# INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET
# CONCEPT STAGE

**Report No.**: ISDSC5135

**Date ISDS Prepared/Updated:** 18-Dec-2013

**Date ISDS Approved/Disclosed:** 18-Feb-2014

## I. BASIC INFORMATION

### A. Basic Project Data

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|---|---|---|---|
| **Country:** | Kosovo | **Project ID:** | P133829 |
| **Project Name:** | Kosovo Water Security and Canal Protection Project (P133829) | | |
| **Task Team Leader:** | Ahmed Shawky M. Abdel Gha | | |
| **Estimated Appraisal Date:** | 24-Nov-2014 | **Estimated Board Date:** | 31-Mar-2015 |
| **Managing Unit:** | ECSAR | **Lending Instrument:** | Investment Project Financing |
| **Sector(s):** | Irrigation and drainage (40%), Water supply (25%), General energy sector (25%), Wastewater Treatment and Disposal (10%) | | |
| **Theme(s):** | Water resource management (100%) | | |

**Financing (In USD Million)**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Total Project Cost: | 20.00 | Total Bank Financing: | 17.00 |
| Financing Gap: | 0.00 | | |

| Financing Source | Amount |
|---|---|
| BORROWER/RECIPIENT | 3.00 |
| International Development Association (IDA) | 17.00 |
| Total | 20.00 |

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|---|---|
| **Environmental Category:** | B - Partial Assessment |
| **Is this a Repeater project?** | No |

### B. Project Objectives

The development objective of the project is to improve the Iber-Lepenc Canal efficiency and strengthen the Iber Basin protection and management. This will be achieved through investing in ensuring the canal structural safety, improving the canal conveyance and operational efficiencies, protecting the canal water from the major pollution effluents, and developing the technical capacity of the service provider, the Iber Company, as well as of the water-resource regulator, the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (TBC).

## C. Project Description

This project objective will be achieved by undertaking the investments needed to secure uninterrupted and good quality water supply from the Iber-Lepenc Canal. The ongoing feasibility study will analyze a list of potential investments and measures. The project would consist of three components: (i) Canal infrastructure rehabilitation and modernization, (ii) Water resources protection and monitoring, and (iii) Project management support.

Component 1: Infrastructure Rehabilitation and Modernization

This component would focus on physical improvements to the deteriorated sections of the canal and its structures as well as improved hydraulic operations. Activities under this component would include:

(i) Works for canal repair and increased stability and for protection against renewed physical damage from landslides, and unstable soils (through lining, abutments, foundations, cuttings, aqueducts, culverts, tile drains to control uplift pressure). This may include installing bituminous geo-membrane or equivalent on top of existing concrete lining, if structurally sound.

(ii) Equipment for better management of gates and regulation of water flows, water monitoring (for the main Iber canal and for its secondary delivery system), including provisions for remote monitoring and controlling of related structures. A relatively advanced SCADA could be installed given the importance of the canal. The equipment may also include instrumentation for optimized operational schedule of the Gazivoda reservoir and its downstream balancing reservoir in Pridvorica, integrated with the proposed canal SCADA (to balance the releases for hydropower with the releases for the Iber canal).

(iii) Developing few emergency/balancing reservoirs along the canal (short-term storage along the canal to bridge peak water demand and temporary outages for repair purposes). For instance the government and donors have been considering to build a 15-day emergency supply reservoir for Kosovo C Power Plant (TBD). The project will attempt to apply this principle of short-term water storage through building emergency reservoirs for the other benefiting sectors. The feasibility study will explore this possibility and provide recommendations for such investments under the proposed project. The project will attempt to apply this principle of short-term water storage through building emergency reservoirs for the other benefiting sectors. The feasibility study will explore this possibility and provide recommendations for such investments under the proposed project.

Component 2: Water Resources Protection and Management

The project may also cover related water resources management options in the Iber-river basin (as related to the water balance of the Iber basin), including, inter alia:

(iv) Protection of the canal against renewed pollution, accidental pollution and other threats and man-made disruptions (through fencing, selective covers, or parallel interceptor drains with vegetative beds). This would help address the ambient water quality in the canal, particularly to meet the inflow quality requirements for the power plants and for the new Pristina Water Treatment Plant.

(v) Understanding impact from groundwater that is hydro-geologically connected to the canal. This would include, as a first priority, studying the geo-technical aspects which could affect the stability of the canal conveyance system; and as a second priority, studying and monitoring the quantity and quality of the groundwater resource within the Iber basin. The Swiss donor office in Kosovo has expressed interest to support the groundwater monitoring activities, likely through project co-financing.

(vi) Supporting the ongoing preparation of an EU-compliant River Basin Management Plan

(TBC).
(vii) Studying/demonstrating few on-farm measures to improve water-use efficiency and reduce diffused pollution in irrigated agriculture (building on EU-funded study currently being undertaken under the Irrigation Department of the Ministry of Agriculture) (TBC).
(viii) A rapid study on the potential hydrological and operational implications (relevant to m anagement of water in the Iber canal), of a tentative proposal to establish a "pumped storage hydropower plant" which would involve pumping water from Pridvorica Lake ("lower reservoir") up to Gaziovoda Reservoir ("upper reservoir") during non-peak hours and releasing it back down to the Lake to produce hydropower during peak hours.

