Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 05/11/2022 | Report No: ESRSC02701

BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
India	SOUTH ASIA	P178418	
Project Name	Tripura Rural Economic Growth and Service Delivery Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Agriculture and Food	Investment Project Financing	12/9/2022	3/30/2023
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
India	Department of Tribal Welfare, Government of Tripura, Department of Tribal Welfare, Government of Tripura		

Proposed Development Objective

Increase the agricultural incomes of rural households and improve governance and service delivery by state institutions for delivery of enhanced transport connectivity and learning environment in the targeted tribal-dominated blocks.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	175.00

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

No

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

The proposed project aims to promote socioeconomic development and improve the quality of life of rural communities living in tribal geographies in Tripura through a multi-sectoral approach. More specifically, the project aims at improving the economic opportunity and transport connectivity for rural populations, including tribal women. Transport connectivity will be improved through a statewide rural road improvement program in support of rural road

efficiency and accessibility to social and economic amenities such as markets, schools, and other services. As a direct contribution to rural economic opportunity and enhanced inclusivity, the project will improve rural livelihoods via diversified production clusters and agriculture logistics including aggregation, storage facilities, and supply chain markets. Additionally, the project will support human capital development in these geographies by enhancing school complexes and learning environments, improving access to these facilities, addressing retention of secondary students, and improving early grade teacher capacities. Finally, the project will strengthen the state institutional capabilities for improved service delivery and governance in the tribal areas making use of incentive-based tools and capacity improvements. Other interventions aimed at gender equality and empowerment, women entrepreneurship, and vocational development programs will be included

D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

With geographical area of about 10,491 square kilometers, Tripura is the third smallest state in India. It is a predominantly hilly (60%) and largely landlocked state, located in the south-western extremity of India's Northeastern region. The International border with Bangladesh is 856 km.

Tripura's total population was 3,671,032 with 1,871,867 males and 1,799,165 females (2011 Census). Poverty rates in Rural (16.5%) and Urban (7.4%) areas in Tripura were low when compared to the rest of the country in 2011-12(Planning Commission). In 2015, About 21% of ST households were estimated to be multidimensionally poor compared to 9% general category households. The state has very little cultivable land (27%). The majority of the population remains dependent on agriculture which contributes to 23% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Services contribute to more than half of the GSDP, but remain largely small, unorganized and informal. The state has very low industrialization levels and unemployment rates are high (estimated to be 41% pre-pandemic). The one-lane highway that connects Tripura to the rest of India sees frequent disruptions in movement because of rains and landslides. The state is also prone to frequent floods, winds and cyclones.

The state of Tripura has about 7,721 sq kms of forests area, which is nearly 73.64 % of the State's total geographic area. Nearly 604 sq km of the forest area falls under protected area (PA). There are 6 PAs throughout state which includes 4 Wildlife Sanctuary and 2 National Parks, which are located within the Wildlife Sanctuaries. In Tripura, more than 400 wetlands have been mapped, of which 7 are important from the point of view of biodiversity conservation and as centers of socio-economic values. Rudrasagar is a designated Ramsar site in the State and the wetland supports IUCN Red listed endangered Three-striped Roof turtle (Kachuga dhongka).

There are 10 major ephemeral rivers in the state and their flow is directly related to the rainfall. The net annual ground water availability is about 2.36 billion cubic meters (BCM), whereas the withdrawal is only about 0.163 BCM. There are certain pockets in the State which are characterized by high iron in the ground water. The hilly areas are largely covered by forests and are prone to landslides and soil erosion. With practice of slash and burn, the state is characterized by deforestation leading to potential increase in runoff and sediment erosion. The soil in the uplands is coarse and poor in humus, whereas the soil in the lowlands is mostly alluvial where agriculture is extensively practiced.

