



Combined Project Information Documents / Integrated Safeguards Datasheet (PID/ISDS)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 02-Feb-2018 | Report No: PIDISDSA21299



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country Burundi	Project ID P160613	Project Name Burundi Landscape Restoration and Resilience Project	Parent Project ID (if any)
Region AFRICA	Estimated Appraisal Date 29-Jan-2018	Estimated Board Date 15-Mar-2018	Practice Area (Lead) Environment & Natural Resources
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Ministry of Finance, Budget and Privatization	Implementing Agency Ministry of Water, Environment, Land and Urban Planning	

Proposed Development Objective(s)

19. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to restore land productivity in targeted degraded landscapes and, in the event of an eligible crisis or emergency, to provide immediate and effective response to said eligible crisis or emergency

Components

Institutional Development and Capacity Building for Landscape Restoration and Resilience
Sustainable Landscape Management Practices
Improved Management of Protected Areas and Reserves
Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC)
Project Management, Communications, and Monitoring

Financing (in USD Million)

Financing Source	Amount
IDA Grant	30.00
Total Project Cost	30.00

Environmental Assessment Category

B - Partial Assessment

Decision

The review did authorize the preparation to continue



Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

- Burundi's aim at reducing poverty and achieving shared prosperity in a sustainable manner is majorly constrained by the demographic burden and fragility.** Political and climatic fragility along with economic volatility are putting a break on the country's growth prospects. As identified by the 2017 Strategic Country Diagnosis (SCD), the political, institutional, economic, and environmental fragility are highly intertwined and in many ways feed on each other.
- Burundi's geographic and demographic characteristics, exacerbated by climate risks, have subjected the rural lands to immense pressure.** Much of the country's terrain is hilly and mountainous, with natural forests once covering 30–50 percent of its territory. The country is endowed with other valuable natural assets such as abundant rainfall, dense river network, freshwater lakes, fertile arable land, and productive marshlands. However, Burundi's population is characterized by an extremely high population density (approximately 470 per square km), the second most densely populated country in Africa, and rapid growth (3.3 percent per year over the past two decades). With slow urbanization, 87 percent of the population still resides in rural areas, mainly engaging in small-scale agriculture. The consequence has been a substantial pressure on forests and agricultural lands. As forests, have been cleared for agricultural production, they now account for only 6.6 percent of the country's territory (deforestation). Steep hillsides have increasingly been brought under cultivation without erosion control and, with significant land fragmentation into tiny plots, intensive farming practices have increasingly become unsustainable in terms of preserving soil fertility and integrity (land degradation). Amplified by climate events such as torrential rains, flash floods and droughts, the frequency and intensity of landslides in the hilly farmed areas has increased. This is affecting top soils and cultivable land thereby increasing the pressure to convert remaining forests to agricultural lands.
- In addition, Burundi has a history of extreme climate-related events, but its capacity to respond to related shocks remains very low.** It is the 4th most vulnerable country and the 20th least ready country when it comes to combating climate change effects and coping with natural disasters such as droughts, wildfires, floods, and land-slides. Historical data show that Burundi has experienced alternating cycles of excess and deficit rainfall nearly every decade over the last 6 decades, as well as overall increased mean temperature, with the dry season getting longer. Past extreme weather events including the severe floods in 2006 and 2007 and severe droughts in 1999–2000 and in 2005 (Republic of Burundi (RoB), (2007)), accounted for losses exceeding 5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) (SCD 2017) affecting over 2 million Burundians.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

- In that context, the consequences of deforestation and land degradation have been costly to the population and the economy.** Indeed, the population depends significantly on the land resource: not only is it the source of food, income and energy for the vast majority but, as poverty reaches nearly 77 percent of the



population (living with less than US\$1.90/day), it is also particularly vulnerable to related incidents. Deforestation and intensive agriculture on hillsides without proper erosion control (for example, terracing) have disturbed soil integrity and compromised the water retention function of the soil upstream. Thus, landslides and floods are more frequent, causing substantial damages to the infrastructure and human lives downstream. This was illustrated by the tragic 2014 floods in Bujumbura despite rainfall within norms. Compounding the effects of soil erosion, intensive agriculture without adequate use of fertilizer has also affected crop yields. Thus, production has stagnated over the last two decades and, lagging below population growth,¹ threatened rural households' food and nutrition security, and livelihoods (stunting affects a remarkable 60 percent of the children under 5 in rural areas). Soil erosion has also led to the shrinking of water bodies, such as Lake Tanganyika and the northern lakes, as well as siltation and drying up of various rivers, including those feeding hydroelectric dams. The Burundi Country Environmental Analysis (CEA) has estimated that the annual cost of yield losses of major crops (beans, maize, and sweet potato) because of soil erosion amount up to US\$209 million, while that of flood risk due to unsustainable land management is about US\$3.3 million. In addition, pressure on the land resource, further stressed in some instances by the return of displaced populations, has directly contributed to social tensions and related instability.

5. **Despite long term trends, past approaches to the problem have rather been reactive. Proactive approach would be necessary to address the root causes upstream.** Reactive policies have included repair of roads and bridges after landslides and floods, dredging of streams and rivers, and technical and material support to farmers after failed crops. However, without addressing the root causes of weak water retention of soils or erosion of fertile soils upstream, these reactive measures will need to be simply repeated with increased frequency and magnitude.