Component 3: Project Management, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation

This component would cover overall project management as well as coordination among the different ministries/agencies involved in water management as related to the Iber-Lepenc Canal. The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) to be located within the Iber-Lepenc Company, will be responsible for day-to-day management of project activities and will work with relevant staff in other ministries such as the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning on the safeguard aspects of the project (Environmental and Social Assessment and Management Framework, ESMF, and Resettlement Policy Framework, RPF) as well as on Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E).

The project will also establish a Project Steering Committee, comprising high level officials from the various ministries engaged in the water sector (MESP, MED, Water Task Force, MAFRD) who would work together to provide advice and oversight for project activities. Given the multi-sectoral nature of water use, the Committee would be charged with reaching agreements as necessary in the efficient management and distribution of water from the Iber canal. As for gender development, the socioeconomic studies under the ESMF will include the identification of any vulnerable groups, including internally-displaced people or refugees, ethnic groups such as Roma, landless laborers, and the rights of female household heads and women in common-law unions. The public consultation and grievance procedure under the RPF/ESMF will comprise measures ensuring that such vulnerable groups are consulted during subproject design and implementation.



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

The project location is along the Iber Lepenc CKanal, as the core of the investment project loan will be on the rehabilitation of the canal. The Iber Canal is 49 km long with designed capacity of 10 m3/ s. Its conveyance efficiency is about 65 % (to be verified by the feasibility study), as there are operational and seepage losses which would be reduced by the project. lining is in very poor condition. Additionally, the project will invest in equipment for optimization of the reservoir management.

The Ibër water infrastructure—its reservoirs, canals, and related structures / works, was designed more than 30 years ago. At that time, there were plans to irrigate 20,000 ha in Central Kosovo which capacity of the canal allows, however, in 20120 less than 1,000 ha were irrigated (due to market limitations and also due to the encroachment of urban areas into rural lands).

Social Safeguards - As the project will invest in the rehabilitation of the canal, one obvious impact will be temporary land acquisition of the right of way to the canal and doing the rehabilitation works. Depending on from the feasibility study, and where the location of the short term storage will be

permanent, land acquisition impacts might be expected (and much less likely involuntary resettlement or demolition of structure in use).

### E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

As Kosovo is relatively new country, capacity for EIA is assessed to be low. Due to the low EIA capacity in Kosovo, the borrower is assisted through the Feasibility Study for Protection of Iber Canal (P143130) TA, financed by the WBIF, which includes guidance on preparing the environmental and social safeguards documents. The scope of the Feasibility study (FS) includes , the preparation of a site-specific EIA/EMP for the first year of project implementation and an ESMF for the remaining rehabilitation investments (i.e. the same consultant is helping the government to prepare both the FS and EIA/ESMF documents, which is allowable for a Category B project).
The FS consultant will coordinate with the Ministry of Environment and include all the required/ additional provisions in the scope of EIA if the Ministry concludes that the EIA will be required according to national legislation. The consultant will also assist the client in coordinating the EIA and RAP with relevant agencies, as the client will consult with concerned groups likely to be affected by the investment project and with local NGOs on the environmental and social aspects of the project. The implementing agency, Iber – Lepenc Irrigation Company, also has a low EIA capacity. These capacity issues will be tackled through the capacity building component of the project.

The Ministry of Environment comprises a department tasked with the land acquisition and resettlement activities, with previous experience in World Bank requirements related OP/BP 4.12.

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

Bekim Imeri (ECSSO)

Natasa Vetma (ECSEN)

## II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

| Safeguard Policies | Triggered? | Explanation (Optional) |
|---|---|---|
| Environmental Assessment OP/ BP 4.01 | Yes | For project preparation, a Feasibility Study (FS) is being prepared, as well as an EIA with EMP for at least the first year of project implementation (or for the site-specific investments known by the end of the FS preparation), together with an environmental and social management framework ESMF for the remaining planned investments.<br>The project will finance solely rehabilitation of the main Iber channel and there will be no additional construction, extension or widening. The project however might support construction of additional reservoirs which will serve during temporary outages for routine or emergency repair purposes, or to bridge peak water demands. The feasibility study and EIA will determine the need, the number, and location of needed reservoirs (if any).<br>The team considers the impact of works and |