Tripura has significant Indigenous Peoples or Scheduled Tribes (STs) population. STs comprise roughly 30 percent of the state's population, and 74 percent reside in rural areas. STs include Kokbrok speaking Tripuris (17%), Reang (5%), Jamatia (2%); Chakma (2%) as well as other smaller tribal groups such as Halams, Mogs, Mundas, Kukis, Garos etc. comprising the rest of the 19 tribes in the state. While Tribal groups are found across the state, the key tribal inhabited areas are constitutionally notified as Schedule VI areas where tribals comprise about 83% of the population. These Schedule VI areas cover about 2/3rd of the total area of the State and are spread across all the four districts. The scheduled tribes (STs) live mostly in 23 blocks which are governed by the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC). TTAADC –administers and governs these areas in line with tribal culture, customs, traditions as well as development priorities identified by the tribal village councils. These Tribal populations and areas are worse off in terms of infrastructure, basic service delivery, child nutrition, anemia, and educational attainment. Geographic isolation, remote, scattered settlements with poor connectivity and poor access to health and education facilities have been contributing factors for marginalization of these areas.

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

The project will be coordinated and implemented by the Tribal Welfare Department (TWD) where an integrated Project Management Unit (PMU) with experienced project management, monitoring and operational expertise will be established. The multi sector PMU will have representation from all the participating state government departments (agriculture/allied, tribal welfare, public works, education, water resources). Project Implementing Units (PIU) will be established within each of these departments. as well as other departments identified during project preparation. PIUs will be responsible for detailed design and implementation of their respective sectoral investments and interventions. Institutional capacity to prepare, design and implement this multisector project following Bank's fiduciary and ESF requirements as well as participatory, community-based approaches is weak. The overall institutional capacity risk is assessed Substantial. Availability of technical expertise and consultants is a constraint in the state.

ESF is new to Government of Tripura, and the capacity of the implementing departments will need to be strengthened through dedicated staffing, trainings, partnerships and technical assistance support. None of the above-mentioned departments have implemented any World Bank financed project in the past. They lack prior experience, institutional expertise, dedicated institutional arrangement for ESF management, and have gaps on requisite skills and human resource.

The Environment and Social Assessment will be assessing the institutional capacity of the various state departments that will implementing the project interventions. Based on this capacity assessment, human resource, institutional, capacity building as well as technical assistance measures will be identified to manage and mitigate the E and S risks. The government of Tripura has taken steps to engage dedicated and experienced environmental specialists and social specialists in the PMU and the proposed PIU in PWD. The TWD is the principal Implementing Agency entrusted with overall project coordination, the E&S Specialists engaged in the PMU shall support other departments like Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries, Education, Water Resources, etc. Most of the civil works under the project, including construction / restoration of rural roads, construction of schools, water resources augmentation, etc. is entrusted with PWD, the PIU in PWD will also have dedicated E&S Specialists with experience in rural roads and water resource civil works. The project will emphasize the recruitment and training of locally recruited staff to build long-term skills and knowledge within TWD and other PIUs based on the capacity assessment.

