



Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 12/16/2022 | Report No: ESRSA02454



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	12/12/2022	5/31/2023
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
India	Department of Tribal Welfare, Government of Tripura, Department of Tribal Welfare, Government of Tripura		

Proposed Development Objective

Enhanced connectivity and access to improved services and economic opportunities for tribal areas

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 project is consistent with the World Bank Group Country Partnership Framework (CPF FY18-22) across all its three pillars, viz.:(i) support resource efficient growth;(ii) enhance competitiveness and enable job creation, and (iii) invest in human capital and improvements in service delivery. The proposed project aims to promote socioeconomic development and improve the quality of life of rural communities living in tribal geographies in the state of 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. The Project has the following 4 components:

Component 1: Strengthening Foundations for Economic Development (US\$90 million): This component will focus on strengthening the foundations for economic development in the tribal blocks through an integrated set of investments in rural livelihoods and rural roads that can both ease access to markets and to schools. The component will finance: (i) consultancy services to support the formation of producer groups (PGs) and producer organizations (POs), and build their capacity for diversified and resilient production; (ii) sub-grants to PG and POs for their establishment costs, inputs, equipment, services, working capital and demonstrations/pilots; (iii) sub-grants to model cluster level federations to establish Livelihood Resource Centers that provide need-based facilities and services for value addition and market access; and (iv) market-focused assessments and pilots. The component will also finance: (i) upgrading and rehabilitation of approximately 527.9km (150 segments) of rural access roads and establishing pilot roadside rural transportation hubs; (ii) strengthening management system, including: developing Road Asset Management System; (iii) preparing Integrated Transport Network Development Plan; (iv) developing Electronic Project Management System and; (v) design and construction supervision of consultancy services. The road improvement includes, upgrading 29.9km of earth roads and 290.5km of brick sole roads to bituminous surface roads; and rehabilitation/strengthening of approximately 290.5km of paved roads, across the 12 aspirational tribal blocks.

Component 2: Investing in Human Capital Development Services (US\$35 million): This component will support investments to increase the average years of educational attainment and enhanced preparedness for labor market transitions for students in the 23 tribal blocks and especially in the 12 priority tribal blocks. The component will finance (i) training of primary school teachers on Teaching at Right Level (TaRL), (ii) in-service teacher training and structured lesson plans/guidebooks informed by data/evidence from State Level Achievement Surveys (SLAS) and Teacher Subject Knowledge Assessments (TSKA), (iii) roll-out of school-based vocational education aligned with students' aspirations, aptitude, and industry demand, and (iv) improvements and expansion of facilities in the senior secondary schools in the 12 aspirational tribal blocks. Last-mile connectivity, coupled with school facility improvements, capacity building of teachers, and development of vocational curriculum together will help address the core constraints to improved educational outcomes in the tribal blocks, especially average years of educational attainment and labor market readiness in the 12 aspirational tribal blocks.

Component 3: Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Service Delivery (US\$15 million): The objective of this component is to strengthen capacity of local institutions in the tribal blocks for improved service delivery. This will focus specifically on (i) strengthening the capacity for need-based village planning; (ii) strengthening citizen engagement and grievance redress; and (iii) improving field level monitoring systems in the 23 tribal blocks to more effectively coordinate and deliver on services. The project will finance: (i) training and capacity building of tribal elected representatives, lower tier officials and community institutions for need-based village planning; (ii) core competency trainings (IT, procurement and others) for lower tier officials in the agriculture, education and road sectors; (iii) consultancy services, technical assistance agencies and digital infrastructure to build a decision support system, a mobile based citizen service platform and improve an existing beneficiary management and grievance



redress system; and (iv) project management costs associated with setting up dedicated Project Management Unit and Project Implementation Units, including incremental operating costs, monitoring and evaluation, etc.

Component 4: Contingent Emergency Response Component (US\$0): Following a natural disaster event, the GoT may request the Bank to re-allocate project funds to support response and reconstruction. This component could also be used to channel additional funds should they become available because of an emergency. This component is aligned with Pillar 3 of GCRF.