6. **With climate change, the frequency and intensity of severe meteorological and hydrological events are likely to continue escalating, amplifying the risks of further soil erosion and crop yield reduction.** The proposed project therefore aims at reversing the policy approach by promoting proactive investment in building resilient landscape with sustainable land management (SLM) practices.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

7. **Many interrelated problems are observed on rural landscapes in Burundi.** Rapid population growth has been a major contributing factor of deforestation through land use change for farming and because of household dependence on wood for fuel. In turn, as access to off farm biomass has decreased, households have turned, for their energy needs, to on farm organic material that normally contributes to soil fertility. Burning of wood fuel itself causes indoor air pollution in rural households with serious health consequences. Furthermore, as there are now few, if any, opportunities for land expansion (agricultural land already covers 79 percent of the territory), fragmentation of cropland because of population growth drives farmers to further intensify production, hence depleting soil fertility to the limit and, along with it, crop productivity. There is inadequate production to meet many households' year-round food needs. Undernutrition is further exacerbated by seasonal hunger, typically around October and April, time during which there is typically insufficient intake of micro-nutrient rich foods.²

¹ Net agricultural production per capita has decreased by over 20% of the last two decades (FAO).

² Hence, only 19% of children 6-23 months consume a diverse diet (at least four food groups), only 33% are fed with WHO-recommended frequency, and only 29% consume iron-rich foods (World Food Program (WFP), 2012. Food Security Monitoring system (FSMS).



And, as the population depends heavily on the natural resource for their livelihoods, the issues described above further aggravate rural poverty and fuel tensions (exacerbated by disputes over the land resource). In turn, they push the poor to use unsustainable cropping and animal husbandry practices and further exploit off farm resources (high deforestation rates and informal mining activities). There are significant environmental consequences, including soil erosion and encroachment in protected areas (PAs). About 80 percent of Burundi's land is agricultural, with almost all being rain-fed and vulnerable to climate variability and change, decreasing rains in the northeastern region increase risks to lives, to crops, livestock, bushfires.

8. **Accordingly, landscape restoration effort in Burundi must address multifaceted problems related to rural poverty, nutrition and food security, as well as land use at the community level.** Deforested and degraded land must be actively repaired by replenishing lost soil nutrients and planting appropriate vegetation cover to restore hydrological functions of the soil systems. Measures to prevent future upstream soil erosion and downstream catastrophes also need to be introduced. This includes terracing of sloped farmlands and use of living plant materials for erosion control ('bioengineering') in critical locations. These activities will increase crop yields and bring back into production some of the farmlands that have been deserted after depletion of soil nutrient or because of physical inaccessibility (for example, landslides). This would relieve severe shortage of arable land and help address conflicts related with access to farm lands. To increase efficiency of its agrarian economy, Burundi also needs to improve weather forecasting and climate services to help farmers better manage water and agriculture related infrastructure, inform climate smart planning approaches and enhance agricultural productivity. Wider adoption of improved agricultural practices also contributes to improving land productivity and reducing soil erosion. Finally, measures to prevent further deforestation must also be taken. Active protection of remaining forest, particularly in PAs and their surrounding areas, is essential. In addition, efforts to curb the demand for fuelwood by households may be useful (for example, promotion of improved cook stoves and rural electrification). International experiences (for example, in Ethiopia and Rwanda) show that the success of these efforts requires strong engagement of local communities and administrations, as well as active participation of landowners with legally recognized access and ownership.

9. **In pursuit of landscape restoration in Burundi, special attention needs to be given to land institution as well as fragility.** The main issues on rural land resources in Burundi have been well documented: (a) majority of the population depends on exploitation of the land resources for their livelihood, (b) plots are rapidly and continuously fragmented (an average of 0.5 ha per household, down to 0.3 in some areas such as near Bujumbura), (c) disputes over land are the most common cause of litigation before courts and other resolutions and sometimes escalate into physical violence), and (d) the overwhelming majority of landowners do not possess any legally recognized document proving their rights. In the context of the proposed project, all these points are relevant. The relevant unit of landscape restoration is a hill (or *colline* in French),³ which sometimes corresponds to the lowest administrative unit in Burundi. This means that restoration activities will span across boundaries of individual land plots, and collaboration and cooperation across landowners are essential for the success of restoration at the landscape level. Establishing clear and transparent demarcation of each plot is a necessary step. By addressing this issue, the proposed project will also support the other interventions in contributing to reducing land resource related social tensions in the targeted communities.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Development Objective(s) (From PAD)

³ That is, the spatial unit around which land uses are logically organized by communities, from the top to the bottom of the hill.



10. The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to restore land productivity in targeted degraded landscapes and, in the event of an eligible crisis or emergency, to provide immediate and effective response to said eligible crisis or emergency.

11. The PDO will be achieved through: (a) Institutional Development and Capacity Building for Landscape Restoration and Resilience at both national and watershed levels including improved production and use of hydromet information for decision making, (b) support to the communities in the targeted areas to scale up Sustainable Landscape Management Practices, (c) Improved Management of Protected Areas and Reserves, (d) a Contingency Emergency Response Component, and (e) Project Management, Communications, and Monitoring.

