 will be confirmed based on the information to be provided in the context of the site-specific technical and feasibility studies. Project activities will not cause relocation or impact cultural heritage resources of Batwa groups, and are not expected to cause other significant adverse impacts either. Thus, the need for Free Prior and Informed Consultations (FPIC) is not anticipated, in accordance with the provisions of ESS7. Once studies are finalized, assessments will analyze potential adverse impacts on Batwa communities or barriers to their access to project benefits, and adopt the necessary measures. If the presence of indigenous communities or other groups that meet the characteristics set out in ESS7 were to be identified in the project area during implementation, the Borrower will prepare an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) consistent with ESS7 that includes



culturally appropriate and participatory consultations, considering the socioeconomic and cultural impacts of the project activities on them, and engaging them according to their norms and traditions. The SEP also includes provisions for culturally-appropriate consultation with Batwa persons who may be present in the project's area works, ensuring meaningful consultations considering their specific sociocultural situation.

ESS8 - Cultural Heritage

Relevant

ESS8 is relevant. The project will support civil works activities that will include land excavations works that may have adverse impacts on tangible cultural heritage. Through the ESMF and ESIA/ESMP to be prepared by the borrower, the project will confirm the existence of intangible and tangible cultural heritage in the rural areas of the project, including sacred forests, groves, among others and propose appropriate measures to mitigate the risks related to ESS8. A chance find procedure will be developed and incorporated into these instruments. It will be required to provide guidance for notifying, evaluating, recording and managing previously unknown artifacts that may be discovered during construction. Contractors will be required to develop a site-specific "Chance find" procedure as part of their ESMPs.

ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries

Not Currently Relevant

No FI are involved in the project

Public Disclosure

B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Operations on International Waterways

Yes

OP 7.60 Operations in Disputed Areas

No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework

No

N/A

Use of Common Approach

No

N/A

C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities

C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required by implementation?

The following E&S risk management instruments are expected to be disclosed by the end of Appraisal:

- Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)
- Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)
- Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)



The following instruments are expected during project implementation (or earlier):

- SEA/SH Action Plan
- Labor Management Procedures (LMP)
- ESIA/ESMPs (one for Bujumbura and one for Gitega) during implementation including grievance management procedure prior to starting bidding processes.
- Biodiversity Management Plan to manage Biodiversity risks from Lake Tanganyika during the potential disruptions from construction phase.
- Emergency Preparedness and Response Plans
- Resettlement Action Plans(s) - RAPs, if the need for involuntary resettlement is confirmed.
- Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP), if the presence of communities meeting the criteria defined in ESS7 were to be identified during project implementation.

Also, ToRs of documents for TA activities will need to be reviewed to ensure consistency with the ESF.

III. CONTACT POINT

World Bank

Task Team Leader: Susanna Smets Title: Senior Water Specialist

Email: ssmets@worldbank.org

TTL Contact: Feriha Mukuve Mugisha Job Title: Senior Water Specialist

Email: fmugisha@worldbank.org

IV. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank

1818 H Street, NW

Washington, D.C. 20433

Telephone: (202) 473-1000

Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

V. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s): Susanna Smets, Feriha Mukuve Mugisha

ADM Environmental Specialist: Christophe Ngongo Muzyumba

ADM Social Specialist: Abdoul Wahabi Seini