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 in the state with Bangladesh is 856 km. The state has only 27% cultivable land. Tripura has about 7,721 sq kms of forests area, which is nearly 73.64 % of the State's total geographic area. The protected areas (PA) or eco sensitive zones including national parks, wildlife sanctuaries or Ramsar sites will not be considered for investments under the project. The hilly areas are largely covered by forests but are prone to increased runoff caused landslides and soil erosion. The intermediate/two 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. There are 10 major ephemeral rivers in the state. The net annual ground water availability is about 2.36 billion cubic meters (BCM), whereas the withdrawal is only about 0.163 BCM, and ground water extraction is being promoted for agriculture use in the state. There are certain pockets in the State which are characterized by high iron in the ground water.

Tripura's total population was 3,671,032 (2011 Census) with Scheduled Tribes (STs) comprising about 30% of the state's population. STs live mostly in 23 of the 58 blocks in the state where they represent more than 80% of the population. The 19 tribes in the state include Tripuris (17%), Reang (5%), Jamatia (2%), Chakma (2%) as well as other smaller tribal groups. While Poverty rates in Tripura are low when compared to rest of the country in 2011-12, and the state is ranked as a front-runner on all SDGs except health, nutrition, hunger and climate action - poverty remains concentrated in the 23 blocks dominated by tribal populations. Around 20.9 percent of ST households are estimated to be multidimensionally poor compared to 8.9 percent Scheduled Caste (SC) households, 7.2 percent Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and 9.1 percent general category households. In addition to markedly worse poverty and food insecurity, tribal populations and areas are worse off in terms of infrastructure, basic service delivery, child nutrition and health, anemia, maternal health, and educational attainment. These outcomes for tribals need to be viewed in the context of geographic isolation as tribals in Tripura tend to live in remote, scattered settlements leading to poor connectivity and poor access to facilities. Addressing economic development and service delivery in these blocks necessitates a multi-sectoral intervention addressing a confluence of factors.

ESS7 is relevant since TRESP interventions will extend over majority of the 23 predominantly tribal blocks where tribals represent more than 80% of the population. These project areas are governed by the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) that is a constitutionally -mandated body that enjoys special legal, financial



and executive powers to self-govern the tribal dominated areas in line with local tribal culture, customs, traditions, language as well as development priorities. Through zonal, block and village level committees, TTAADC is responsible for planning and implementing schemes and programs in line with the local needs and tribal customs. In these Schedule VI areas, tribals comprise about 83% of the population and elected and informal leaders of the village committee, gram sabha, as well as Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), tribal- women farmers and shifting cultivators are important stakeholders in this landscape. TRESP interventions, institutional arrangements and implementation processes will need to comply with ESS7 requirements for recognizing, respecting and preserving indigenous knowledge, culture and practices; avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts, socially inclusive and culturally appropriate benefit sharing processes, meaningful consultations throughout project cycle.

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

The newly created Society for TRESP will be responsible for overall planning, budget allocation, coordination, and monitoring of the Project. For overall project coordination, an integrated Project Management Unit (PMU) with experienced project management, fiduciary, monitoring and evaluation, environmental and social specialists and operational experts will be established in the Society. The Public Works Department (PWD), Department of Education (DoE), Department of Agriculture and Horticulture (DoA/H), Animal Resource Development Department (ARDD), Department of Fisheries and Tripura Rural Livelihood Mission (TRLM) will be the key Project Implementing Units (PIUs). The E&S specialists in the PMU shall support all the PIUs. PIUs will be responsible for detailed design and implementation of their respective sectoral investments. Most of the civil works under the project, including construction / restoration of rural roads, construction of schools, post harvest infrastructure, etc. are entrusted with Public Works Department (PWD).

The Society for TRESP under Tribal Welfare Department (TWD) and none of the above-mentioned PIUs have implemented any World Bank financed project in the past. They lack prior experience, institutional expertise, written operating procedures as well as dedicated human resources to prepare, design and implement this multisector project following Bank's ESF requirements. Though the PWD has implemented Government of India's road schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) following the national guidelines, it does not have designated environmental and social experts to comply with Bank's ESSs. Availability of technical expertise and consultants is a constraint in the state and the overall institutional capacity risk is assessed Substantial.

The Society for TRESP will establish PMU and maintain an E&S organizational structure in TRESP with qualified staff to support management of E&S risks, at least one environmental expert and social development expert. Since PWD will be executing the civil works under TRESP, they will recruit one environmental and one social development-resettlement specialist during the project period. The project implementation units (PIUs) in other line departments will identify and designate one environmental and one social development specialist throughout project implementation.

