



# Environmental and Social Review Summary

## Appraisal Stage

### (ESRS Appraisal Stage)

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Date Disclosed: 09/09/2020 | Report No: 152962



## I. BASIC INFORMATION

### A. Basic Project Data TABLE

Country Cote d'Ivoire	Region AFR	Project ID P170309	Parent Project ID (if any)
Project Name	RCI- TAÏ NATIONAL PARK AREA EMISSION REDUCTIONS PAYMENTS PROJECT (P170309)		
Managing Unit Environment & Natural Resources	Type of financing intervention Investment Financing Project	Estimated Appraisal Date 09/28/2020	Estimated Board Date 10/30/2020
Borrower(s) Cote d'Ivoire Republic	Implementing Agency(ies) Foundation for the Parks and Reserves of Côte d'Ivoire	Financing partners	

### Project Development Objective(s)

The objective of the of the program is to make payments for measured, reported and verified Emission Reductions (ER) from reduced deforestation (ER payments) in the Taï national park area Emission Reductions Program, and distribute ER payments according to an agreed Benefit Sharing Plan.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
World Bank source(s)	0.00
Borrower's contributions	0.00
Other source(s)	0.00
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>0.00</b>

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. Project Abstract

The proposed program has two components:



Component 1: Payments of emission reductions generated by the Taï ER-P following measurement, reporting and verification (MRV)

1. Deforestation, forest degradation, enhancement of carbon stock and associated emission reductions in the Taï ER-P area will be measured every two years by the MRV unit of the SEP-REDD+. The government of Côte d'Ivoire intends to report to the FCPF Carbon Fund every two years starting in 2022. The verification will take place every two years following the submission of the GHG emission reductions report. Payments by the FCPF Carbon Fund to the government of Côte d'Ivoire will be made upon verification of the emission reductions.

2. The proposed project will pay up to US\$ 82.5 million for the effective delivery of GHG emission reductions, duly verified over a five-year period (2020-2024) in accordance with the FCPF Carbon Fund's Methodological Framework and resulting from the Taï ER-P implementation. This amount corresponds to the purchase of 75% of the estimated emission reductions in that five-year period according to the Taï ER-PD.

Component 2: Distribution of the emission reductions in accordance with a Benefit Sharing Plan validated by the Government and acceptable to the World Bank: ER payments will be distributed accordingly to a Benefit Sharing Plan, which will be adopted by the Government in 2019. The benefit sharing plan will be based on the beneficiaries, principles and arrangement identified in the ER-PD. SEP-REDD+ coordinates the finalization of the benefit sharing plan with all relevant stakeholders.

3. The Emission Reductions Payment Agreement (ERPA), to be signed between the World Bank as the trustee of the FCPF Carbon Fund and the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Côte d'Ivoire will specify the technical and financial arrangements of the Taï National Park Area Emission Reductions Payments Project based on the Taï ER-PD and a due diligence focused on benefit sharing arrangements among program stakeholders, and safeguards implementation.

4. The Taï ER-P is fully in line with the existing Country Partnership Framework (CPF) FY16-FY19 based on three major focus areas: (i) sustaining strong private sector-led growth; (ii) building human capital for inclusive growth, social cohesion and youth employment; and (iii) strengthening public financial management and accountability. The ER-P activities lend significant support to the objectives of the first focus areas, mainly Objective 1: Improve productivity in agriculture/agribusiness value chains and Objective 4: Formalize and enhance access to land for business and agriculture through support to the zero-deforestation agriculture policy in collaboration with the cocoa industry and enhancement of public-private partnership for sustainable management of activities in Classified Forests.

5. The Taï ER-P also contributes directly to the Africa Climate Business Plan (ACBP) announced at the COP21 in Paris, specifically, the action area 'creating climate-resilient landscapes in the World Bank' for which the Côte d'Ivoire is a key partner for implementation for coastal management and transport in addition to forest management. The objective of the ACBP is to help client countries access climate finance opportunities that can act as incentives to shift toward more sustainable practices. In this goal, the World Bank is supporting country efforts to improve governance systems, address drivers of deforestation, and engage communities in improving practices with better benefit sharing.



