



# Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

## Concept Stage

### **(ESRS Concept Stage)**

Date Prepared/Updated: 10/19/2020 | Report No: ESRSC01661



**BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Project Data**

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Uganda	AFRICA EAST	P174337	
Project Name	Securing Uganda’s Natural Resource Base in Protected Areas		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Environment, Natural Resources & the Blue Economy	Investment Project Financing		11/30/2020
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Republic of Uganda	Uganda Wildlife Authority, National Forestry Authority		

Proposed Development Objective

To improve sustainable management of, and increase benefits to communities from, target protected areas in response to COVID-19 impacts.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>2.30</b>

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

Yes

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

The proposed project will support forest monitoring and community livelihoods engagements of the National Forestry Authority and Uganda Wildlife Authority in key protected areas within the Albertine landscape. These activities have been severely affected by COVID-19.

The project will support UWA and NFA protection and forest restoration activities, including monitoring and patrolling activities, activities aimed at prevention of human-wildlife conflict, and restoration of forest cover through enrichment planting, using community labor as per standard procedures in use by these agencies. The project will



also support livelihoods and employment opportunities in forest-adjacent communities, through provision of inputs for alternative livelihoods (both natural-resource based and not) to create innovative income streams for these communities and support job creation.

**D. Environmental and Social Overview**

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

Geographically, project activities will be implemented in selected locations with highest existing pressures on natural resources, with the focus on populated areas around the Murchison Falls National Park, Queen Elizabeth National Park, and Toro-Semliki Wildlife Reserve areas for the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and the Central Forest Reserves (CFR) in the Budongo Forest Range for the National Forest Authority (NFA). The planned community works under the project are not expected to adversely affect these areas but provide infrastructures (plants and trenches) that will include live fences using Mauritius thorn, planting of animal-repellent crops such as chilli and tea, and establishment of bee hives to minimize human/animal conflict. Hence, project outcomes will generate positive impacts that are likely to outweigh negative ones.

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

Project activities will be implemented by the NFA and UWA, under overall management of their headquarters teams and with direct implementation on the ground by the respective teams on the ground. Both NFA and UWA have experience of implementing World Bank financed projects. They are also implementing agencies of the Uganda: Investing in Forests and Protected Areas for Climate-Smart Development Project (IDA funded), approved by the World Bank Board in April 2020, 2020. Prior to implementation of this project, all key staff including E&S specialists undergone a training on the essentials of the ESF aimed at improving environmental and social risk management. NFA and UWA will provide overall E&S risk management for this project.

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

**A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)**

Moderate

**Environmental Risk Rating**

Moderate

The project may cumulatively generate moderate environmental and social risks and impacts emanating from the proposed interventions, mainly under component 1. Such risks and impacts may likely lead to disturbances of project host areas, wildlife within the National Parks, and the general physical environment. Since these areas are environmentally-sensitive, particular attention is needed to interventions related with construction of trenches (using community labor), planting of live fences using Mauritius thorn, planting of animal-repellent crops such as chilli and tea, and establishment of bee hives including opening of new fire breaks . If not well-managed, such activities may lead to spread of invasive species in the conservation areas and national parks, uncontrolled forest fires, soil erosion and disturbance, land clearance and fauna disturbance as well as low to moderate OHS risks to the community workers. While proposed activities are aimed at prevention of human-wildlife conflict, and restoration of forest cover through enrichment planting, anticipated environmental risks and impacts are generally expected to be localized, minor and short-lived. Other potential environmental risks and impacts are related with the activity that will support the preparation and development of technical designs that will be applied to carry out small-scale civil works such as construction of fire towers, housing (construction and renovation) for staff, bird hides, and replacement entry gates.

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However, all construction activities will be implemented and supported under the ongoing IPF - Investing in Forests and Protected Areas for Climate-Smart Development Project (P170466). Detailed scope of the proposed TA activities will be defined during implementation. Under the ESF, preparation of technical designs is classified as Type 1 TA activities. When implemented, such TA activities may generate moderate to substantial environmental concerns that include occupational health and safety risks, public nuisance due to presence of debris and air pollution, community health and safety risks related with disposal and handling of hazardous waste and also substantial risks to human health and the environment due to handling construction site waste. Further risks are related with COVID-19 pandemic are expected mainly, during operationalization of TA activities. Notwithstanding, anticipated environmental risks and impacts can be readily addressed with application of specific provisions to be included in the ESS instruments. The areas of direct intervention, as well the precise scope of infrastructures to be developed under the TA activities will not be fully defined until project implementation. As such, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be prepared and implemented, including procedures for screening and excluding any interventions that could cause unprecedented environmental risks and impacts. The ESMF will be valid to all activities supported by this project including the development of the detailed technical designs, examining the project's overall direct and indirect risks and impacts as well as promote systematic and comprehensive analysis of alternatives to inform the design of principles, rules, guidelines and procedures to avoid, mitigate and monitor the environmental risks and impacts throughout project implementation. TORs for the TA activities will be included in the ESMF to ensure that relevant environmental and social issues are taken into account when preparing the technical designs in a manner that is consistent with the ESF. The TORs will be reviewed and cleared by the Bank. Furthermore, the Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC) risk may rise depending on the scope of the TA when defined.