The project has prepared an Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) which identifies key capacity gaps and recommends key measures to strengthen institutional capacity of the PIUs in meeting the ESS requirements. These measures include: recruitment of qualified E&S specialists in PMU and selected PIUs, structured training program on ESS implementation, and provision of technical assistance, capacity building and implementation support by Bank's ES Team. These measures have been included in the ESCP.



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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

The Environmental risk is rated as substantial. Though the rural roads are of small chainages, and on existing alignments, where natural forest conversion is not envisaged on most of the roads as sufficient right of way (RoW) is available, the risks and impacts due to the upgradation/ construction are rated substantial because: (i) they fall in areas surrounded by private lands, forested areas (comprising largely rubber plantations, bamboos and pockets of forests) but outside the wild sanctuaries, national parks, critical natural habitats and environmental sensitives zones; (ii) require felling of few trees in non-forest area, clearing of shrubs within existing right of way (RoW) that can potentially impact flora and biodiversity; (iii) occasional wild elephant movements in areas close to a few identified roads; (iv) geographic setting in hilly and undulating areas with loose/weak top soil at places that makes the area prone to minor slippages/landslides, erosion and impact on drainage; (v) environmental impacts during construction stage are health and safety of workers, traffic and road safety issues, work zone safety issues, generation of dust, air and water pollution, generation of scarified bituminous wastes from existing blacktop roads, bricks wastes from brick sole roads, construction debris and wastes, spillage of hazardous wastes (used oil from construction camp, paint wastes, etc.); (vi) weak capacity of implementing agencies in managing environmental risks. The risks and impacts due to construction of school buildings/ market extension services, agriculture and allied services are expected to be temporary, limited/localized and predictable and reversible. The impacts due to construction of school/buildings include: (i) impacts related to construction works, including on community/users of the schools and occupational health and safety risks to workers; (ii) issues associated with operation and maintenance, including hazardous materials/chemicals and waste management in laboratories, students’ meal kitchen; e-waste management; water management; emergency preparedness; menstrual hygiene management. The potential risks from agriculture and allied activities are expected to be local and predictable with low footprint. These risks could arise from improper and overuse of agrochemicals and pesticides and subsequently soil and water degradation. The project will have an exclusion/negative list for those activities/subprojects that can potentially have significant impact on wild sanctuaries, national parks, natural habitats and critical habitats.

Social Risk Rating

Substantial

The overall Social Risk Rating is retained as ‘Substantial’. TRESP supports civil works within existing right of way (rural roads) and physical boundaries (schools) along with other interventions on education, agriculture, livelihoods and capacity building in tribal blocks. Even though Land Acquisition is not expected, civil works in about 10-20% of the rural roads will likely involve voluntary donation of small land parcels The borrower may propose to use part of land for the project obtained by way of donation subject to Bank’s prior approval. and shifting of temporary roadside structures and vendors. These small-scale, resettlement impacts in sparsely populated, remote areas, will need to be screened, avoided and/or mitigated in line with ESS5 and ESS7. About 70-80% of construction workers will be from local communities, Despite moderate levels of non local labor, risks and impacts on tribal communities with low absorptive capacity will need to be monitored and managed. Construction activities will result in temporary reduction in access to school facilities, roads, and other public facilities causing inconvenience to road users, residents, school students and neighboring communities. Given that project will engage closely with tribal communities in predominantly tribal areas with special constitutional provisions/safeguards , risks of inadequacies in meaningful consultations, broad community support, and social and cultural compatibility of project interventions will be

Public Disclosure



important. Risk of excluding vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in project planning and benefits will need to be mitigated through inclusive social mobilization and beneficiary targeting. Project interventions are not expected to cause adverse impacts on land and natural resources under traditional ownership or customary use/occupation or local cultural heritage.

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 for ensuring that project interventions are environmentally and socially sustainable. The project is envisaged benefit the people, especially tribals, living in the project area through improved road connectivity and transport, improved access to public services and institutions, enhanced quality of education and transfer of employable skills, improved livelihoods and incomes of farmers, improved market infrastructure and efficient use of water resources. Physical investments, largely on construction and upgradation of rural roads, schools and post harvest facilities, would ensure resilient services for improved road connectivity, education facilities, agriculture/fisheries and livestock, efficient market linkages, etc. By strengthening Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), adaptive governance systems and capacities, the project will empower the communities to efficiently develop climate resilience and better adaptation.

