

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: ISDSC4283

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I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Cameroon	Project ID:	P144637
Project Name:	Community Development Program Support Project-Phase III (P144637)		
Task Team Leader:	Amadou Nhare		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	12-Jan-2015	Estimated Board Date:	18-May-2015
Managing Unit:	GSURR	Lending Instrument:	Adaptable Program Loan
Sector(s):	General agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (35%), General education sector (20%), Health (20%), Water supply (20%), Other social services (5%)		
Theme(s):	Rural services and infrastructure (35%), Participation and civic engagement (20%), Municipal governance and institution building (20%), Decentralization (20%), Indigenous peoples (5%)		
Financing (In USD Million)			
Total Project Cost:	103.00	Total Bank Financing:	40.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
Financing Source			Amount
BORROWER/RECIPIENT			56.00
International Development Association (IDA)			40.00
LOCAL BENEFICIARIES			7.00
Total			103.00
Environmental Category:	B - Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		

B. Project Objectives

12. The development objective of phase III (PNDPIII) is to enhance the capacity of communes for the implementation of the communal development plans, and extend the ongoing process in support to decentralization in new district communes. The main beneficiaries will be the 329 communes that

have been supported during phase I and phase II and that already have communal development plans, plus 31 additional district communes. At the end of this phase, the program will achieve national geographic coverage. Indeed, all the 360 district communes of Cameroon will be covered by the program (100% national coverage).

C. Project Description

13. Phase I of the project was successfully implemented. It defined the approach and methods and allowed for their implementation in five of the ten regions in Cameroon. In this phase, the project funded studies led by MINATD which led to laws and regulations on the decentralization process, including: Law 2009/011 of July 10, 2009 on Financial regime of decentralized territorial entities, (ii) Law 2009/019 of December 15, 2009 on the local tax system, (iii) Ministerial Order No.00136/A/MINATD/DCTD of August 24, 2009, making enforceable standard tables of municipal jobs and organizational chart of Communes. The project also supported the development of several planning tools, including: (i) The first methodological guide for regional and communal planning, (ii) the guide for stakeholders involved in the process and implementation of contracts financed by PNDP in the communes and, (iii) the methodological guide for the preparation of land use and management plans for communes. Finally, 151 communal development plans were prepared during this phase.

14. In the second phase, the local development responsibilities were gradually transferred from project entities to communes where community investment decisions are made based on priorities identified in the communal development plan. This phase covered all 10 regions, but not all district communes of Cameroon. Indeed, 31 other district communes were not taken into account in the project. During this phase, the Program supported the recruitment of 262 financial agents responsible for tracking fiscal assets and 259 development agents responsible for monitoring and evaluation of communes. These staffs are operational and their personal contribution to the improvement of communal management is already noticeable and appreciated by 91 percent of Mayors. Furthermore, 178 new communal development plans (CDPs) were prepared by the municipalities. These CDPs have revealed significant needs in basic social services (health, education, water and sanitation), productive infrastructures and capacity building. Moreover, by letter No. 003356/MINEPAT/CAB of August 13, 2013, the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development has requested IDA funds for the financing of the third phase of the program. Therefore, there is a strong expectation of stakeholders for a third phase of the program.

15. The third phase will support the consolidation of successful approaches to service delivery, community empowerment in 329 district communes and the expansion of program activities to 31 additional districts communes. Therefore, the project will provide financial resources to communes in order to enable them to meet priority needs identified in their CDPs. Indeed, this phase will focus on: (i) supporting the rural communes in implementing local development activities; (ii) improving the quality of operation and maintenance of socio-economic infrastructure built to ensure their sustainability; (iii) the institutional support and capacity-building activities aimed at developing a sustainable institutional and financial mechanism that will support local development, including strengthened citizen engagement and social and environmental screening processes; (iv) completing the national coverage of the program through the inclusion of 31 additional districts communes and; (v) communicating to the national coordinating bodies of decentralization process the experiences and results of the evaluations conducted under PNDP to facilitate the popularization and adoption of good practices in planning and implementing municipal investments in the country.

