

# INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET CONCEPT STAGE

**Report No.:** ISDSC8374

**Date ISDS Prepared/Updated:** 29-Jul-2015

**Date ISDS Approved/Disclosed:** 04-Aug-2015

## I. BASIC INFORMATION

### A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Gabon	Project ID:	P132824
Project Name:	eGabon (P132824)		
Task Team Leader(s):	Michel Rogy,Dominic S. Haazen		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	15-Jan-2016	Estimated Board Date:	31-Mar-2016
Managing Unit:	GTI11	Lending Instrument:	Investment Project Financing
Sector(s):	Public administration- Information and communications (20%), Information technology (24%), Telecommunications (40%), General informa tion and communications sector (4%), Health (12%)		
Theme(s):	e-Government (50%), Infrastructure services for private sector development (20%), Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise support (25%), Regional integration (5%)		
Financing (In USD Million)			
Total Project Cost:	76.00	Total Bank Financing:	56.00
Financing Gap:	20.00		
Financing Source			Amount
Borrower			0.00
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development			56.00
Total			56.00
Environmental Category:	B - Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		

### B. Project Objectives

The proposed project development objective (PDO) is to transform public health services delivery and foster digital job creation by expanding access to connectivity, promoting innovation and leveraging information and communications technologies (ICT).

Direct beneficiaries of the proposed project will be both agents and patients of the National Health System and private sector actors/entrepreneurs conducting business in the digital economy, with a specific focus on women and youth. Indirect beneficiaries potentially include all of the country's population, benefitting from increased availability of Health services at affordable rates, increased access to connectivity from extension of broadband networks, and increased job opportunities in or supporting the digital economy.

### **C. Project Description**

In order to achieve the Project Development Objectives, the proposed project follows an integrated transformational solutions approach with four components: (1) strengthening of the National Health Information System to achieve “more health for money spent”, and thereby improving the efficiency of health spending, quality of care and ease of access including for women, youth and other vulnerable populations; (2) stimulating the development of the digital economy and improving service delivery by encouraging development of local content, applications and services with an emphasis on eHealth through the creation of business incubators in Libreville, Port-Gentil and Franceville; (3) implementing selected missing links of the regional and national fiber optic backbone to connect areas of high relevance for the National Health Information System and enable greater connectivity for private citizens and businesses; and (4) Effective project implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and communication.

Component 1: Strengthening of the National Health Information System (approximately US\$ 34.5 million). The aim of this component is to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of health service delivery which will be critical to improving Gabon's human development outcomes. It will also be leveraged to drive development of the digital innovation ecosystem in Gabon by incentivizing applications and local content development centered on health services and information. Specifically, this component will support ANINF and MoH in the development and the roll-out of the National Health Information System (NHIS), pursuant to the concept note prepared in July 2013. The NHIS will support informed strategic decision-making by providing access to high quality data which can help managers and health workers at all levels of the health system in planning and managing the health services; to monitor disease trends and control epidemics; and to provide periodic evaluation towards agreed targets. This component would include: (i) devising detailed feasibility studies for the NHIS; (ii) rolling out the NHIS; (iii) creating a detailed change management strategy for the MoH in the broader context of an articulated e-health strategy; (iv) providing study tours of Gabonese counterparts in selected lead practice countries; and (v) strengthening information system capabilities within the MoH and related agencies. This component will be implemented with support from the Health, Nutrition, and Population Global Practice.

Component 2: Stimulating the development of local content, applications and services with an emphasis on eHealth through the creation of business incubators in Libreville, Port-Gentil, and Franceville (approximately US\$ 11.0 million). The aim of this component is to promote economic diversification by encouraging the emergence of a digital innovation ecosystem in Gabon with the side benefit of improving both private and public e-service delivery. This component will support the Ministry of Digital Economy, ANINF and Agence Nationale pour la Promotion des Investissements (ANPI) in: (i) setting up business incubators in Libreville, Port-Gentil, and Franceville (where the International Center for Medical Research (CIRMF) is located); (ii) promoting digital entrepreneurship and growth of the ICT sector; and (iii) support development of innovative applications, with an emphasis on mobile-phone based health applications, to create opportunities for digital entrepreneurship, in particular for women. Specifically, this component would include: (i)

devising detailed design and feasibility studies for business incubators; (ii) providing a study tour of Gabonese counterparts in selected lead practice countries; (iii) building and/or renting and setting up three business incubators, and providing implementation support for the management of incubators through the most appropriate governance structure - including the private and the public sectors; (iv) strengthening the capacity of business incubators and beneficiaries through the provision of selected services; (v) developing a strategy to promote the development of local digital content, applications and services with a focus on health, including organizing hackathons and business plan competitions and setting up the appropriate legal and regulatory enabling environment; and (vi) strengthening the capacity of the ANINF and the Ministry in charge of the Digital Economy to drive and implement the e-applications agenda. This component will be implemented with support from the Trade and Competitiveness Global Practice.