The E&S risks and impacts, including on SEA/SH are presented and discussed in Section A.

The E&S risks and impacts, described in Section A, will be managed through an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), including the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Labor Management Procedures (LMP), and Environment and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) during planning, design and implementation stages. . The ESMF includes an exclusion / negative list that prohibits project financing and support to activities i) within wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, eco sensitive zones, critical biodiversity areas, Ramsar sites and other wetlands important from biodiversity point of view; ii) involving significant physical displacement; iii) causing adverse impacts on customary tribal lands, natural resources and cultural properties; and iv) opposition of tribal leaders as well as community institutions. The ESMF will also include procedures for undertaking E&S screening of sub-projects and for preparing site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), based on the generic ESMPs provided as guidance. The ESMF includes guidance on community consultations and participation in design and implementation of investments; Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), guidelines on carrying out consultations for voluntary donation; and provisions for training of project staff and communities on E&S issues. Since the project will be implemented in predominantly tribal areas, key requirements of ESS7 will be included in ESMF including RPF, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, the project's institutional arrangements, grievance mechanisms, intervention planning and implementation processes. The World Bank Group's Environment, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSG) are applied while developing ESMF and other ESF instruments. The clients propose to engage a Construction Supervision Consultant (CSC) to monitor the quality of work being done as well as the implementation of the sub-project specific ESMPs.



Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), Labour Management Procedures (LMP) and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) have been prepared for the project. The project’s ESCP specifies the requirement for the Borrower to implement the ESMF, prepare sub-project mitigation and management plans for implementation during the project cycle. The Borrower will need to ensure that all required mitigation, management and monitoring measures expected to be undertaken by the contractors are included in the standard bidding documents and implemented as per committed timelines.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

ESS 10 is relevant to the project.

Extensive consultations were held in 8 blocks with stakeholders potentially affected by the proposed agriculture, animal husbandry, rural livelihoods, rural roads, education and tribal welfare and planning, institutional strengthening and capacity building related interventions. These identified stakeholders were farmers, community members, community resource persons, women’ self help groups and federations, elected representatives from village committees (VCs) and block committees, members of school management committees (SMCs), producer groups (PGs), along with representatives of respective line agencies and PIUs. During project preparation, multiple rounds of consultations were carried out : a) Consultations with Block level officials, TRLM officials, representatives of sub-zonal committees and SHG members; b) Consultations with education sector stakeholders by the school education department, c) Consultations by E&S Consultants and PMU staff with about 450-500 stakeholders, including focussed discussions with- women, tribal communities, PVTGs, potential land donors and shifting cultivators; and d) stakeholder workshop during ESA with block level PIU officials and representatives of local bodies. A Consultation checklist was used to get stakeholder feedback, constraints, and concerns on the proposed TRESP interventions.

TWD has prepared an SEP in accordance with ESS10. The SEP maps the component wise key project stakeholders, assesses likely stakeholder impacts, roles and interest related to the project interventions, their type of engagement or information needs and mode of engagement. Based on the assessment and feedback received, all information dissemination with the targeted communities will be in local language- Kokborok and Bengali. All project related ESA documents will be disclosed on the Borrower’s website, including their translated executive summaries in the project areas. Participation of local communities in design and planning of sub-projects will be ensured and members of CBOs, POs and VCs will be the key target audience for capacity building initiatives. The project GRM will be sensitive to the grievance redressal and GBV service provider needs of potential victims. The existing mechanisms of state government as well as PIUs will be leveraged and v to address GBV and SEA/SH related grievances and service provider needs, including streamlining of incident reporting channels and provision of referral to GBV service providers, in case of emergency.

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

ESS 2 is relevant since TRESP will employ direct workers in PMU and PIUs (including officials of Government of Tripura), Contract Workers through Consultants and Contractors, as well as primary supply workers engaged in construction material.