Key Results Indicators

- (a) Improved land productivity (%)
- (b) Increase in land area under sustainable landscape management practices (ha)
- (c) Share of targeted community members with rating 'Satisfied' or above on project interventions (disaggregated by sex) (%)

D. Project Description

12. The project will use a community led landscape approach —that is, an integrated approach to sustainably manage land and water resources for multiple purposes and functions. Managing natural resources in an integrated way across different land uses and connecting them at the landscape level (*colline, watershed/basin...*) provide the basis for addressing tradeoffs and enhancing people's livelihoods, security, and resilience to climate variability and change. To successfully implement this approach, the project will support policy development and capacity building in support of planning and implementing a landscape approach across economic sectors by focusing on development challenges at the right scale and by minimizing trade-offs and reaping more value from existing resources. The project will be implemented through four components.

Component 1: Institutional Development and Capacity Building for Landscape Restoration and Resilience (US\$2million)

13. The project will support the development of the policies and capacities at the national and local levels to plan and implement land preservation and restoration in the targeted project areas, using a resilient and integrated landscape approach. This will be done by financing technical assistance (TA), workshops, operational costs, and equipment.

14. **Watershed planning and policy support** activities will entail the development and dissemination of a manual on participatory watershed management and erosion control, as well as the establishment of effective interdepartmental structures to organize collaboration on water management at watershed level. Activities will also support the improvement of hydro-meteorological related early warning services locally (e.g. on flood risks) for the communities and relevant local institutions in the targeted watersheds/basins. These activities will support strategic planning and policy reforms for landscape restoration. This will include the review and updating of existing policies and regulations to address identified gaps, and guidelines for implementing relevant pieces of regulations. The outputs will focus on: integrated approaches for forest, watersheds and agriculture land use management; community



mobilization and partnerships for sustainable forest landscape restoration (FLR), including PAs; landscape restoration/land use planning at the *colline* levels; the inclusion, as an innovative development, of women as co-beneficiaries of the national land certification scheme ; and targeted studies, for example, on the effect of land development on land tenure, resource mobilization for sustainable PA management.

15. **Capacity Development activities** at both the national and local levels will support tailored capacity development (skills training and knowledge exchange) for the various public agencies, administrations and partners that contribute at the different levels (from the *colline*/local to the national level) to executing and implementing activities. The project will promote local communities' role in project decision making and to overall peace building at the local level. For example, the project will facilitate the inclusion of all actors, including women, in the selection committees in a structured community mobilization and beneficiary selection process that hinges on (a) equitable distribution across the unit target area, (b) vulnerable groups (for example, ex-combatants, youth, elderly, Batwa people), and (c) improved grievance redress and conflict mitigation (adopting community recognized vehicles). Activities will also support improved local monitoring and evaluation (M&E) involving communities. In addition, support will be provided to the Land Commission Permanent Secretariat to archive, at the central level, land certification information generated at local level under Component 2. Finally, the project will facilitate improved collaboration between the key government ministries and other donor partners by supporting national platforms for FLR and Sustainable Land and Water Management.

Component 2: Sustainable Landscape Management Practices (US\$22 million)

16. The project will restore degraded landscape and improve land management in the targeted collines of the Bujumbura Rural and Muyinga provinces, in the communes of Buhinyuza and Isale. This will be done through land certification, landscape restoration and erosion control, and improved practices of crop production. The targeted total area is about 13,000 ha for 22 collines. Activities will be designed so that lessons can be drawn and approaches improved in the perspective of possible scaling out similar work into other communes under a follow up phase/project. The project will finance TA, works, goods and operational costs.

17. Hence, under the first subcomponent on **Landscape Restoration and Erosion Control (US\$16.6 million)**, the project will construct over 7,800 ha of terraces on degraded hillsides and strategically augment vegetation⁴ cover at critical points in the landscape, to prevent soil erosion, increase soil moisture and reduce surface runoff. This will entail a range of supporting activities such as biophysical treatment of gullies, tree planting, agroforestry, 'green manure' crops, fodder grass contour hedges, water harvesting, and selective soil fertility enhancements. Taking a community driven approach, the project will use cash-for-work to build the terraces. Activities will draw among others from similar experiences in Burundi, Rwanda and Ethiopia, and technical guidelines for terracing will be developed prior to starting implementation. The outcome will strengthen resilience to climate change risks, reduce river sedimentation and flood risks, and enable recovery of agricultural lands.

18. Activities under the second subcomponent on **Improved Crop Production Practices and Nutrition (US\$3.6 million)** will support farmer groups to protect the topsoil, recover their soil fertility, and intensify crop production through SLM practices, including year-round production of micronutrient-rich foods. This will entail farmers training and experience sharing, access to improved inputs (seeds and seedlings including high nutritional

⁴ Including 846 ha of bioengineering works, 1,693 ha in soil conservation, 2,539 ha in water harvesting civil works, 1,693 ha of reforestation in non-PAs; and, by extension under Component 3, 120,777 ha in the PA system.



varieties, tree crops, soil stabilizing grasses, and fodder crops) including by establishing community nurseries, as well as access to livestock as critical source of manure (using the well-established “solidarity chain” mechanism). Training will include nutrition messages and demonstration plots based on the integrated agriculture-nutrition approach developed under the Burundi Maternal and Child Nutrition Enhancement Project, while the introduction of bio-fortified crops, for example, beans and bananas, will aim at addressing iron and Vitamin A deficiencies respectively.