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

Environmental Risk Rating Substantial

Potential risks from investments under Component 1A could be: degradation of soil health from overuse of agrochemicals; health and safety impacts from improper usage and handling of pesticides; degradation in soil and water quality from nutrient loading due to excessive use of feed; uncontrolled use of antibiotics and hormones in fisheries. However, the project will not finance banned pesticides and fertilizers. Further the project will implement IPM and INM practices to mitigate the potential risks due to these activities. The support to increased water availability is proposed through minor irrigation structures and have the potential to create adverse environmental and social impacts in the local context, and most of them would fall in the catchments of rivers draining into Bangladesh. The surface MI structures would be small in size and capacity (dams heights of 10 to 15 m), and it is not expected that the impact would be significant. For minor surface or ground water irrigation schemes, adequacy of water availability and quality will be ascertained through hydrological assessments before their construction. Some of these schemes may be implemented through convergence from other schemes of the State government and if identified as associated facilities during preparation, the project will ensure to meet the requirement of safety of dams under ESS4. Potential risks during operation and maintenance may include: impact on flow in the rivers and streams; dewatering of aquifers; inadequate operation and maintenance of MI infrastructures. OP 7.50 (Projects on International Waterways) is expected to be applicable, due to the expected use of water, including groundwater, from watersheds of rivers that drain into Bangladesh for the purposes of this Operational Policy. The activities under Component 1.B will focus on: widening/upgrading about 881 kilometers of village roads as well as constructing about 356 kilometers of new roads in the project area, the alignment of which will be finalized during project preparation. The expected environmental issues likely to be encountered in the project are mostly due to sensitive environmental settings of the project roads and will have to be managed by careful planning and designs. The potential risks and impacts would include: involuntary land acquisition and resettlement including loss of land, livelihoods and common property and communal resources; safety and working conditions of construction workers; health and safety of beneficiary communities; likely direct, indirect and induced impacts on biodiversity and other natural habitats including protected areas; water and soil contamination from wastewater generated from construction/workers camps; spillage and handlings of chemical and hazardous materials; potential inducement of landslides, landslips, erosion from cut faces of hill slopes; disposal of spoils from hill cutting and tunneling; air pollution due to dust and emission from operation of vehicle and equipment; cutting of trees for widening of road; reduction of natural resources base and degradation due to extraction/quarrying; impacts on archaeological and historical sites/assets, culturally and socially important common properties, religious properties/sites, sacred groves on or near the project roads, and; distress of public/community due disruption of utility services. A negative list will be prepared as a part of the environmental and social screening that would facilitate in early identification of high risk sub-projects and activities that will not be financed under the project. The project's environmental exclusion and screening processes will ensure that no direct or indirect impact occurs on any individual or community, forest or on any critical/natural habitat, such as wetlands, elephant corridors, or community forests or on physical cultural resources. At the time of project appraisal, Risk rating will be revisited based on identified risks and impacts.

Social Risk Rating Substantial

The overall Social Risk Rating is assessed Substantial, given that project involves multisector interventions as well as land acquisition and construction activities in significantly tribal areas. New road construction as well as widening is expected to involve acquisition of private land from tribal landholders. Proposed construction of rural roads, school buildings, post-harvest facilities and minor irrigation infrastructure involves potential E&S risks related to indigenous peoples (STs), involuntary resettlement impacts, community health and safety, cultural heritage and stakeholder engagement. Other social risks relate to labor management, protection of tribal cultural heritage, ensuring participatory and inclusive engagement and broad community support of tribal communities and their leaders during planning and implementation. Planning, institution building, and implementation processes will require close engagement with formal and informal tribal leaders representing different tribal subgroups, as well as the tribal village councils. The Implementing Agencies lack prior experience as well as institutional arrangements and E and S practices for identifying, mitigating and managing these social risks and impacts.

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

B.1. General Assessment

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

ESS1 is relevant for assessing, managing and monitoring environmental and social risks and impacts associated with the project, and ensuring that project interventions are environmentally and socially sustainable.

The benefits emanating from the project would be improved road connectivity and transport for rural and tribal population leading to enhanced quality of education, improved livelihoods of farmers, efficient use of water resources. Physical investments, largely on rural roads, schools and minor irrigation structures, would ensure resilient services for education, agriculture/aquaculture water use, efficient market linkages etc. By strengthening FPOs, adaptive governance systems and capacities, the project will entrust the communities in efficiently managing the uncertainties in future, including building climate resilience and adaptation

While, most of the potential environment and social impacts from project activities are expected to be predictable, limited and site specific and manageable for agriculture and rural livelihood (Component 1A), education (Component 2) and service delivery (Component 3), the potential impacts of construction of new and upgradation of existing rural roads may be significant during the construction phase due to the potential for LA and IR impacts in tribal areas, as well as the adverse impacts on the landscape, forests and biodiversity. As the project is multi-sectoral spread over large geographic extent within the state, it might induce impacts on agriculture, water, forests, biodiversity, and ambient environment.