Component 3: Implementing selected missing links of the regional and national fiber optic backbone (approximately US\$ 26.0 million, US\$ 6.0 million from IBRD and US\$ 20 million from other donors). The aim of this component is to improve access to connectivity, both to government institutions (particularly health facilities of high relevance for the National Health Information System) as well as private consumers and businesses. Increasing access is essential to ensuring greater access to new e-health and other electronic services as well as the wider social and economic opportunities enabled through voice and broadband connectivity – especially for the most vulnerable and price sensitive consumers. This component, building upon the Public Private Partnership (PPP) with Open Access to the backbone set up under CAB4, will support the Ministry of the Digital Economy and ANINF in improving the regional and national coverage of the fiber optic infrastructure. It will be implemented with co-financing with other donors - such as the Islamic Development Bank and the African Development Bank - which have expressed interest in supporting the Second Phase of the broadband infrastructure objectives of “Digital Gabon”. This component would include: (i) Northern Route: national and regional capacity via terrestrial fiber “branching out” from Ndjolé to connect Oyem and the borders with Cameroon (Eboro) and Equatorial Guinea (KyeOssi); (ii) Southern Route: national capacity via terrestrial fiber from Libreville to Lambaréné; and (iii) consultancy services to conduct feasibility studies for the missing links and to support the associated transactions for inclusion in the existing PPP. Oyem and Lamberene are both home to important health facilities and research centers, and extending the network would enable operators to extend high quality, low cost services to a large number of consumers in these areas by leveraging the backbone for backhaul. In addition, connecting Gabon to Cameroon through the new operation (in addition to the connection to Congo under the CAB4 operation) will contribute to broadening the opportunities for regional connectivity and eHealth cooperation.

Component 4: Effective project implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and communication (approximately US\$ 4.5 million). This Component will support the setting up of a dedicated small Project Implementation Unit (PIU) and will also cover training, office equipment, operating costs, audits and communications as well as M&E, environmental and social studies, their implementation and/or the monitoring of their implementation.

#### **D. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)**

The proposed cities for the business incubators are already connected via the national fiber optic backbone and are the three most populated cities in the country: Libreville (estimated 41% of the Gabon’s population), Port-Gentil (8%) and Franceville (3%). Project preparation will assess the exact locations (existing building or newly built building) to ensure the best access and through flow of entrepreneurs and developers, the opportunities to leverage industry clusters, as well as the need for

different strategies in the three locations. For example, while a full-fledged business incubator may be viable in Libreville, a different approach such as virtual incubation may work better in Franceville.

Selected missing links of the regional and national backbone would include: (i) north national and regional capacity via terrestrial fiber “branching out” from Ndjolé to connect Oyem and the borders with Cameroon (Eboro) and Equatorial Guinea (KyeOssi); (ii) south national capacity via terrestrial fiber from Libreville to Lambaréné. However the exact path of the terrestrial fiber and the location of associated technical sites are not yet known.

#### **E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies**

The country has moderate capacity for safeguards. Given that the main beneficiaries (Ministry in charge of ICT, ANINF) as well as the CN-TIPPEE (in which the EGabon Project Implementation Unit will be implemented) have experienced with safeguards under the CAB Project (P122776), some technical support will be provided by Bank safeguards specialists during preparation to ensure compliance with all World Bank safeguards policies but also national ones. Government team will also benefit from continuous advice and guidance from Bank safeguards specialists in the project team during implementation.

#### **F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team**

Antoine V. Lema (GSURR)

Paul-Jean Feno (GENDR)

## **II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY**

<b>Safeguard Policies</b>	<b>Triggered?</b>	<b>Explanation (Optional)</b>
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	<p>The sites of the business incubators will be in Libreville, Port-Gentil and Franceville. Project preparation will assess the exact locations and if existing buildings or newly built buildings will be used. Selected missing links of the regional and national backbone would include : (i) north national and regional capacity via terrestrial fiber “branching out” from Ndjolé to connect Oyem and the borders with Cameroon (Eboro) and Equatorial Guinea (KyeOssi); (ii) south national capacity via terrestrial fiber from Libreville to Lambaréné. However the exact path of the terrestrial fiber and the location of associated technical sites are not yet known.</p> <p>Because the exact nature and location of investments may not be determined up front, the Borrower will prepare an Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and/or Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) as needed pursuant to the ESMF.</p>
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	TBD	The sites of the business incubators will be in