The direct workers are expected to be about 50 in PMU/PIU. The scale of labour deployment is expected to be moderate at the rate of around 20-30 workers per 10-kilometer road stretch and about 25-30 workers for every school complex. Most skilled workers are expected to be migrant workers from neighboring states and likely to constitute about 15-20 percent of the total labor deployment. Producer collectives and Women’s Federations are likely to engage paid workers for field level activities.

The key labour risks are related to low awareness and orientation among the labor force on health and safety issues at worksites as well as provisioning of safety measures; lack of adequate facilities at worksites and labour camps; delayed or non-payment of fair and minimum wages; safety and security of women workers at worksites; migrant labour impacting vulnerable communities. GBV/SEA-SH related risks from construction are expected to be moderate due to largely local labour mobilization, robust supervision of the project by communities as well as PMU and PIUs. Conforming with ESS 2 requirements, a Labor Management Procedures (LMP) has been prepared to guide management of labor-related issues in TRESP. The key measures included in the LMP are: a) compliance with prevailing national and state laws and policies on labour safety, wage payment, migrant workers, non-discrimination and prevention of sexual harassment; b) provision of adequate, safe and gender-differentiated facilities at work and camp sites; c) creating awareness and training around occupational health and safety including on SEA/SO and GBV COC, d) setting up systems for grievance redress for workers, incidents and accident reporting and preventive measures, e) ensuring appropriate terms and conditions of work, f) assigning clear contractor roles and responsibilities related to labour and OHS in general and specific conditions of the contract and reflecting them in standard bid documents, g) sensitizing local communities and workforce on issues of labour influx and code of conduct, h) creating OHS Plans and Emergency Response Procedures. Contractors will be responsible for providing adequate accommodation, water, sanitation and health facilities.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

ESS-3 is relevant to the project. The project activities pertaining to construction and upgradation roads within existing RoW, construction of school buildings and post-harvest facilities within existing premises would consider resource efficiency and pollution control and management aspects during design/Detailed Project Report (DPR) preparation and construction stage. The purpose will be to improve the quality of physical environment, enhance health/safety and reduce the environmental footprint.

To create an enabling mechanism for integrating resource efficiency and pollution prevention/ management, ‘Generic Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for design, pre-construction, construction, demobilization and site restoration stages are prepared for project activities wise and included in the ESMF.

Since the project involves construction/ upgradation of rural roads, raw material is likely to be sourced from quarry. The project will ensure that the material is sourced from authorized/registered quarry only. For reducing the impact



on natural resources, and improving resource efficiency, the project will focus on minimizing use of raw material and on minimising water demand during construction through: i) reuse of scarified bituminous wastes and excavated brick wastes in rural roads construction and conservation measures for construction of roads and schools, and; ii) reuse of demolition wastes from existing schools. The project will also emphasize on improving natural light and ventilation in school buildings and enhancing energy efficiency; increasing water use efficiency for agriculture and aquaculture;; minimising greenhouse emissions;

For pollution prevention and management, the project will focus on (i) waste management, including hazardous and e-waste and sewerage/waste water from labor camps and construction sites (ii) stabilization of hill slopes and erosion prone areas by retaining walls and provision cross drainage structures (iii) measures for controlling dust, odor and noise pollution; (iv) measures in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) will be prepared for optimal use of pesticides and fertilizers in agriculture and horticulture fields

With respect to Carbon Emissions, the environment studies will estimate GHG due to implementation of Component 1 (rural roads, agriculture and allied activities), 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.

The ESMPs will be part of bids and contracts and environmental mitigation cost will be budgeted in scope of contractor by including ESMP items in Bill of Quantity. The implementation of mitigation measures shall be monitored, documented and reported in MPRs/QPRs. Periodic training will be provided to staff of both contractors and PIUs. The integration of ESMP in civil construction work bidding document is one of Society for TRESP's commitment in the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

ESS 4 is relevant since communities in project areas could be potentially exposed to site specific, construction stage impacts from construction of rural roads, school buildings and post harvest facilities.