19. Activities under Subcomponent 2.3 on **Land Certification (US\$1.8 million)** will start prior to the first subcomponent to establish clear plot boundaries and related land certificates before starting the terraces. Among other outcomes, this will address the risk of disputes on land rights once it is treated. A new law and institutional framework exists and allows the procedures for land certification. In line with the new Land Code of 2011, and using the approach and systems that have proved robust and effective under recent land certification projects in the country, the project will help set up and strengthen decentralized land certification offices, and support systematic certification of the land on all the *collines* of the communes of Isale and Buhinyuza. The process will follow an established series of rigorous steps, which promote inclusiveness and accessibility of the process through consultation and participation, community verification of the results, an appeal mechanism, dispute resolution, links with a national registration system, and use of the data at the central level. As a way to address an important gender gap (gender inequity in land tenure), a study that will be undertaken in the early phase to inform project implementation in the project areas. Also, as women are currently not recognized in land titles, the project will also encourage joint signature of husband and wife on land certificates.

Component 3: Improved Management of Protected Areas and Reserves (US\$3 million)

20. Activities will support the effective and sustainable development of the PA system in Burundi in order to preserve the biodiversity (for example, Chimpanzees) and ecosystem services for the well-being of people with focus on forest dependent Batwa and PA communities. Representing 5.9 percent of the land mass, the PAs harbor biodiversity of national and global importance and protect major river systems. The proposed activities will scale up successful outcomes and address major gaps in the implementation of the Management plans for three priority PAs of Burundi: the Kibira National Park, the Ruvubu National Park, and the Bururi Forest Reserve. There, the project will promote ecological, economic, social and institutional sustainability of the PA system. In particular, it will support activities focusing on the communities, through communication, education and information on biodiversity, community-led conservation and PA restoration including in monitoring and surveillance, promotion of income-generating activities to reduce the destructive use of natural resources such as honey production and tree fruits with positive economic prospects (e.g. passion fruit), and development of ecotourism business plans. The project will provide the needed training, skills improvement and infrastructural capacity for park management, support community’s role in decision making around PA management, and strengthen partnerships and collaboration with key line ministries and local PA conservation organizations and groups.

21. Activities will first deal with the sustainable management of PAs through: a) The provision of technology, equipment and resources to strengthen surveillance involving communities and local law enforcement, as well as PA boundary demarcation; b) Development, revision and implementation of PA management plans to improve biodiversity conservation; and c) Public awareness and education on biodiversity and wildlife. Activities will also promote jobs and alternative livelihoods around PAs, community-led conservation, integration of Batwa communities into PA management activities as well as



community-based ecotourism in and around PAs. The latter will entail the construction and rehabilitation of Park infrastructure, wildlife rescue; tourist services training and skills; marketing and promotion of tourism services in the PAs; strengthening local partnerships; and improving PA connectivity.

22. The project will benefit (a) PA communities in and around the PAs in jobs and training; (b) NGOs, local PA conservation groups or associations through capacity building and joint partnerships for service delivery, and communities who indirectly depend on PA services including for water, soil protection, medicinal plants, aesthetic/cultural values; (c) the Batwa communities through support for their full integration in planning, decision making and implementation PA protection activities and in the choice and provision of viable alternative livelihoods for them; (d) the Office for Environmental Protection (OBPE) in skills development and infrastructure; (e) the public sector by strengthening its capacity to manage and regulate ecosystem services in PA landscapes; and (f) the global community in the preservation of biodiversity of global importance, as well as carbon mitigation.

Component 4: Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) (Standardized, US\$0 million)

23. This contingency component can be triggered by a joint Government and World Bank agreement in case of an emergency. This component had been embedded in the project to finance early recovery and/or specific emergency works, goods, and services, in case of eligible emergencies/crises/disaster caused by natural or man-made hazard including public health crisis. The mechanism is designed to support enhancement of preparedness, early recovery activities, and provision of rapid response to disaster that can be implemented in a relatively short period. This component was considered necessary because of the uncertainty inherent in Burundi's current socioeconomic climate: unexpected flooding or erosion, an aggravation of the state of fragility, or the return of large groups of displaced people could potentially shift priorities. Reallocation of funds to CERC can only be done when there is a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or society causing widespread human, economic, or environmental losses that exceed the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources. Following such a disaster event where both the region and national resources cannot sufficiently and adequately address the situation, the Government of Burundi (GoB) may trigger activation of CERC according to national law and subject to the World Bank's activation policy.

Component 5: Project Management, Communications, and Monitoring (US\$3 million)

24. This component focuses on all aspects of project management, including procurement, financial management (FM), M&E, knowledge generation and management, communication, monitoring mitigation measures related to environmental and social safeguards, and preparation of annual work plans and organization of audit reports. This will include a communication strategy to report on the project results and raise awareness about land degradation, restoration and climate change issues. The M&E system will report on the expected project's results and systematize the project's lessons learned. Finally, the project will also finance studies to assess the project's impacts on specific elements such as revenues to beneficiary communities and improved livelihoods; and effectiveness of resource mobilization for sustainable management of PAs. To manage these functions, the project will use an existing Project Management Unit (PMU) and finance TA, works, goods, workshops, and operational costs.



E. Implementation

25. The implementation arrangements contribute to the overall efforts of Burundi to reduce risks and increase resilience by supporting those Burundians who need help the most. To do that the project will adopt an inclusive and participatory process for community involvement in decision making and in implementation of project activities.⁵ The project will build conflict-prevention and trust-building implementation arrangements at the local and national level; involve independent NGOs in the implementation of the components; and include private sector and academia along with Government's Agencies in the steering committee of the project.