		<p>Libreville, Port-Gentil and Franceville.</p> <p>The sites of the business incubators will be in Libreville, Port-Gentil and Franceville. Project preparation will assess the exact locations and if existing buildings or newly built buildings will be used. Selected missing links of the regional and national backbone would include : (i) north national and regional capacity via terrestrial fiber “branching out” from Ndjolé to connect Oyem and the borders with Cameroon (Eboro) and Equatorial Guinea (KyeOssi); (ii) south national capacity via terrestrial fiber from Libreville to Lambaréné. However the exact path of the terrestrial fiber and the location of associated technical sites are not yet known.</p>
Forests OP/BP 4.36	TBD	<p>The sites of the business incubators will be in Libreville, Port-Gentil and Franceville. Project preparation will assess the exact locations and if existing buildings or newly built buildings will be used. Selected missing links of the regional and national backbone would include : (i) north national and regional capacity via terrestrial fiber “branching out” from Ndjolé to connect Oyem and the borders with Cameroon (Eboro) and Equatorial Guinea (KyeOssi); (ii) south national capacity via terrestrial fiber from Libreville to Lambaréné. However the exact path of the terrestrial fiber and the location of associated technical sites are not yet known.</p>
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	<p>The sites of the business incubators will be in Libreville, Port-Gentil and Franceville.</p>
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	Yes	<p>The sites of the business incubators will be in Libreville, Port-Gentil and Franceville. Project preparation will assess the exact locations and if existing buildings or newly built buildings will be used. Selected missing links of the regional and national backbone would include : (i) north national and regional capacity via terrestrial fiber “branching out” from Ndjolé to connect Oyem and the borders with Cameroon (Eboro) and Equatorial Guinea (KyeOssi); (ii) south national capacity via terrestrial fiber from Libreville to Lambaréné. However the exact path of the terrestrial fiber and the location of associated technical sites are not yet known. The proposed operation is not expected to pose risks of damaging on the existing community cultural property. Nevertheless, proposed subprojects will be screened for their potential impacts on cultural</p>

		property and chance find procedures will be applied and appropriate mitigation measures for both the identification and protection (from theft, mistreatment of discovered artifacts) of cultural property. While not damaging cultural property, subproject preparation may later identify and include assistance for preservation of historical or archeological sites. If these opportunities occur, cultural property management plans would be prepared for those subprojects. ESIA(s) to be prepared pursuant to the ESMF will analyze the potential project zones and measures to be followed should these properties be discovered during project implementation.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	Yes	The sites of the business incubators will be in Libreville, Port-Gentil and Franceville. Project preparation will assess the exact locations and if existing buildings or newly built buildings will be used. Selected missing links of the regional and national backbone would include: (i) north national and regional capacity via terrestrial fiber “branching out” from Ndjolé to connect Oyem and the borders with Cameroon (Eboro) and Equatorial Guinea (KyeOssi); (ii) south national capacity via terrestrial fiber from Libreville to Lambaréné. Given that Indigenous Peoples are likely to be living in the areas where the missing links are expected to be built but the exact path of the terrestrial fiber and the location of associated technical sites are not yet known, the Borrower will prepare an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) and subsequent Indigenous peoples Plans (IPPs) as needed.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/ BP 4.12	Yes	The sites of the business incubators will be in Libreville, Port-Gentil and Franceville. Project preparation will assess the exact locations and if existing buildings or newly built buildings will be used. Selected missing links of the regional and national backbone would include : (i) north national and regional capacity via terrestrial fiber “branching out” from Ndjolé to connect Oyem and the borders with Cameroon (Eboro) and Equatorial Guinea (KyeOssi); (ii) south national capacity via terrestrial fiber from Libreville to Lambaréné. However the exact path of the terrestrial fiber and the location of associated technical sites are not yet known. Because the exact nature and location of investments may not be determined up front, the Borrower will prepare a



		Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and subsequent Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) as needed.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	The project will not construct or rely on dams.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	The project will not affect international waterways.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	The project is not located in a disputed area.

### III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

**A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS: 09-Oct-2015**

**B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed.**

**The specific studies and their timing<sup>1</sup> should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS:**

Target date for the Quality Enhancement Review (QER), at which time the PAD-stage ISDS would be prepared: December 14, 2015.

Because the final sites for the business incubators in Libreville, Port-Gentil and Franceville and the type of works (build or rehabilitate) as well as the exact path of the selected missing links have not been defined yet, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and, if needed, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) as well as an Indigenous People Planning Framework (IPPF) will be prepared and consulted upon prior to Project appraisal. These documents will be reviewed and cleared by the World Bank and publicly in the country as well as in the Bank InfoShop. It is expected that by July 2015 studies for the ESMF and RPF will have been launched.

Once the final sites for the business incubators in Libreville, Port-Gentil and Franceville are chosen and the type of works (build or rehabilitate) identified as well as the exact paths for the selected missing links, an Environmental and Social Assessment, including an ESMP, as well as a resettlement action plan (RAP) and an Indigenous People Plan if needed will also be prepared. If sites and type of works are known soon (because feasibility studies have been completed), this could even be done before Project Appraisal.

### IV. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader(s):	Name: Michel Rogy,Dominic S. Haazen	
<b>Approved By:</b>		
Safeguards Advisor:	Name: Johanna van Tilburg (SA)	Date: 03-Aug-2015
Practice Manager/ Manager:	Name: Boutheina Guermazi (PMGR)	Date: 04-Aug-2015

<sup>1</sup> Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.