The anticipated risks to community on rural roads are largely due to improper scheduling of construction works, disposal of untreated sewage and waste water from labour camp and construction sites, unsafe disposal of hazardous and solid wastes, haphazard dumping of construction wastes, differences in operating speeds, road geometry, functionality, enforcement level, accidents due to unmanaged traffic on narrow rural roads, etc. These risks related to community health and safety can be easily mitigated by various and safety and environmental mitigation measures, such as design of school buildings and rural roads and post harvest facilities as per applicable environmental guidelines and regulations, proper construction and labour management as per ESMPs, traffic and speed management, proper road safety signages, improved surfacing, awareness among the roads and schools users; and farmers, etc. As the project would implement agriculture and allied activities, the potential risks will be mitigated through promoting appropriate and optimal use of agrochemicals to prevent adverse human health impacts from exposure during use, or accidental ingestion or misuse and following the Integrated Pest Management and Integrated Nutrient Management plans to be prepared under the project. The contractor responsible for



construction/upgradation of rural roads will prepare a traffic management plan for ensuring safety and smooth movement of traffic.

About 70-80% of construction labor will be sourced from local communities and will work on medium scale construction work on rural roads and school buildings. Hence potential of health, safety and SEA-SH and GBV risks for villages and schools as project workers/contractors is low to moderate. Most tribal households in project area are engaged in traditional, rainfed farming and allied activities with low access to inputs, outreach and advisory services from the agriculture and allied departments. Consultations with line agency and producers have not highlighted any agriculture sector-specific SEA/SR risks. Consultations with school authorities and communities suggest that education sector does have sector specific SEA/SR needs particularly related to female students, teachers and staff, and these need to be addressed through GRM, referral services as well as orientation and capacity building interventions.

SMCs, Teachers, Students and Women's Federations will also be provided training on supervising and mitigating CHS as well as SEA/SR and GBV risks. Suitable signages will be used in appropriate high risk places. CHS, SEA/SR and GBV related incidents will be monitored and reported by PIUs. Further, all works, and operations will be planned, designed and implemented to comply with the World Bank Group's Environment, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSG) and applicable codes and guidelines as per country's regulations to mitigate anticipated impacts in community health and safety.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

ESS5 is relevant for TRESP. The road upgradation/ rehabilitation will involve civil works for rural roads and school buildings. Construction for rural roads and school buildings will be within existing right of way and existing school boundary respectively. Even though Land Acquisition is not expected under TRESP, civil works in about 20% of the rural roads will potentially involve voluntary donation of small land parcels and impacts on temporary structures and vendors along the roadsides. The borrower may propose to use part of land for the project obtained by way of donation subject to Bank's prior approval. In such circumstances, Bank will require borrower to demonstrate that the principles available in ESS5 for voluntary donations are followed. These will involve unavoidable minor impacts on land and livelihoods which will be mitigated through the provisions of ESS5.

Apart from small scale impacts, significant physical or economic displacement due to TRESP interventions is not expected and has been placed in exclusion/negative list, along with any other subprojects involving a) land acquisition of tribal households; b) adverse impacts on customary tribal lands, natural resources and cultural properties; c) opposition from village committees and Gram Sabha, including women's federations. This exclusion/negative list will be updated, reviewed and revised during implementation based on project experiences monitoring field visits and due diligence. In line with ESS5, the ESMF includes a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) that provides guidance on the procedure to be adopted on voluntary land donation, especially with respect to informed consultations with individual donors, providing sufficient time and choices to them for taking decision related to donation, formally documented willingness and objective facilitation of the process by the local body. The borrower may propose to use part of land for the project obtained by way of donation subject to Bank's prior approval. In such circumstances, Bank will require borrower to demonstrate that the principles available in ESS5 for



voluntary donations are followed. When applicable, Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) will be prepared to mitigate the loss of structures and livelihoods by the non-titled holders. The ES screening checklist and RAPs will be prepared as an integral part of the detailed subproject report (DPR) preparation process. The rehabilitation and relocation assistance provided to the project affected peoples (PAPs) will follow the entitlement matrix outlined in the RPF. The RPF will also include the specific requirements that apply to Schedule VI areas under the LARR Act 2013 and other laws on local self governance, as well as the requirements of ESS7.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

ESS-6 is relevant to the project. The project activities are to be implemented outside the wild sanctuaries, national parks, Ramsar sites, critical habitats and environmental sensitive zones. However, many rural roads are in largely rubber plantations, bamboos and pockets of forests. In the discussions with forest personnel and villagers indicated that close to few of the rural roads, occasional elephant movement is observed.