26. Institutionally, the project will use existing structures, committees and units at the provincial and commune-level provide resources/inputs to reinforce their capacity to support project implementation. Where such basic institutions are not existent as may be the case in some target areas, the project will support the GoB in establishing them.

27. The Project Implementation Unit (PIU), with two regional offices, will be hosted by MEEATU, that is, the executing agency. The PIU will manage the day to day operations of the project. It will have the key task of ensuring technical coordination and interaction, at both central and provincial/local levels as well as between these levels, of the different services and organizations responsible for implementing the respective project subcomponents and activities. Execution of the project components and subcomponent activities will be contracted by the PIU to local, national and international service providers. Service providers will be selected using a transparent and inclusive process taking into due account demonstrable experience and institutional capacity in the targeted area of concern. Service providers will include local civil works contractors and national and international NGOs. Labor will be supplied by local workforce to be hired from the project area with focus on vulnerable groups, women, youth and the Batwa people (cash-for-work program). To ensure proper oversight, a mix public-private Project Steering Committee will be established at the national level and mirrored by some multi-stakeholders' technical task force at the provincial level. These arrangements are further detailed below.

Project Implementation Responsibilities

28. The PIU will have overall responsibility for managing the project. The Unit will be a continuation of the existing LVEMP unit and comprise government staff and consultants with expertise in fiduciary domains, relevant technical domains, M&E, safeguards, gender, communication, community mobilization, and administration. It will be responsible for managing the Designated Account, recruiting service providers, ensuring monitoring and supervision, and reporting on the project performance to the National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) and the Bank. The Safeguards Specialists will be in charge of project safeguards awareness and accountability, and will follow up on issues related to mediation (if/where required) in potential conflicts and risks of elite capture of project resources. Established at central level, the PIU will have decentralized teams at provincial level, the Provincial Project Implementation Units (PPIUs). These will ensure the link between central management and local actors. Staffed each with 3 or 4 technical/executive officers, they will contribute to implementation of the PIU's responsibilities locally, including project supervision and monitoring.

⁵ As recommended by the 2017 RRA (World Bank, Draft).



29. Mobilization of grassroots level groups will form a central feature of project implementation: To facilitate peer learning at the grassroots level, existing groups constituted around natural resources and forest landscape management (for example, watershed management groups and FFS Groups) will be strengthened or created, if and as needed. These groups will form the unit for local training, awareness, and community-led monitoring of project performance.

30. For prefeasibility studies, design and field level implementation of activities, the project will contract different specialized service providers (for example, consulting and civil works firms, NGOs, and technical institutions), most of which are engaged in NRM activities in the targeted landscape.

31. Hence, under Component 1, the PIU will contract consultancy firms with specialized expertise (for example, in forest and natural resources policies) to address the related analytical and capacity building gaps. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) will conduct the national level Restoration Opportunity Assessment Methodology (ROAM) exercise and train the National ROAM Group. Key technical aspects of the local hydrometeorological early warning services will be supported through consultancies while ensuring the integration of systems and services. Twinning or other partnership arrangements for IGEBU with appropriate international, regional or national meteorological and hydrological agencies will also be considered. Procurement of equipment will be carried out in line with the World Bank procurement guidelines.

32. Under Component 2, service providers will be recruited on a competitive basis to support implementation of the Landscape Restoration and Erosion Control activities, that is, manage the community awareness and sensitization, community mobilization for the FFSs and organization of local labor for civil works.

33. Local environment and civil works engineering firms will establish the terraces, as well as the bio-engineering and water harvesting infrastructure. The community mobilization NGOs and the environment and civil works engineering firms will implement cash-for-work related activities using local people.

34. For Improved Crop Production Practices and Nutrition activities, FAO will be engaged to coordinate and support FFS activities and other selected training activities (including nutrition-agriculture integration). Similarly, Bioversity International (BI) will lead activities related to the provision of agricultural seeds for planting in the restored land, in collaboration with the national agricultural R&D agency ISABU.⁶ Seeds and other farm inputs will be distributed by FAO through the FFS groups. FAO and BI will actively mobilize and collaborate the relevant national/local services and stakeholders in order to promote capacity building and institutional sustainability..

35. To implement the land certification activities, a service provider with demonstrated experience in implementing models similar to those proposed under the project, will be recruited to support the Communal Land Services (CLSs) and the Local Reconnaissance Land Commissions (LRLCs). Support will also be provided by the Association for Peace and Human Rights (APDH) and, for capacity building and guidance including archiving of land certificate information, the Permanent Secretariat of the National Land Commission (NLC). The project implementation arrangement will support the overall peacebuilding efforts and integrate locally recognized grievance redress approaches adopted for land certification and

⁶ ISABU's mandate includes provision of certified seeds, extension services, and applied research activities, soil analysis, and promotion of agricultural best practices in agricultural intensification.



overall natural resources management. Hence, the CLSs will support implementation of the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and conflict redress for land certification. The CLS are newly established *colline* level commissions that provide local communities access to relatively low cost land management services. They have primary responsibility for implementing the land certification. An LRLC will be established at the level of each *colline*. Members include local administration officials and *colline* delegates who are chosen by the community. The LRLC examines the situation of each plots, decides on the merits of the property before land certificate are issued and helps to resolve any land ownership disputes at the *colline* level amicably.