Both road upgradation as well as new road construction will cause potentially adverse environmental construction stage impacts on air, water and material source, viz. dust, local hydrology and drainage, waterbodies, landscapes, OHS and other socio-economic aspects of the tribals and other villagers. As chainages of these rural roads largely pass-through forests (protected and non-protected), potential risks include disturbance / damage to biodiversity/wildlife depending on the location/alignment of the project activities; The potential risks from investments in agriculture, horticulture and fisheries could be degradation of soil health, improper usage of pesticides, nutrient loading due to excessive use of fish feed, antibiotics and hormones. The potential downstream

impacts on flows in streams/rivers, deterioration in water quality, dewatering of aquifers and poor maintenance of MI structures.

The adverse environmental impacts from the proposed project activities under Component 2 and 3, while limited and localized in context, are likely to stem from those associated with construction of buildings, improper execution of civil works (specifically increasing OHS risks for workers and threats to community safety/well-being). Both Component 2 and 3 are likely to have large positive impacts by creating literate and aware society

Since not all sub-projects would be known during project preparation and that the interventions would be widespread across a large geographical area, an Environment and Social Assessment (ESA) will be carried out by the Tribal Welfare Department (TWD) based on a select/known sample of sub-projects, which will be selected from all types of activity to be supported under the project, in line with the E&S standards under ESF to identify, assess and plan the management of the environmental and social risks/impacts that are associated or likely to arise on account of project interventions. The assessment will specifically help in: (a) developing comprehensive understanding of potential risks and impacts, (b) identifying and appreciating the details of risks envisaged from project activities, (c) arriving at a set of recommendations/ suggestions to design management/mitigation measures for reducing risks and help strengthen environment performance for targeted project interventions. This over-all project level ESA will involve desk review of relevant documents/studies, site visits, primary data collection as well as extensive consultations with the key stakeholders.

The Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA) will identify institutional capacity needs/gaps (including on staffing and skills) required to apply environmental and social standards (ESSs) for the proposed operation. The ESA will be proportionate to the potential risks and impacts of the project, and will assess, in an integrated way, all relevant direct, indirect and cumulative environmental and social risks and impacts, including those specified in ESSs relevant to the project. The principle of 'mitigation hierarchy' will be adopted for developing management tools like Environment and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF), , Environment and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), etc., to address environmental and social risks and impacts during planning, design and implementation stages. The ESMF will include procedures for undertaking E and S screening of sub-projects, carrying out sub project specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and preparing site specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs). The ESMF will also include a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) that would lay down procedures for identifying, assessing, compensating and mitigating adverse socioeconomic impacts from subprojects that involve involuntary acquisition of land and physical and economic resettlement of affected families, as well as preparation of subproject specific Resettlement Action Plans. The ESMF will also include an exclusion/negative list of activities, a screening checklist, and activity-specific generic ESMPs that can be readily used for low/medium-risk activities under component 1A, 2 and 3.

Given that TRESP interventions are planned exclusively for tribal areas and tribal communities in Tripura, the entire project acts like an IPF/IPDP and the requirement for a separate, dedicated IPP or IPF is not anticipated. All the key requirements of ESS7 with respect to meaningful and informed community consultations, broad community support, design of socially and culturally compatible interventions, information disclosure in local tribal language, and inclusive access to benefits will be integrated in Social Assessment study, ESMF, RPF, project's institutional arrangements, grievance mechanisms, intervention planning and implementation processes.

The identified risks and impacts will be reflected in relevant ESF instruments to be prepared including Environment and Social Assessment Report, Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) and Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEP). The Word Bank Group's Environment, Health and Safety Guidelines will be applied while developing ESMF and other ESF instruments. A grievance redress mechanism will also be developed to provide guidance on the reception, recording, handling, and reporting of complaints that may be encountered during project implementation.