The project (rural road component) is not expected to significantly affect forest, natural habitats, critical habitats and ecosystems during construction and O&M since the rural roads are already existing; and construction and upgradation of rural road works will be carried out within the existing ROW, which is owned by the line departments. During construction, workers will be prohibited from using and collecting forest products and resources, which will be spelled out in the workers code of conduct. During operation of the improved roads, direct and indirect impacts to forest habitats and ecosystems are also not expected. The ESMF includes an exclusion/negative list of activities in the screening criteria that will eliminate the possibility of activities being taken up in critical natural habitats/eco-sensitive zones having species with critical biodiversity value, and depending on identified type and magnitude of impacts on natural habitats, appropriate mitigation measures will be proposed in ESMPs.

The 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. During construction works, relevant measures if required will be included in ESMPs, to prevent any possible impact on aquatic life due to discharges of untreated sewage and wastewater from worksites and/or improper disposal of debris in nearby water bodies and ponds.

Further, for trees felling on non forest area (only in small numbers) for the 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

ESS7 is relevant since TRESP interventions extend over 23 predominantly tribal blocks, and Tribal households will be the overwhelming majority among project beneficiaries. Additionally, the project areas are governed by the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) in line with the local tribal culture, customs, traditions, language as well as development priorities. Given that TRESP will engage closely with tribal communities in areas with special



constitutional provisions/safeguards, the potential risks & impacts are: inadequate consultations and community engagement with tribal village committees and Gram Sabha, SMCs and women's cluster level federations especially during subproject design and implementation planning; use of non tribal, non local language in project activities and grievance services; absence of broad community support in project villages, as well as incompatibility of proposed interventions with traditional livelihood and farming practices. Risk of excluding vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, especially PVTGs and minorities will need to be mitigated. Project interventions are not expected to cause adverse impacts on land and natural resources under traditional ownership or customary use/occupation or local cultural heritage. Since subprojects involving physical displacement of tribal households and adverse impacts on their traditional lands, natural resources as well as cultural heritage are excluded, the requirement for FPIC is not anticipated.

In line with requirements of ESS7, community stakeholder consultations were held with tribal leaders, committees and village households, to seek their suggestions and feedback on the proposed interventions and project information was shared in local language. TRESP interventions, institutional arrangements and implementation processes will comply with ESS7 requirements. The SEP includes multiple modes of engaging with tribal communities as well as information sharing, disclosure and grievance redressal mechanisms in local language. The ESMF includes a negative list that prohibits project support to any interventions with potential to i) adversely impact customary tribal lands, natural resources and cultural properties; ii) create local conflict and opposition by tribal leaders and community institutions; and iii) create significant physical and economic displacement in project area. The RPF includes details of process to be adopted for screening subprojects for adverse impacts, preparation of RAP and provision for suitable rehabilitation assistance to affected tribal households. The project will be complying with all legal/ administrative provisions applicable in Schedule VI areas.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

ESS8 is relevant to the project.

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, the possibility of cultural heritage (such as sacred groves, religious places, burial sites etc) being impacted by certain sub-projects can not be ruled out. Since all sub-projects have not been identified and the project is adopting a framework approach, the sub-project preparation will determine the presence of any site specific cultural assets and determine significance of the sub-project's direct or indirect impacts on these. The ESMF proposes that all sub-projects will be screened at the design stage for potential cultural heritage impacts. Consultations with communities will also be utilized to screen any sensitive issues related to cultural resources. The studies on environment and social aspects would evaluate the potential for 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 (Archaeological 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 requirements set forth under ESS 8. 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

The Policy on Projects on International Waterways (OP 7.50) applies to TRESP because project activities involve the potential use of waters of tributaries of the Brahmaputra River system which is considered an international waterway. The Project falls under an exception to the riparian notification requirement under paragraph [7(a) of the Policy because activities are limited to upgrading and modernization of existing, small-scale schemes which will not cause changes in the existing use of water or in water quality.

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas

No

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

Is this project being prepared for use of Borrower Framework?

No

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

Borrower’s E&S Framework was not 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 E&S requirements are expected to have gaps.

IV. CONTACT POINTS

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Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Department of Tribal Welfare, Government of Tripura

Implementing Agency: Department of Tribal Welfare, Government of Tripura

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VI. APPROVAL

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Public Disclosure