36. Under Component 3 on PAs, OBPE will supply the tree inputs and technical support for restoration interventions in and around the target PAs. The respective park management teams will manage the program of activities as developed in the respective Management Plans and following the model successfully implemented for managing the Bururi Forest reserve under the PADZOC. The project will provide them and existing Community Patrol Groups with basic equipment.

Project Oversight Responsibilities

37. The National Project Steering Committee (NPSC), chaired by MEEATU along with MINAGRIE as Vice Chair, will provide policy, strategic and technical guidance, review implementation progress, advise on and approve the project's annual work plan and budget, and ensure coordination between the different stakeholders in the targeted landscapes. Meeting at least twice a year, it will comprise relevant officials/representatives from key sector ministries and institutions, the governors of the provinces where the project intervenes, as well as selected farmers' organizations, NGOs, and the private sector.

38. A Technical Committee will meet on ad hoc basis depending on needs, to promote effective interaction between the different implementation entities and provide them with technical guidance.

39. Decentralized technical task forces will be set up at the provincial level with similar responsibilities, locally, as the NPSC, including in terms of promoting effective interaction and coordination between the different implementing entities at local level. Chaired by the Provincial Governor, they will involve the respective PPIUs, commune administrators involved in the project, local implementation partners, local university or research institution, and the private sector

F. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

The project area includes 2 communes in the provinces of Muyinga and Bujumbura Rural. The project area also includes the Ruvubu National Park, the Kibira National Park and the Bururi Forest Reserve. These regions have been selected due to their high vulnerability, level of environmental degradation, declining living conditions and lower production capacity. Intervention in these regions is critical in order to stabilize and increase agricultural productivity (on the slopes, as well as in the plains below) and to protect public and private infrastructure (such as roads, water and power supplies, houses, bridges, schools, etc) from landslides caused by heavy rain. The impacts of climate change are also exacerbating the vulnerabilities, with rainfall becoming more intense and resulting in increased soil erosion and siltation of rivers and marshlands. The Burundi Poverty Assessment identifies these provinces and their corresponding communes as among the more impoverished provinces and most heavily environmentally degraded in the country.



Despite large scale environmental degradation, Burundi still retains some essential ecosystems with rich biodiversity that must be protected. Increasing population pressures for agricultural expansion and land conflicts are putting these ecosystems at risk. The absence of a functional land use planning or management system makes it difficult to properly coordinate development and conservation. Batwa are present in the entire project area.

G. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Tracy Hart, Environmental Safeguards Specialist
Peter F. B. A. Lafere, Social Safeguards Specialist

SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	<p>This policy is triggered because the project involves a menu of land restoration interventions ranging from soil erosion stabilization techniques (contour bunding, progressive/radical terracing, planting of anti-erosion hedges) and fodder shrubs, to rainwater conservation practices. While the activities are expected to enhance environmental protection, likely negative impacts likely to be generated include possible air and water pollution, changes in soil physiochemical properties, loss of vegetation due to terracing, and the use of agricultural inputs. Existing infrastructure will be protected and this may require some minor civil engineering works. In addition, social risks draw from political and social tensions in the region, possible exacerbation of land disputes in agriculture projects, and any potential land tenure issues involving the indigenous Batwa.</p> <p>At this stage, while the priority Provinces have been identified, the exact locations of the interventions, as well as the scope and scale of the interventions, are not known. Hence, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been prepared, consulted upon and disclosed. It provides the basic criteria and procedures for screening all</p>



interventions, and guide the preparation of environmental and social management plans (ESMP). The ESMF provides essential baseline data, confirms policies that are triggered, assesses likely impacts, proposes measures for the strengthening of institutional capacity, and estimates the budget required for the implementation of the mitigation measures. It will also include Social and Environmental Clauses/Guidelines (SEC/G) for contractors, and an Environmental and Social Checklist.

Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04

Yes

The policy is triggered at this stage because of the presence of some essential ecosystems with rich biodiversity. Given the fact that these unique and rich ecosystems must be protected, it should be ensured that they don't come under increased threat from agricultural development and increased productivity, and future eco-tourism activities. A functional land use planning or management system should be in place to properly coordinate and arbitrate between development and conservation. In fact, one of the objectives of the project will be to enhance the quality of the ecosystems by providing improved livelihood opportunities within the perimeters of farmed areas and thereby reducing the need to go into parks and PAs for resources, such as timber and meat.

Forests OP/BP 4.36

Yes

The country has witnessed a very high rate of deforestation over the past decades, due primarily to human pressure. The total forest cover now amounts to a meager 6.6% of the total land area. The Policy on Forests is therefore triggered to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to protect the remaining forest cover by limiting interventions to land that is already under agricultural use and preventing any encroachment in adjacent forest areas. The project provides for the creation of buffer zones around selected protected areas, and such activities as are deemed necessary to enhance the quality of the protected areas. Adherence to the policy will ensure that the development of an eco-tourism business plan is in compliance with the policy objectives.

Pest Management OP 4.09

Yes

The policy on Pest Management is triggered because of the likelihood that measures aimed at increasing



agricultural productivity may encourage the use of pesticides. There is therefore a need to promote the use of integrated pest management techniques, including the safe use, storage and disposal of agro-chemicals, should the need to use agro-chemicals arise; the ESMF includes an Integrated Pest Management Plan to provide as much information as possible on eco-friendly approaches to pest management and on dissemination of composting techniques.

Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11 Yes

At this stage, the policy is triggered as a “precautionary” measure. Preliminary assessment has not brought to light any feature of architectural, archeological, or cultural importance (except for a cemetery in the buffer zone of the National Park of Ruvubu). However, because actual project activity sites are not known, and in view of the type of works to be carried out, the ESMF has confirmed the triggering of the said policy. The ESMF, therefore, includes a chance find procedure (compliant with national regulations and Bank’s policy) to be followed by contractors/Implementing Agency on the proper management of physical cultural resources once discovered during project implementation

Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10 Yes

In the Social Assessment, it was estimated that there are approximately 5,477 Batwa families present in the project area, including areas for possible subsequent phases (13/15 communes in Muyinga, Cankuzo, Ruyigi, Bubanza, Rumonge and Bujumbura Rural provinces). Batwa families in Burundi are often among the most vulnerable families in the communities in which they live and specific measures were adopted to ensure that they can participate in and benefit from the project. In accordance with OP 4.10, An Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) for the two communes of Isare (Muyinga province) and Buhinyuza (Bujumbura Rural province) that were identified for the terracing activities, and for the activities in the Ruvubu national park, the Kibira national park and the Bururi forest reserve was prepared, consulted upon and disclosed. This plan was consulted at national, regional and at local level in these two communes, and obtained feedback and broad community support from the



Batwa communities involved. If further communes among the remaining 11/13 are selected later, the IPP will be consulted and locally disclosed in these communes as well.

In accordance with the policy, a Process Framework (PF) was developed, consulted and disclosed. Indeed, the activities under subcomponent 1.1 aim at reinforcing capacity for strategic planning and policy reforms for landscape restoration, and 2.4 Reducing Pressure on Forests, may lead to further restrictions to use of natural resources in Ruvubu National Park, Kibira National Park and Bururi Forest Reserve, and will provide support to enforce existing restrictions in accordance with Park Management Plans. The PF describes the current destructive uses of natural resources in these areas, eligible key user groups, and the participatory process to identify and implement alternative income generation activities to restore livelihoods after enforcement of the restrictions. Livelihood Restoration Plans for each park / reserve will be developed, consulted in accordance with the PF and disclosed during project implementation and prior to the enforcement of restrictions.

A Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) to guide the management of expected limited resettlement was developed, consulted upon and disclosed. Land acquisition or physical displacement is not expected, but the landscape restoration works (which includes contour bunding, progressive/radical terracing, planting of anti-erosion hedges) may entail plot re-profiling, resizing and consolidation, and economic impacts such as loss of crops and perennials. The project will ensure that assets are not lost and that sources of income and means of livelihood are maintained. Mitigation measures will be taken to avoid any loss of livelihood as early as possible. Resettlement Action Plans will be developed, consulted, and disclosed during project implementation and prior to the start of any works.

Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12

Yes

Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37

No

The project does not involve dams



Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	No international waterways are involved.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	The project sites are not located in disputed areas.

KEY SAFEGUARD POLICY ISSUES AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

The project will not result into any large scale, significant or irreversible impacts. Negative impacts likely to be generated include possible air and water pollution, changes in physiochemical properties of soil, loss of vegetation due to terracing, and the use of agricultural inputs. A no-project alternative would, however, accelerate environmental degradation and severely affect the productivity of agricultural lands. The overall impacts of the project will, therefore, be positive. The expected benefits of restoring landscapes in Burundi include better soil fertility, increased agricultural productivity and food security, greater availability and quality of water resources, reduced desertification, enhance biodiversity, creation of green jobs, economic growth, mitigation and increased resilience to climate change. Risk are also linked to possible exacerbation of land disputes in the collines that will be restored, and any potential land tenure issues involving the indigenous Batwa.

Batwa are present throughout the project area and vulnerable as a result of smaller than average plot sizes and increased risk of land tenure insecurity. The project is designed to ensure the social inclusion of socio-economic different communities within the landscape, and has consulted with national and regional Batwa organizations and communities to ensure that Batwa can participate in and benefit from the project. An IPP has been disclosed.

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:

The project involves a menu of land restoration interventions ranging from soil erosion stabilization techniques (contour bunding, progressive/radical terracing, planting of anti-erosion hedges) and fodder shrubs, to rainwater conservation practices. Existing infrastructure will, furthermore, be protected and this may require some minor civil engineering works. Thus, some minor negative impacts could be generated.

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.

An analysis of a “Do Nothing” scenario shows the degradation of the landscapes will continue, while the persistence and intensification of environmental disasters will have dire socio-economic costs. No specific project alternatives were considered during preparation of the project, but the project is designed to ensure lessons are learnt and considered prior to committing to further investments in a possible subsequent phase of the project.

4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.

The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will have overall responsibility for managing the project. The Unit will be a continuation of the existing LVEMP2 unit and comprise government staff and consultants with expertise in safeguards and gender. It will be responsible for ensuring monitoring and supervision, and reporting on the project performance to the National Project Steering Committee (NPSC) and the Bank. Established at central level, the PIU will have decentralized teams at provincial level, the Provincial Project Implementation Units (PPIUs). These will ensure the link



between central management and local actors. Staffed each with 3 or 4 technical/executive officers, they will contribute to implementation of the PIU’s responsibilities locally, including project supervision and monitoring. LVEMP2 is adequately equipped to take on this task. But due to the additional workload, the project will further strengthen the safeguards function of the PIU with the recruitment of an additional environmental safeguards specialist and a social safeguards specialist, as well as additional resources for training of key actors at provincial and community levels. OBPE will be entrusted with an oversight function to ensure that national laws and procedures are being properly implemented.