## D. Environmental and Social Overview

### D.1. Project location(s) and salient characteristics relevant to the ES assessment [geographic, environmental, social]

The Taï national park area Emission Reductions Program (Taï ER-P) is the first phase of the national emission reduction program. This program covers five contiguous regions<sup>1</sup> in the South-West of Côte d'Ivoire covering an area of 4.6 million hectares, of which 20.2% is covered by forests (935,752 ha). The program area includes zones with different legal status, state of conservation and management arrangements: (i) The Rural domain, (ii) 24 classified forests<sup>2</sup> under the supervision of SODEFOR including some management partnership with NGOs, the private sector and cocoa small-scale holders, and (iii) national parks and reserves including the Mont-Peko national park and the Taï national park - N'zo natural reserve complex, managed by OIPR, constituting the largest West African primary tropical forest under protection. In these areas, the program will support: (i) the development of community plantations; (ii) agroforestry and agricultural intensification activities; (iii) development of small wood plantations and conservation of private and community forest relics (iv) reforestation and restoration of classified forests.

The project will use a performance-based incentive mechanism in different villages throughout the region. The villages and cooperatives within the project area can present their sub-projects to contribute to the carbon emission reduction program, which will be evaluated by the central committee of the program. The programs are evaluated on their technical merit (e.g. being related to one of the project activities), contribution to the program and ability to execute them. The programs are then self-funded by the villages and cooperatives presenting them, either with assistance from NGOs or the private sector operating in the area (e.g. cacao companies). Once the sub-projects are implemented, the results are evaluated by the program's national committee and the sub-projects and its contributors receive a monetary compensation, as outlined in the Benefits Sharing Mechanism plan. The identified region currently includes around 293 villages (with around 1,2 million people), where the aim of the program is to provide alternative income to local communities living adjacent to the forests in order to reduce human pressure on natural resources. The names and location of the 293 villages are known; however, there is no precise indication given to date, as to which villages will actually benefit from sub-projects and activities financed by the project.

The project aims to target a total number of 527,000 direct beneficiaries. The precise locations of the individual sub-projects have not yet been defined and therefore the actual number of impacted people is currently not known. The project aims to be able to define in more detail the sub-projects around six months following effectiveness of the project, likely around June 2020. The main risks currently foreseen are the potential changes in livelihoods (e.g. improved agricultural practices) or restriction to natural resources (e.g. restriction of uses in firewood) that could be proposed by sub-projects in an effort to comply with the zero-deforestation agricultural or the sustainable use of forestry resources.

### D.2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

The borrower has an acceptable legal and regulatory environmental and social framework. The National agency called *Agence Nationale de l'Environnement* (ANDE) is the entity that oversees the

<sup>1</sup> Cavally, Nawa, San Pedro, Guémon and Gboklè

<sup>2</sup> Classified forests of 1.Bolo-Est, 2.Bolo-Ouest, 3.Cavally, 4.Cavally-Mont-Sainte, 5.Dakpadou, 6.Dassioko, 7.Duekoue, 8.Flansobli, 9.Goin-Débé, 10.Haute-Bolo, 11.Haute-Dodo, 12.Kouin, 13.Krozalie, 14.Monogaga, 15.Mont-Kourabahi, 16.Mont-Tia, 17.Niégré, 18.Niouniourou, 19.Okromoudou, 20.Port-Gauthier, 21.Rapides-Grah, 22.Scio, 23.Semien et 24.Tyonle



approvals of environmental and social studies and monitoring and evaluation of such studies at the national level. The integrated implementation unit (PIU) that oversees various Bank financed forestry related projects currently has one social specialist and is in the process of hiring an environmental specialist as the previous incumbent left the PIU. Capacity building will be required to enable the specialists and the integrated PIU to fulfil their role, as this is their first experience with the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). The Bank team has already provided some guidance to the specialists from the integrated PIU and the ESMF include also capacity building measures for the various stakeholders involve in environmental and social management.. In addition, community committees have been mobilized at the local level to support the implementation and monitoring of the stakeholder engagement plan and the grievance redress mechanism.