Areas where "Use of Borrower Framework" is being considered:

Borrower's E&S Framework is not being considered since TRESP will be the first World Bank supported project for the IAs, and their institutional capacities and implementation practices on meeting country's ES requirements are expected to have gaps. Instead, the project will apply the Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and the associated Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) and provide necessary technical assistance to meet the standards. Project will be meeting all applicable requirements for clearances, licenses, permits and approvals by national, state and local governments, as well as existing laws and policies on ESF. The requirements for these permits and clearances, wherever applicable, will be recorded in the ESCP.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

This standard is relevant given that i) TRESP will be engaging with a range of stakeholders directly affected by the agriculture, rural livelihoods, roads, education, tribal welfare and planning, institutional strengthening and capacity building interventions; ii) Project area is predominantly tribal with special safeguards and provisions for information sharing and approvals from village committees and autonomous councils for project supported interventions; iii) and, TRESP will be strengthening the capacity of village committees, tribal communities, and other relevant stakeholders to participate in village planning, budget allocations and citizen's engagement. Primary stakeholders such as tribal councils, village development committees, SHGs, and FPOs will be consulted extensively in local tribal languages during ESA. These stakeholders will be engaged in planning, endorsement and implementation of specific project interventions, as well as in risk mitigation measures related to land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation, labor, health and safety etc.

The SEP will guide the identification of and engagement with stakeholders, particularly in activities proposed under Component 2. IAs will prepare a stakeholder engagement plan (SEP) that is customized for local language, the literacy levels, the hilly and remote landscape with limited facilities, and the tribal context of the project area. SEP will focus on operationalizing the most effective and practical channels for stakeholder engagement, information sharing, information disclosure, citizen's feedback, and grievance redressal throughout the life of the project. The potential mechanisms would include multimedia information campaigns in local language, stakeholder meetings, review meetings, website, telephone hotline, as well as periodic surveys and consultations. ESA will assess the accessibility and usage of existing GRMs in project areas and recommend suitable GRM that would be accessible to stakeholders in project areas, Capacities and systems to register, resolve and track project related grievances will also be strengthened. Based on SEA/SH assessment during ESA, suitable GRM focusing on SEA/SH will be designed. The draft ESMF will be consulted with relevant stakeholders through virtual and physical meetings, and disclosed on borrowers and Bank's websites, as well as locally in tribal language. Institutional mechanism for SEP implementation in PMU and PIUs will be finalized during project preparation.

B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts

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

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

This standard is relevant given that i) TRESP will be engaging with a range of stakeholders directly affected by the agriculture, rural livelihoods, roads, education, tribal welfare and planning, institutional strengthening and capacity building interventions; ii) Project area is predominantly tribal with special safeguards and provisions for information sharing and approvals from village committees and autonomous councils for project supported interventions; iii) and, TRESP will be strengthening the capacity of village committees, tribal communities, and other relevant stakeholders to participate in village planning, budget allocations and citizen's engagement. Primary stakeholders such as tribal councils, village development committees, SHGs, and FPOs will be consulted extensively in local tribal languages during ESA. These stakeholders will be engaged in planning, endorsement and implementation of specific project interventions, as well as in risk mitigation measures related to land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation, labor, health and safety etc.

The SEP will guide the identification of and engagement with stakeholders, particularly in activities proposed under Component 2. IAs will prepare a stakeholder engagement plan (SEP) that is customized for local language, the literacy levels, the hilly and remote landscape with limited facilities, and the tribal context of the project area. SEP will focus on operationalizing the most effective and practical channels for stakeholder engagement, information sharing, information disclosure, citizen's feedback, and grievance redressal throughout the life of the project. The potential mechanisms would include multimedia information campaigns in local language, stakeholder meetings, review meetings, website, telephone hotline, as well as periodic surveys and consultations. ESA will assess the accessibility and usage of existing GRMs in project areas and recommend suitable GRM that would be accessible to stakeholders in project areas, Capacities and systems to register, resolve and track project related grievances will also be strengthened. Based on SEA/SH assessment during ESA, suitable GRM focusing on SEA/SH will be designed. The draft ESMF will be consulted with relevant stakeholders through virtual and physical meetings, and disclosed on borrowers and Bank's websites, as well as locally in tribal language. Institutional mechanism for SEP implementation in PMU and PIUs will be finalized during project preparation.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

The principles and requirements laid down in ESS 3 are relevant to the project.