In addition, the project will develop a GRM to resolve potential conflicts arising over land ownership and certification including the return of absent/refugee owners, cash-for-work grievances, health-and-safety complaints, and other complaints or social conflicts that are associated with the project. The GRM will be based on existing forms of conflict resolution within the community as much as feasible and on the participatory nature of the activities, and will take into account the vulnerability and specific needs of the beneficiaries. The GRM will be based on a social analysis of the communities in which it is implemented and will be included in the project manual.

Hence the project will address land dispute risks through the certification process, which will be characterized by comprehensive use of information, communication, awareness, community participation, mediation of identified disputes, and an appeal mechanism, including for conflict-related displaced people and refugees.

This social issue will be a key aspect of supervision undertaken for the project. In particular, the project will hire an NGO to monitor and report on its social quality and accountability in the targeted communities.

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.

The key stakeholders are the agricultural communities on whose lands the terraces will be built, meaning those in the communes of Isare (Muyinga province) and Buhinyuza (Bujumbura Rural province), as well as the communities around the Kibira National Park, the Ruvubu National Park and the Bururi Forest Reserve. Focus groups and field visits were organized in the pilot collines of the communes Isare and Buhinyuza and around the targeted protected areas. The project and safeguards measures were consulted locally with these communities and will be disclosed after finalization. The Plan to Promote Inclusion of Batwa was consulted locally and regionally with the Batwa communities , including the ones living around the three protected areas, and nationally with UNIPROBA (Unissons-nous pour la Promotion des Batwa). Consultations also involved public actors from different target provinces, local authorities of the pilot communes.

B. Disclosure Requirements

Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other

Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure	For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors
13-Dec-2017	29-Jan-2018	29-Jan-2018

"In country" Disclosure



Burundi
29-Jan-2018

Comments

Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Policy Process

Date of receipt by the Bank
13-Dec-2017

Date of submission for disclosure
29-Jan-2018

"In country" Disclosure

Burundi
29-Jan-2018

Comments

Indigenous Peoples Development Plan/Framework

Date of receipt by the Bank
13-Dec-2017

Date of submission for disclosure
29-Jan-2018

"In country" Disclosure

Burundi
29-Jan-2018

Comments

Pest Management Plan

Was the document disclosed prior to appraisal?

Date of receipt by the Bank

Date of submission for disclosure

"In country" Disclosure



If the project triggers the Pest Management and/or Physical Cultural Resources policies, the respective issues are to be addressed and disclosed as part of the Environmental Assessment/Audit/or EMP.

If in-country disclosure of any of the above documents is not expected, please explain why:

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level (to be filled in when the ISDS is finalized by the project decision meeting)

OP/BP/GP 4.01 - Environment Assessment

Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?

No

OP/BP 4.04 - Natural Habitats

Would the project result in any significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats?

No

If the project would result in significant conversion or degradation of other (non-critical) natural habitats, does the project include mitigation measures acceptable to the Bank?

OP 4.09 - Pest Management

Does the EA adequately address the pest management issues?

Yes

Is a separate PMP required?

No

If yes, has the PMP been reviewed and approved by a safeguards specialist or PM? Are PMP requirements included in project design? If yes, does the project team include a Pest Management Specialist?

OP/BP 4.11 - Physical Cultural Resources

Does the EA include adequate measures related to cultural property?

Yes

Does the credit/loan incorporate mechanisms to mitigate the potential adverse impacts on cultural property?

Yes

OP/BP 4.10 - Indigenous Peoples

Has a separate Indigenous Peoples Plan/Planning Framework (as appropriate) been prepared in consultation with affected Indigenous Peoples?



Yes

If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan?

Yes

If the whole project is designed to benefit IP, has the design been reviewed and approved by the Regional Social Development Unit or Practice Manager?

OP/BP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement

Has a resettlement plan/abbreviated plan/policy framework/process framework (as appropriate) been prepared?

Yes

If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan?

Yes

OP/BP 4.36 - Forests

Has the sector-wide analysis of policy and institutional issues and constraints been carried out?

Yes

Does the project design include satisfactory measures to overcome these constraints?

Yes

Does the project finance commercial harvesting, and if so, does it include provisions for certification system?

No

The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information

Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank for disclosure?

Yes

Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs?

Yes



All Safeguard Policies

Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?

Yes

Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?

Yes

Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?

Yes

Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?

NA

CONTACT POINT

World Bank

Paola Agostini
Lead Environment Specialist

Amadou Alassane
Sr Agricultural Spec.

Philippe Eric Dardel
Senior Environmental Specialist

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Ministry of Finance, Budget and Privatization
Salome Ndabahariye
Permanent Secretary
mariesalome@hotmail.com

Implementing Agencies

Ministry of Water, Environment, Land and Urban Planning
Simon Sindayihebura
Permanent Secretary
sindasimon@hotmail.com



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>

APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Paola Agostini Amadou Alassane Philippe Eric Dardel
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Approved By

Safeguards Advisor:	Nathalie S. Munzberg	02-Feb-2018
Practice Manager/Manager:	Timothy H. Brown	02-Feb-2018
Country Director:	Preeti Arora	02-Feb-2018