## II. SUMMARY of ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

This assessment has been prepared based on review and analysis of ES documents, as indicated by ESS, that have been disclosed by the Borrower.

### A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Moderate

The expected environmental and social impacts of the program will be overall positive. The ER-Program will finance investments such as: Fuelwood plantation; Food plantation and fuelwood associations; Alternatives to wood energy - utilization of agricultural residues and timber; Small-scale timber plantation and protection of private and community forests, and carbon finance transactions. Some of the mentioned activities would lead to the loss or the disruption of income or livelihood activities for individuals or groups of people, restriction of resources access. Based on activities nature and their magnitude, potential adverse impacts on environment and communities are expected to be site specific, manageable on an acceptable level and reversible.

Both from a social and environmental perspective the ESRC is considered to be **Moderate** under the World Bank's ESF.

*Areas where reliance on the Borrower's E&S Framework may be considered:*

The project will not use the Borrower's E&S Framework in the assessment, development and implementation of the program. However, it will comply with relevant national legal and regulatory requirements and will, where needed, be supplemented with provisions of the World Bank's ESS.

### B. Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

#### B.1. General Assessment

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

- The ERP is expected to contribute to the reduction of land and forest pressure, loss of natural habitats, overexploitation of natural environments. However, its implementation could lead to some environmental and social concerns. These identify in the environmental and social management



framework (ESMF) include risk of soil pollution from inappropriate use of fertilizers and pesticides use and their consequences on human and animal health, risk of conflicts in income sharing, risk of loss of biodiversity due to monospecific plantations. The ESMF includes mitigation measures for all potential environmental and social risks associated with the different project components, as well as environmental and social selection procedure (screening) to prepare site specific ESIA/ESMPs. The project has also developed various other safeguards instruments including a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), a Policy Framework (PF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), a Cultural Heritage Framework and a Pest Management Plan. These safeguard instruments outline the mitigation measures that the project is required to implement in order to mitigate potential environmental and social issues that have already been identified, such as the potential use of pesticides, potential restriction of livelihoods and impacts on cultural heritage. The project is expected to have mainly positive impacts on the surrounding communities, as it focuses on restoration of the forests and increasing utility of the existing natural resources by local communities in a sustainable manner. However, there is a potential for some restrictions and limitations of existing livelihood activities or changes to these for which the above-mentioned documents have been developed that outline the appropriate steps to take. The project aims to target a total number of 527,000 direct beneficiaries. These will come from the 24 cocoa producing farmers cooperatives in Classified Forests, 50 farmers associations who depend on the natural resources and 971 cocoa cooperatives operating in the rural domain. In total in the project area, there are around 293 villages with a total population of 1,200,000 people. The project activities are aiming to provide alternative livelihoods for local communities limit the damaging effects of some of the current activities on the natural resources, this includes limiting artisanal gold mining and non-sustainable farming practices; however, precise locations and people to be effected are not known at this stage. Each project will be evaluated for environmental and social impacts (e.g. brief environmental and social assessments or negative eligibility lists) and only implemented if they comply with the World Bank's environmental and social standards and the objectives of the REDD+ program.