With respect to Resource Efficiency, the project preparation and the ESA process will identify feasible measures for efficient: (a) water usage and management to minimize water usage during construction, conservation measures to offset total construction water demand and maintain balance for demand of water resources; (b) increasing water efficiency for agriculture and aquaculture; (c) ground water resource sustainability; (d) post harvest waste management; (e) raw materials use by exploring use of local/alternate materials, recycled aggregates, use of

innovative technology so as to minimize project's footprints on finite natural resources; (f) enhancing energy efficiency and minimizing green-house gas emissions.

For pollution prevention and management, focus will be on: (a) debris/ construction waste management; (b) run-off/silt control at work sites to prevent sedimentation and any possible contamination of water sources; (c) management of hazardous wastes (such as Asbestos Containing Materials which will be ascertained as part of ESA) and; (d) storage and management of construction materials to prevent ground/soil contamination; (e) not financing banned pesticides and fertilizers. Further the project will implement IPM and INM practices to mitigate the potential risks emanating from these activities..

With respect to Carbon Emissions, the ESA will also estimate carbon and GHG emissions due to implementation of project, identify feasible measures for reducing such emissions, creating carbon sink, and climate resilient measures to suit local needs and challenges, and by possible use of alternative technologies.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

Community health and safety will be important concerns with respect to exposure of local communities to adverse impacts from construction of rural roads, school buildings and minor irrigation infrastructures. While the Project aims to plan, design and implement "resilient" roads for improving safety of communities which are already at high risks of earthquakes, landslides, cloud bursts, erosion and flooding, the project roads are all likely to be in high earthquake zone (Zone V, the severe risk earthquake zones), and in landscapes prone to landslides and slips. The anticipated risks to community on rural roads are largely due to improper scheduling of works, unsafe handling of hazardous materials, haphazard dumping of construction wastes, differences in operating speeds, road geometry, functionality, enforcement level, etc. These risks can be easily mitigated by various and safety measures, such as speed management, proper signages, improved surfacing, awareness, waste management, etc.

Even though labour is expected largely to be sourced locally, the potential of health, safety and SEA/GBV/SH risks to local tribal communities and school students from labour force as well as project workers/contractors does exist. Apart from labor influx, SEA/SH and GBV risks could also be driven by community-based interventions as well as training in agriculture and livelihoods, remote locations of student facilities, gender imbalance among teachers, absence of SEA/SH related protocols. During Social Assessment and Consultations, these issues and risks will be assessed, and Suitable Risk mitigation measures on SEA/SH Prevention and Response in the education, agriculture and road sectors will be finalized .

Since the irrigation structures are expected to be small in scale, dam safety is not anticipated as a risk. The potential risks due to reliance on existing dams for water would arise from declining capacity of dams, improper operations and management, siltation of conduits/canals, etc. The potential risks could be mitigated through regular maintenance of these dams and conduits/canals, development of an operating schedule, awareness raising, strengthening/establishing Water Users Associations etc. Nonetheless, the dams of which performance the project potentially rely on will be reviewed during preparation stage. If the small dams associated with the project are identified, the project will ensure to meet the requirement of safety of dams under ESS4.

The ESA will assess the health, safety and SEA/GBV/SH risks to communities during project life cycle from construction, traffic, labor influx, and propose management measures in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy, such as emergency response measures which will be incorporated into the ESCP. Further, all works, and operations will be planned, designed and implemented to comply with the World Bank Group's Environment, Health and Safety guidelines.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

ESS5 is relevant since road widening and new road construction is likely to go beyond the existing ROW of the PWD and is likely to involve acquisition of private lands from predominantly tribal households, while the post-harvest infrastructure and minor irrigation structures are likely to come up on community or donated land. Given the remote, sparsely populated and hilly nature of the terrain, the acquisition is expected to be small in impact and moderate in scale. The scope and impact of land take and involuntary resettlement impacts will become clearer, once the roads, their alignments and technical specifications are finalized.