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| | | intervention to be site-specific; few if any of them irreversible; and in most cases mitigation measures can be easily designed.<br>Although there are a number of planned off-takes from the Iber canal (a new power plant (Kosovo C), a new water supply and intake for Pristina and Mitrovice water supply) these planned investments are not considered to be associated/linked with the present project because they are expected to proceed with our without the canal upgrading.<br>Each of the planned projects will have an EIA carried out under national law and/or the requirements of involved IFIs (e.g. KFW) or private investors.<br>The EIA and ESMF will be disclosed and consulted with the public through website and public consultation meeting. |
| Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04 | No | Based on provided information, the works envisaged on the existing Iber channel will not impact any protected areas, will not have adverse impact on natural habitats and would not lead to the significant loss or degradation of any Critical Natural Habitats. |
| Forests OP/BP 4.36 | No | Based on provided information the channel rehabilitation will not affect forests. |
| Pest Management OP 4.09 | No | Although the canal provides water for irrigation, studies have shown that market access/ conditions, rather than water, are the primary constraint to agriculture in the service area. Thus, increased availability of water is not expected to lead to an expansion or intensification of agriculture. The project will not support extension of irrigation services. The use of pesticide and fertilizers is a source of pollution of Iber Channel.As the use of pesticides and fertilizers is a source of limited pollution of Iber Channel, the project might support demonstrating a few on-farm measures to improve water-use efficiency and reducing diffused pollution in irrigated agriculture. The EIA will look into these issues, if relevant to the project area and the PDO. |
| Physical Cultural Resources OP/ BP 4.11 | No | The project rehabilitation works will not impact in any way physical or cultural resources. Due |

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| | | to envisaged earthworks, EIA and EMP will have chance finds clauses. |
| Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10 | No | |
| Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12 | Yes | OP 4.12 is triggered because the area through which the canal passes is densely populated, so some of the protection measures (e.g. fences along canal banks) are likely to require some minor land acquisition, though not expected to require any physical relocation. In addition, land acquisition would probably be required for the storage reservoirs if they are included in the project (pending the FS outcome). A RAP will be prepared for the first years' works, which will be defined prior to Appraisal, and an RPF for works to be defined and designed in the following years. |
| Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37 | Yes | The flow of Iber canal is regulated by Gazivoda dam. The dam specialist and the team will review recent studies (DHV 2004 and 2012) of the dam's structure and function and determine: (i) whether any additional assessments are needed, and (ii) measures need if any to ensure the safety of the dam and the downstream investments and population. Under the EU financed Kosovo Irrigation Rehabilitation Project, Dam Safety assessment was carried out by DHV Consultants in 2004. The report assesses the structural safety of the 5 dams (including Gazivoda) and concludes that their relatively recent construction and good building standards have prevented development of major emergencies thus far. However, on all dams safety issues are emerging (piping, bulging, sagging, etc.) and concerns are arising regarding the adequacy of the spillway and emergency procedures. The report accepts that repair is not yet a high priority but recommends vigilance and closer follow-up. An additional report with similar findings was prepared in 2012. The balancing/emergency reservoirs that may be introduced along the canal are of the shallow low-risk type in connection to OP4.37. |
| Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50 | Yes | The water in the Iber canal is abstracted from the Iber river which, downstream from the reservoir and after its use in Kosovo, returns to Serbia and flows into the Morava and from |

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| | | there to the Danube. The requirements for prior notification of riparian countries on significant investments on the river are complicated since Serbia and other downstream riparians on the Iber-Morava-Danube system do not recognize the Government of Kosovo.<br><br>The proposed project will finance solely canal repair / rehabilitation and therefore the team considers it to be rehabilitation of existing / ongoing scheme. Possible addition of equipment for better management, and few emergency or balancing reservoirs along the channel, would not change the purpose of the canal, nor appreciably change the Iber-river water quantity or quality.<br>This implies that the project will not cover works nor activities that would develop the original scheme, change its nature, or so alter or expand its scope and extent as to making it appear as a new or a different scheme.<br>Therefore the opinion of the team is that the project will not appreciably change the quality or quantity of water flows to the other riparians; and will not be adversely affected by the other riparians' possible water use.<br><br>Thereupon, the team intends to seek an exemption to the notification requirement, provided that the EIA outcome corroborates the above. Per the advice from LEGEN, the team could seek an exemption from the notification once there is enough information (e.g. from the draft EIA) indicating there is no appreciable impact on the quantity or quality of the water flowing back to Serbia, especially as a result of building small balancing reservoir(s) along the canal, if any. Even if a small reservoir is built, canal operators are aware that the river flows required by Serbia need to be maintained (including the minimum environmental flow for the Iber/ Sitnica river, estimated at 0.50 m3/sec in monthly average or 1.5 m3/sec in monthly peak, which can be easily met given that the “as-designed” canal discharge ranges from 3 to 15 m3/sec). |

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| | | Prior to appraisal, e.g. after obtaining the EIA results, the team will re-consult with LEGEN. |
| Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60 | No | |

## III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

**A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS:** 15-Dec-2014

**B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing[1] should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS:**

Early November 2014

## IV. APPROVALS

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|---|---|---|
| Task Team Leader: | Name: Ahmed Shawky M. Abdel Gha | |
| ***Approved By:*** | | |
| Regional Safeguards Coordinator: | Name: Agnes I. Kiss (RSA) | Date: 26-Dec-2013 |
| Sector Manager: | Name: Dina Umali-Deininger (SM) | Date: 18-Feb-2014 |

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[1] 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.