#### **ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure**

A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been developed and will be disclosed in September 2020. The SEP outlines the stakeholder engagement previously undertaken in 2019 as part of the REDD+ strategy, of which there were 144 participants (12 women) in 4 different regions. The SEP also outlines the different types of engagements to be undertaken with all the various project stakeholders going forward, including women and vulnerable people. These are considered appropriate for the size and nature of the project. The SEP emphasizes that the program will be heavily participatory with communities involved in the development of management plans for their areas and the subsequent conservation and livelihood activities. The SEP includes a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), which includes various levels of grievance resolution and that will be accessible to all project affected people. The project will also have local community committees to interface between villages and the project, which will enable the stakeholder engagement to be strengthened. This has been outlined in the 2019 Emissions Reduction Program for the Taï National Park in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire document





(<https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/system/files/documents/190422-ERPD%20RCI%20FV.pdf>) and the 2016 national GRM document (ÉTUDE RELATIVE À L'ÉLABORATION D'UN MÉCANISME DE RÉGLEMENT DES PLAINTES ET DES RECOURS DANS LE CADRE DU PROCESSUS REDD+). The project will need to ensure continuous stakeholder engagement and feedback between the communities and the projects (via the community committees) as outlined in the SEP to increase the project benefits. The SEP will be implemented by the community committees on the one hand and the social specialist hired as part of the project on the other hand. They will work in close collaboration to ensure continuous exchange is occurring.

## B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts

### Assessment of the relevance of the project's risks and impacts, given its context at the time of Appraisal

#### ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

Based on the nature and magnitude of the activities financed by the project, it is likely that direct workers working for the integrated project unit (PIU) will be hired. There will also be some limited numbers of community workers, mainly members of the community committees. The remaining people will be community workers, who will work independently of the project and are not hired directly but will receive benefits sharing once their activities are completed. Civil servants working in connection with the program full-time or part-time will remain subject to the terms and conditions of their existing public-sector employment or agreement, unless there has been an effective legal transfer of their employment or engagement to the project.

The project will need to meet the requirements of ESS2 for terms and conditions of employment, non-discrimination and equal opportunity, worker's organizations, child labor, forced labor, the grievance mechanism and occupational health and safety, as outlined in the LMP that has been developed for the project.

Based on the fact that agricultural activities are prevalent in the area of intervention and there are high incidences of child labor in the sector, it is important that the project effectively enforce the measures outlined in the LMP with respect to child labor, especially as part of the community worker recruitment. Moreover, the project aims to prioritize youth and women and will therefore need to make sure that working conditions for them are adequate and that any incidences of Sexual Harassment Abuse / Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) are mitigated. Finally, the REDD+ global GRM that was developed in 2016 and for which the different committees are being put into place will also be used for the worker grievances, as the workers will be very intertwined with the communities and the global system established will be effective in handling worker's grievances as well. Therefore, no separate grievance mechanism will be established but the global grievance mechanism will be used. Currently, the GRM is establishing the different committees, particularly the community committees and the social specialist will conduct a field visit by the end of September 2020 to verify the operationalization of the committees and identify any gaps (e.g. capacity, funding etc.) needed to make them fully functional.

#### ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

The overall impact of the project's activities on the vegetation and faunal habitat will be minimal as most of them will be focused on agricultural intensification and agroforestry towards "zero



deforestation” agriculture, sustainable management of forests and conservation of Classified Forests and National Parks, afforestation, reforestation and restoration of degraded lands and forests. However, the agricultural intensification could necessitate the use of pesticides with negative impacts on the environment. To mitigate these risks, direct beneficiaries (farmers associations of TNP, cocoa producing farmers in Classified Forests, cocoa cooperatives in the Rural Domain) involved in this activity will be required to apply good pest management approach in line with the Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP), while adopting as much as possible alternatives to chemical pesticides (i.e. homologated biopesticides).

During the Program implementation phase, air emissions will be very low since vehicles and machinery will not be used. Only fugitive dust generated by activities implementation is expected. The short-term and small-scale nature of the works during the Program implementation phase might not generate noise that might induce nuisance for people. However, the Environmental and Social Management Framework which is prepared by the borrower includes mitigation measures to minimize and manage the noise levels such by applying standard restrictions to hours of site work that are close to communities.