16. The new project will include three components, that is: (1) local development support; (2) decentralization support for communes; (3) coordination, management, communication, monitoring

and evaluation of the project. Because of its multisectoral nature, it will ensure consistency with each sector strategy through effective coordination with other Bank financed projects: The Urban Development Project (PDUE); the Energy Sector Development Project (PDSN); the Agricultural Competitiveness Project and the forthcoming Agriculture Investment and Market Development Project.

Component 1: Local development support:

17. The objective of Component 1 will be to improve the socio-economic conditions, to increase the productivity of the natural resource base of each of the rural communes, as well as to increase incomes. To achieve these goals requires putting in place various social infrastructures and economic investments. Therefore, under this component, funds would be transferred to communes to finance priority investments identified in their communal development plans. Communes would be fully responsible for the selection and implementation of subprojects in a participatory manner. However, the mechanism of transfer of funds in the accounts of communes will be specified during project preparation in the project implementation manual (PIM). Regarding social infrastructures, sub-projects will be funded in the field of health, education, water and sanitation. Sub-projects on economic investments will be focused on productive investments such as the construction/rehabilitation of rural markets, communities' storage facilities, rural roads, bridges, culverts, small scale irrigation schemes for grassroots communities. These social and productive infrastructures are intended to improve the agricultural production environment and to provide favorable conditions for the diversification of economic activities through the development of agricultural and non-farm activities by the grassroots communities.

18. The aforementioned rural investments will empower the poor to take advantage of income and employment opportunities created by the expansion of economic activities and therefore contribute to rural livelihood diversification, shared prosperity, extreme poverty reduction and to the diversification of rural employment opportunities in Cameroon.

19. In addition, the preparation of CDPs for the 31 additional district communes and related activities will be funded. Multidisciplinary teams comprising representatives of the decentralized services of sectoral ministries or Local Service providers (LSP) will assist communes to prepare communal development plans through a participatory approach. The municipal council of every commune will be responsible for approving the PCD and its transmission to the divisional officer for administrative validation. Communes covered will also receive support to develop their Annual Investment Plans and to update their Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF).

Component 2: decentralization support for communes:

20. This component will seek to facilitate the sustainability of the PNDP's benefits and to strengthen the capacity of institutions that support the decentralization process. It will also provide assistance for the implementation of capacity building activities for communes and other stakeholders, such as Local Service Providers (LSPs), multidisciplinary teams of the sectoral ministries and Technical Services Providers (TSPs) to enable them to assume an effective role as promoters of local development. This component has two sub-components: (i) institutional support to the decentralization process, and (ii) capacity building of stakeholders in the decentralization process.

Sub-component 2.1: Institutional support to the decentralization process:

21. The efficiency of the use of funds provided by the various parties (the State, the private sector, and the civil society) to local governments, in particular to the rural communes, depends on the successful implementation of the decentralization process. This component would make it possible to: (i) further improve the legal and regulatory framework through specific activities and studies and improve implementation of the project at the communes and intercommunes levels, (ii) help build the case for decentralization (e.g., by using the M&E data on land use planning proactively to inform the public about the benefits of decentralization), and (iii) improve budget management to increase performance of local tax collection for a sustained decentralization funding mechanism.

22. The project will support specific studies and the preparation of draft decrees for the implementation of decentralization laws mentioned. It will also finance workshops for the finalization of the decrees, including relevant consultancy services for the workshops and dissemination of the enacted laws and decrees. Furthermore, the subcomponent will finance the acquisition of small cartography equipment and consultant services required for the mapping of communes. The project will also finance study tours on decentralization and local development for the National Council of Decentralization and the Mayors' Association. Finally, the project will deploy financial and accounting management software developed in the second phase in all communes covered.