The ESIA will assess the scope and scale of LA and involuntary resettlement impacts on households and communities. Apart from title holders and legal owners of land, structures and crops, the ESIA will also cover impacts on non-title holders such as encroachers, squatters, vendors and hawkers along the Right of Way (RoW). Based on the ESIA, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will be prepared by appraisal taking into consideration the tribal context. The RPF will include entitlement matrix, compensation mechanisms based on prevailing norms and community consultations. The RPF will specify the process to identify, assess and mitigate land-take related adverse impacts and preparation of RAPs. Based on availability of site specific DPRs prepared during project preparation, a site specific ESIAs and RAPs will also be prepared. The project also prepares an ESMF to address any adverse impacts identified during the implementation stage, including guidelines for Voluntary Land Donation. The E&S screening will be part of the technical screening to ensure that land identified will not have any adverse impact on individuals/communities.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

The ESS 6 is relevant to the project.

The rural roads, though small in chainage, are likely to pass through forests and protected/critical habitats or ecologically sensitive areas. The biodiversity supported by these protected areas are of high value, from viewpoints of conservation and management of signature species of flora and fauna, and associated ecosystem services. However, the road alignments and the risks and impacts of the project on biodiversity; access and livelihood of people dependent on these protected areas and other associated ecosystem services will be determined during ESA; and depending on identified significant direct or indirect impacts, appropriate mitigation measures will be included in a Biodiversity Management Plan, that will be implemented as needed and included in ESCP. The ESMF will include an exclusion/negative list of activities that will eliminate the possibility of activities being taken up in critical natural habitats/eco-sensitive zones having species with critical biodiversity value.

There is a possibility of some impact on aquatic life due to the construction of the structures on streams (which are likely to be small and/or seasonal), which could impact the flow and quality of water, especially during the lean

season. However, any potential adverse impacts on aquatic biodiversity rich areas/living resources on account of such works will be determined through an environment and social screening and assessment processes. Provisions will also be made in the bidding document to ensure that no materials for construction activities are sourced from any critical habitats, protected areas, forest areas, eco-sensitive zones or any recognized areas of high biodiversity for works/activities supported under the Project.

Based on the location of project interventions (which is not known at this stage) and the findings from the ESA (which will be used for the preparation of an ESMF), relevant measures if required, to avoid impact on biodiversity will be taken-up in the project to fulfill requirements laid out in ESS 6. Such measures in the ESMPs will also include precautionary measures to prevent any possible impact on aquatic life (due to discharges from worksites and/or dumping of debris in water bodies).

Further, in case there is any requirement of tree felling for construction works under the project, requisite permission will be obtained from the Forest Department/Competent Authority prior to initiating civil works and provisions for compensatory plantation in line with regulatory norms will be built into the sub-project Detailed Project Reports/estimates.

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

Tripura has significant Indigenous Peoples or scheduled tribes (STs) population that have unique language, cultural heritage and customary institutions and practices. STs comprise roughly 30 percent of the state's population, and 74 percent reside in rural areas. STs include Kokbrok speaking Tripuris (17%), Reang (5%), Jamatia (2%); Chakma (2%) as well as other smaller tribal groups comprising the rest of the 19 tribes in the state. While Tribal groups are found across the state, the key tribal inhabited areas are constitutionally notified as Schedule VI areas. These Schedule VI areas are spread across all the four districts, cover about 68% of State's areas, and have more than 83% of the population as tribals. The Schedule VI areas are administered by the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC), an autonomous district council led by tribal leaders that governs the tribal areas in line with the identity, culture, customs and practices of the tribal people. TTAADC is the state level, nodal institution that holds the responsibility for planning and implementing schemes and programs in line with needs, customs and priorities of the tribal people.

ESS7 holds special relevance as TRESP will be implemented in 23 predominantly tribal blocks where tribals represent more than 80% of the population. These areas have been historically marginalized and underserviced in terms of access and connectivity to social, economic and human capital infrastructure and services. Large number of tribal inhabitations continue to lack all-weather roads, proper schools and primary health centres and remain cut off from labor and agriculture markets. Tribal areas have comparatively higher levels of poverty, livelihoods and food security with lower human development outcome indicators. Tribal households and communities will be the primary stakeholders and the main beneficiaries of project investments and interventions.