Based on the nature and the small-scale of activities to be implemented on the ground, no significant quantity of solid waste will be generated. It is anticipated that most of the solid waste will be composed of grass, woods, leaves which are biodegradable. Plastics used for nurseries are also expected but not a lot. However, a system that will help to collect plastics will be set up for their proper management and specific measures will be indicated in the ESIA reports of the subprojects and the Specific Waste Disposal and Management Plans (WDMP) that will be prepared before the execution of subprojects. The prepared ESMF contains procedures relating to the management of waste and hazardous materials and pollution and nuisances.

#### **ESS4 Community Health and Safety**

The project activities include a potential use of agrochemicals used as part of the agricultural intensification and agroforestry activities under component 1, which could increase the community’s exposure to hazardous materials depending on the nature and quantities of chemicals used. In addition to the ESMF, a Pesticide Management Plan has been developed for the project that outlines the required mitigation measures to be applied. This includes measures regarding proper management, store, transport and disposal of hazardous materials and waste, as well as minimizing community exposure.

The specific risks in relation with each subproject will be analyzed in the ESIA reports, and the specific measures for their prevention and management will be defined and applied during the implementation of these subprojects.





Otherwise, the program activities are not likely to cause any serious health and safety impacts on the communities and due to the fact that most of the labor is likely to be community workers, there is no labor influx foreseen, which significantly reduces the risk of disease, SEA/SH risks and exploitation of women.

The project will make payments transfers to beneficiaries in line with the Benefits Sharing Plan arrangements that will be developed as part of the project and the wider REDD+ strategy. There are a couple of important aspects to consider in relation to benefits sharing, namely transparency governance and under/non-performance. Transparency and governance are key to ensure that benefits are correctly distributed and provided to the direct beneficiaries of the project. The process for payments should also be completed in a timely manner to avoid frustrations and grievances from beneficiaries. For transparency it is also recommended that Benefit Sharing Plans include information on the selection criteria for governance structures, the make-up of stakeholders in these structures (including e.g., local communities, government, Civil Society Organizations, private sector, etc.) and responsibilities of each member to be able to communicate these clearly to the beneficiaries. Finally, there is also a risk of under-performance or differential performance of beneficiary groups. Therefore, the Benefit Sharing Plan should include a contingency plan to address these circumstances throughout the lifetime of the project, including identifying alternative sources of finance and establishing a buffer reserve from generated ERPA Payments to address potential future ER Program under-performance or non-performance. Finally, stakeholder management and managing beneficiary expectations is also key to avoid frustrations and grievances. This should be done through the community committees.

#### **ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement**

The activities financed by the project will not require land acquisition or involuntary physical resettlement. However, some of the activities such as restriction and changes to artisanal gold mining and a shift towards zero deforestation agricultural could lead to changes or restrictions in people's livelihoods. As the specific sites for the subprojects have not yet been identified, it is not possible to say at this point how many people will be impacted. The PIU states that there is a total of 293 villages (around 1,200,000 people) in the project area and the project aims to have a total number of 527,000 direct beneficiaries. These will come from the 24 cocoa producing farmers cooperatives in Classified Forests, 50 farmers associations who depend on the natural resources and 971 cocoa cooperatives operating in the rural domain. . The project has prepared a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and a Policy Framework (PF) that will provide guidance regarding how to manage any economic or physical resettlement that cannot be avoided and when a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) will need to be prepared if these impacts cannot be avoided.

#### **ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources**

The application of this ESS seeks to ensure that all precautions were taken in the ER-Program to protect biodiversity, as some activities like restoration and protection of the natural tree cover in classified forests could have potential adverse impacts on natural habitats. But the objectives and design of the Program's activities have been defined in such a way as to fully meet the expectations of biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management. Therefore, within the



framework of the subprojects, ESIA's are planned to consider these ecological aspects. The provisions and measures advocated by the ESIA's will be implemented and monitored.

The ESMF, developed as part of REDD+ process, includes a specific chapter on natural habitats protection and provides guidance on applying the mitigation hierarchy and the precautionary principles in the design and implementation of the program's activities to promote the sustainable management of natural resources and support livelihoods of local communities.