Sub-component 2.2: Capacity building:

23. Strengthening the operational capacities of communes. The actual responsibilities transferred to communes by the decentralization law require development of new capacities in order to ensure, on the one hand, understanding and adopting their new roles and efficient accomplishment of their missions, and, on the other hand, the right aptitude and adequate capabilities to assume responsibility for the management of local investments. The Project will join forces with the Training Center of the Municipal Administration "CEFAM (Centre de Formation de l'Administration Municipale)", and under this component would make it possible to inform and train the members of the commune councils and committees attached to it, including civil society in how to efficiently play their role, providing them with the tools necessary for managing the local governance institutions, for establishing an environment for local economic development and promoting public-private partnerships.

24. Under this sub-component, several capacity-building activities will be carried out, such as: (i) financing the development of a manual on the local economy, (ii) strengthening communal project ownership, (iii) promotion of nationwide competitions for local governments on best practices on CDPs and on enhancing good governance and transparency, (iv) acquisition of computer equipment for communes that did not benefit from these facilities in the second phase, (v) building capacity of the communal council in monitoring environmental and social impact of subprojects and, (vi) enhancing social accountability.

25. Capacity building for local stakeholders. This activity aims at strengthening and enhancing the skills of the participants so that they can effectively assist the municipalities in the decentralization process namely: local elected officials, communal staff, multidisciplinary teams, and local services providers. Workshops will be organized to inform all stakeholders about the objectives and strategy of the project and to equip ordinary citizens to participate in planning, implementing, and monitoring local development actions. To facilitate such capacity building, the project will finance technical assistance for training of local service providers and multidisciplinary teams to improve their quality of service. Furthermore, the project will promote cooperation among the Project Coordination Units,

the decentralized offices of the Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Sustainable Development (MINEPDED), and other relevant sector ministries, and will assist in the organization of an environmental training program for members of Municipal Councils, divisional administrative staff, and project staff. Finally, exchange visits will be organized for stakeholders of decentralization.

Component 3: Coordination, management, monitoring and communication:

26. This component will facilitate: (i) administrative, technical, and financial management of the project; (ii) coordination among all institutional partners to ensure efficient support to communes for local development; (iii) effective contractual arrangements with communes, sectoral ministries, and TSPs/private-sector operators, NGOs (TSPs), including the acquisition of the equipment required for project implementing; (iv) monitoring and evaluation of the performance and the financial, environmental, and social impact of the project (including developing monitoring scorecards to assess satisfaction of the beneficiaries with services provided by communes); and (v) development of communication activities to publicize and disseminate project implementation tools and local development potential and practices. The National council for decentralization (NCD) will be a member of the project's national steering committee. Compared to NCD, PNDP will position itself as a major support tools to communes in the implementation of the powers transferred by central government. At the end of this final phase, local development responsibilities would be totally transferred to communes.

27. The integrated financial management software will be upgraded with additional tools to enable permanent access to information in the accounting system of the regions for analysis and ensure timely synchronized consolidation of accounts.

28. Under this component, the project will finance: (i) the rehabilitation of office spaces; (ii) the purchase of office equipment and vehicles; (iii) training of the staff of the project's National Coordination Unit (NCU) and the Regional Coordination Units (RCUs); (iv) consultant services, including the preparation and publishing of manuals, establishment of an electronic library; and (v) monitoring of the implementation of environmental and social mitigation measures. Also, it will pay for meetings of the program's statutory supervisory and coordination organs and for the operating costs of NCU and RCUs.

29. Project costs. The total cost of the third phase of the Community Development Program is estimated to be about US\$103.00 million. The proposed Bank-financed Support would cost about US \$40.00 million. The Borrower will provide US\$ 56.00 million and the beneficiaries will contribute up to US\$ 7.00 million. In addition, the French Development Agency is preparing a parallel financing of agricultural production activities through the project, but the exact amount for this funding is not yet known.

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

The project will be implemented in the rural areas of all ten regions of the country.