Given that TRESP interventions are planned exclusively for tribal areas and tribal communities in Tripura and will be complying with all the legal, administrative and institutional provisions and processes that are applicable in Schedule VI tribal areas, the entire project acts like an IPF/IPDP and the requirement for a separate, dedicated IPP or IPF is not

anticipated. All the key requirements of ESS7 with respect to meaningful and informed community consultations, broad community support, design of socially and culturally compatible interventions, information disclosure in local tribal language, inclusive access to benefits, broad community support will be integrated in social assessment, ESMF, RPF/RAP, project's institutional arrangements, grievance mechanisms, planning and implementation processes.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

ESS8 is relevant.

The project is proposed to be implemented in 23 tribal blocks of the State. Given the vast geographical area over which several sub-projects would be located under various components, there is a possibility of cultural heritage related concerns coming-up in case of certain sub-projects under the proposed operation. The rural roads under the project pass are likely to pass through forests with scared groves or other religeous places of high social and cultural values to local people. The project preparation will determine the presence of all such cultural areas assets and determine significance of the project's direct or indirect impacts on these. The proposed sub-projects will be screened for potential cultural heritage impacts. Consultations with communities will also be utilized to screen any sensitive issues related to cultural resources. The ESA would, in any event, evaluate any direct or indirect impact of project activities on cultural assets and determine the presence of any other such resources that may not be listed with national or state governments (Archeological Survey of India) but could be of local significance.

Any such identified cultural heritage impacts and/or chance finds will be dealt with in line with national legal requirements and Bank's requirements set forth under ESS 8 of ESF. Procedures for handling chance finds will be prepared as part of the ESMF and will be included in the ESMPs and the Bidding Documents to handle any such situation that may come-up during project implementation.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

Use of Financial Intermediaries is not envisaged in the project.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways	Yes
OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas	No

III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered? No

Financing Partners

No financing partner have been identified yet.

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

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

a) Environment and Social Assessment (ESA) Report, that includes as ESF capacity gaps, along with Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) that includes RPF
b) Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)
c) Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)
d) For subprojects, Site Specific ES Screening Reports, ESIAs, ESMPs, RAPs, and ESS specific plans, as needed
e) Orientation Workshop on ESF Implementation

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

The ESCP will cover the following issues:

a. Engagement of qualified and suitably experienced Environment Specialists, Social Specialists as well as other agreed specialists in the PMU and PIUs for the entire duration of project implementation.
b. Submission of regular ESF implementation progress reports during project implementation period;
c. E&S Screening Reports, ESIAs, ESMPs, RAPS as well as other ESS related plans to be prepared for subprojects, in line with the agreed ESMF
d. Establishment and operationalization of agreed GRM mechanisms
e. Processes and timelines for obtaining of requisite statutory clearances, if not obtained by Appraisal;
f. Suitable Inclusion of ESMF/ESMP in detailed project reports, bidding documents, construction contracts, and TORs for design and supervision as well as monitoring consultants.
g. implementation and updating of ESMPs, ESFs, SEPs as needed.
h. Implementation of ESF institutional capacity enhancement measures

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS 08-Dec-2022

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank

Contact:	Priti Kumar	Title:	Sr Agricultural Spec.
Telephone No:	5785+47735	Email:	pkumar2@worldbank.org
Contact:	Anna Charlotte O'Donnell	Title:	Lead Social Development Specialist
Telephone No:	5778+3428 / 62-21-5299-3428	Email:	aodonnell@worldbank.org
Contact:	Tesfamichael Nahusenay Mitiku	Title:	Senior Transport Engineer

Telephone No: +1-202-473-0221 Email: tnahusenay@worldbank.org

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: India

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Department of Tribal Welfare, Government of Tripura

Implementing Agency: Department of Tribal Welfare, Government of Tripura

V. 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

VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Priti Kumar, Anna Charlotte O'Donnell, Tesfamichael Nahusenay Mitiku
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Kevin A Tomlinson Recommended on 05-Apr-2022 at 12:27:17 GMT-04:00
Safeguards Advisor ESSA	Pablo Cardinale (SAESSA) Cleared on 11-May-2022 at 12:16:56 GMT-04:00