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

**Not relevant:** This standard is not currently considered relevant for Cote d'Ivoire..



**ESS8 Cultural Heritage**

It is not anticipated that the program will impact cultural heritage. During the community consultations conducted for the REDD+ project, community members identified sacred forests, sacred rivers, cemeteries, sacred woods, religious buildings, sacred mountains are all located in the proposed project areas. The consultation minutes do not list any specific locations but suggested that cultural heritage was present in the intervention areas of the REDD+ programs, of which this program forms part. Therefore, a Physical Cultural Resources Management Framework (PCRMF) which outlines the process to follow in case any of the subprojects encounter any cultural heritage sites, both tangible and intangible. The sub-project specific environmental and social assessments will confirm the existence of tangible or intangible cultural heritage and the process will then be managed according to the PCRMF.

**ESS9 Financial Intermediaries**

Not relevant

**B.3. Reliance on Borrower’s policy, legal and institutional framework, relevant to the Project’s specific ES risks and impacts**

	<b>Reliance on Borrower’s policy, legal and institutional framework</b>	<b>Relevant laws, regulations, rules and procedures, including regional and local requirements</b>
<b>ESS 1</b>	No	
<b>ESS 2</b>	No	
<b>ESS 3</b>	No	
<b>ESS 4</b>	No	
<b>ESS 5</b>	No	
<b>ESS 6</b>	No	
<b>ESS 7</b>	No	
<b>ESS 8</b>	No	
<b>ESS 9</b>	No	
<b>ESS 10</b>	No	

**B.4. Other Relevant Project Risks**

COVID 19 continues to be prevalent in the Ivory Coast and with new cases still begin recorded throughout the country. It will be important that the project considers COVID 19 adaptations and precautions for all activities and that adequate mitigation measures and supplies (masks, gels etc.) are provided where necessary

**C. Common Approach**

No



*Provide outline of Common Approach, identifying key substantive and procedural aspects.*

#### D. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways

No

*Describe steps taken to comply with the Bank Operational Policy:*

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas

No

*Describe steps taken to comply with the Bank Operational Policy:*

### III. BORROWER'S ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

	DELIVERABLES against MEASURES AND ACTIONs IDENTIFIED	TIMELINE for DELIVERABLES
<b>ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts</b>		
	Environmental and Social Management Framework	Prior to Appraisal
<b>ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure</b>		
	Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan including a Grievance Redress Mechanism	Prior to Appraisal
<b>ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions</b>		
	Draft Labor Management Plan	Prior to Appraisal
<b>ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management</b>		
	Pest Management Plan (PMP)	Prior to appraisal
	Environmental and Social Impacts Assessment (ESIA)	Prior to implementation
	Waste Disposal and Management Plans (WDMP)	Prior to project execution
<b>ESS4 Community Health and Safety</b>		
	COVID 19 action plan	Prior to Project Implementation
<b>ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement</b>		
	Policy Framework	Prior to appraisal
	Resettlement Policy Framework	
<b>ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources</b>		
	Environmental and Social Impacts Assessment of the subprojects	Prior to the subprojects' s implementation
<b>ESS7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities</b>		
	No actions required as ESS7 not relevant	
<b>ESS8 Cultural Heritage</b>		
	Physical Cultural Resources Management Framework (PCRMF)	Prior to Appraisal
<b>ESS9 Financial Intermediaries</b>		
	No actions required as no FI involved	

### IV. WORLD BANK ES OVERSIGHT

Corporate advice/oversight will be provided by an Environmental and Social Standards Adviser (ESSA) during project implementation

No



## V. CONTACT POINTS

### World Bank

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### Borrower/Client/Recipient

Cote d'Ivoire Republic

### Implementing Agency(ies)

## VI. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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## VII. APPROVAL *(cleared by Maria Sarraf, Practice Manager, on September 4, 2020)*

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