E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

The Borrower has established an environmental and social management capacity under APL I and APL II. APL III will use this capacity. APLIII will further strengthen capacity for the implementation of the environmental and social safeguards instruments. During the second phase additional Environmental and social Specialists at the regional level were appointed and they

received relevant environmental training, with a particular emphasis on screening sub-projects for potential environmental and social impacts at the planning stage. During this phase, the project implementing unit will strengthen the collaboration with the Ministry of Environment , the Ministry in charge of Lands and the Ministry in charge of social affairs.

A Resettlement Policy Framework was prepared for APL I to mitigate potential adverse social impacts due to land acquisition identified during the screening process. Under APL III, this RPF will be updated and will guide the project team in the cases in which a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) or abbreviated RAP is necessary. The updated RPF will be disclosed prior project appraisal.

The Indigenous Peoples Plans prepared for APL I and updated during APL2 will be updated and disclosed prior project appraisal. The Environmental Focal Point responsible for environmental and social management in the Southern and the Eastern regions will oversee the implementation of these plans.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Lucienne M. M'Baipor (GSURR)

Emeran Serge M. Menang Evouna (GENDR)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/ BP 4.01	Yes	This policy is triggered due to the activities that will be financed under Component 1- Local Development Support-.Social infrastructures, construction/rehabilitation of rural markets, communities' storage facilities, rural roads, bridges, culverts, small scale irrigation schemes for grassroots communities. While minimal to moderate in terms of impact, these activities will result to environmental and social impacts that will need to be adequately handled. PNDP phase 2 ESMF will be updated, consulted upon and disclosed prior project appraisal.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	The activities funded under this project will not be undertaken in the areas where Natural habitats will be threatened. The ESMF will clearly exclude all subprojects that could have negative impacts
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	The activities funded under this project will not be undertaken in the areas where forests will be threatened. The ESMF will clearly exclude all subprojects that could have negative impacts
Pest Management OP 4.09	Yes	While the project will not finance the purchase of pesticides, the Project activities under component 1 may induce the increase of pesticides use in the communities storages

		facilities. A PMP will be prepared, consulted upon and disclosed prior project appraisal.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	Yes	The project will finance some activities under the Local development Plan that may consist in the land excavations. The ESMF will include procedures for addressing physical cultural resources encountered during project implementation.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	Yes	This policy is triggered with respect to the pygmy communities living primarily in the Southern and Eastern regions as well as in other parts of the country. The IPDP from PNDP Phase 2 will be updated, consulted upon and disclosed before appraisal.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	This policy is triggered as the project is likely to finance activities that could lead to Involuntary Resettlement. Voluntary land contribution might be expected from targeted beneficiaries as is sometimes the case with community-driven interventions. For this reason, the RPF might need to include special provisions for land acquisition; and accepting and recording such voluntary contributions. The RPF from PNDP Phase 2 will be updated, consulted upon and disclosed before appraisal.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	The project does not involve the construction of dams.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	TBD	As the project is nationwide, the project under component 1 expects to finance small scale irrigation schemes, this can be done in the North and Far North, close of Chad and Niger watershed basins. During project preparation, it will be determined whether these activities will need to trigger this policy. If it is determined that this potential exists, a decision will be made as to whether to exclude such sub-projects through provisions in the operational manual or trigger OP/BP 7.50 and carry out the notification of riparian States
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	N/A

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS: 05-Nov-2014

**B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed.
The specific studies and their timing¹ should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS:**

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.

Since the activities under APL III will be essentially the same as under APL II, the project will (i) update, consult upon and re-disclose the existing Environmental and Social Management Framework (June 2003), the existing Resettlement Policy Framework (June 2003); and the existing Indigenous People Development Plan (June 2003) prepared under APL I and APL II prior to appraisal. The PMP for Phase 3 will be prepared, consulted upon and disclosed before appraisal.

IV. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader:	Name: Amadou Nchare	
<i>Approved By:</i>		
Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Name: Alexandra C. Bezeredi (RSA)	Date: 08-Dec-2014
Practice Manager/Manager:	Name: Jorge A. Munoz (PMGR)	Date: 08-Dec-2014