**Social Risk Rating**

Moderate

The project is meant to increase the resilience of beneficiary communities through livelihood support and the provision of employment opportunities in forest-adjacent communities, and inputs for alternative livelihoods (both natural-resource based and not) to create innovative income streams for these communities and support job creation. All the planned works will be carried out using community labor and in very close proximity to selected National Parks, and therefore away from communities. These two facts will significantly reduce the potential risks associated with influx of labor (GBV, /VAC, etc.) and those related to health and safety of communities in general. Moreover, Both implementing agencies (NFA and UWA), which will provide overall E&S risk management for this project have experience of implementing World Bank financed projects; the most recent one being the Uganda: Investing in Forests and Protected Areas for Climate-Smart Development Project (IDA funded), approved by the World Bank Board in April 2020. It is worth noting that all key staff including E&S specialists have undergone a training on the essentials of the ESF aimed at improving environmental and social risk management. However, community workers might be exposed to health and safety risks during execution of the works. Additionally, the project might also present a risk of exclusion of certain community members during the provision/distribution of inputs under component 1.1 and of training under component 1.2. Land acquisition, restriction of access, and impacts on livelihoods are also not expected. For these reasons, the social risk rating is currently at moderate.

**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**

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**Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:**

Proposed project activities are expected to generate positive environmental and social impacts that will outweigh negative ones. Expected positive impacts include enhancing prevention of human-wildlife conflict, and restoration of forest cover through enrichment planting protection and forest restoration activities through monitoring and patrolling activities, prevention of human-wildlife as well as employment opportunities for local communities. The project will therefore contribute improved sustainable management of natural resources, thus increasing benefits to communities from, target protected areas. Notwithstanding, activities under Component 1 are likely to cause low to moderate environmental and social risks and impacts relevant to the World Bank Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs). Anticipated risks and impacts will include spread of invasive species in the conservation areas and national parks, uncontrolled forest fires, soil erosion and disturbance from trench digging, land clearance and fauna disturbance as well as low to moderate OHS risks to the community workers. TA activity may include supporting the development, detailed technical designs for priority infrastructures to be implemented under an ongoing operation. When implemented TA outcomes may lead to downstream substantial risks and impacts that will require proper consideration. Such risks and impacts will mostly occur during construction of the infrastructure investments and those will include soil, vegetation and fauna disturbance and degradation due to earth movements for preparation of trenches, soil and water bodies contamination through uncontrolled earth movements; waste generation and handling (both solid and sewage); air, soil and water bodies contamination due to civil works debris. Other potential negative impacts include occupational health and safety risks, community health and safety risks related with community labor. Further, risks related with COVID-19 pandemic are expected mainly, during community labor activities and implementation of the civil works thereafter. Specific measures to address such risks will be managed with application of specific provisions to be included in the ESMF.

Although community works under component 1.1 are expected to be carried out away within the boundaries of National Parks and away from communities, they will likely carry some Environmental and Social impacts - notably the trenching and planting of natural barriers. They also include the risk of exclusion of certain community members during the provision of inputs and training respectively under components 1.1 and 1.2. All of these are however, expected to be localized and manageable. The client will be required to prepare an ESMF to address these potential impacts. The ESMF will be valid to all activities supported by the project, examining the project overall risks and impacts, setting out the principles, rules, guidelines and procedures to assess, mitigate and monitor the environmental and social risks and impacts along the project implementation. The E&S assessment will include detailed measures to address likely risks from animal attack to workers including guidance to prepare OHS plans, community awareness programs, emergency procedures as well as hiring and induction procedures for community and all workers. Furthermore, activities under component 1.2 will involve a number of capacity building activities for the benefiting communities and also the technical designs for very small civil works such as construction of fire towers, housing (construction and renovation) for staff, bird hides, and replacement entry gates. These are classified as Type 1 activities hence; TORs for the TA activities will be included in the ESMF to ensure that relevant environmental and social issues are taken into account when preparing the technical designs in a manner that is consistent with the ESF. All subsequent construction activities will be carried out under the ongoing IPF - Investing in Forests and Protected Areas for Climate-Smart Development Project (P170466).

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

None



### **ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure**

The project is primarily aimed at communities around the targeted areas and includes an element of community awareness under component 1.1. As such, the client is expected to draft a Stakeholder Engagement Plan detailing (i) consultation strategies throughout the project cycle and (ii) a Grievance Redress Mechanism. The SEP will outline means of consultation especially in a COVID-19 situation in line with World Bank guidance and GoU's policies.

### **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**

The project will likely involve direct workers and contracted community workers. The scale of labor influx into project areas is expected to be low at this stage, since the project will aim at hiring local labor, except for skilled workers who cannot be found in project locations. Relevant project activities include the provision of infrastructures (planting live fences using Mauritius thorn, planting of animal-repellent crops such as chilli and tea, digging of trenches, and establishment of beehives), to minimize human/animal conflict. During project preparation, the environmental and social assessment process will look closely at the potential labor-related risks – child labor, bonded/ forced labor, etc. To ensure health and safety of workers during the community works activities, the Borrower will develop a Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) guidance and procedures as part of the ESMF, in line with World Bank Group Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines. A Code of Conduct on SEA/H for all workers is expected to be in place.

Since the project is also expected to utilize community labor for activities under component 1.1. The client will prepare a Labor management Plan (LMP) that will detail how these workers, including project workers from the implementing agencies, are going to be managed throughout the project cycle. The LMP will also include guidelines for a GRM all project workers. The provisions that will apply to community workers will be in accordance with ESS2 and will include a methodology to verify and document the working conditions, including if any volunteer work will be used, and how the voluntary nature of the work will be verified and documented. Moreover, the standard procedures used by both UWA and NFA for community workers will be reviewed for equivalence to ESS2 and any gap-filling measures will be included in the LMP.

#### **ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management**

To minimize pollution risks and adverse impacts in the surrounding sensitive environment , the project will require environmental rules for contractors to be included in the TORs for the preparation TA activities related with technical designs for civil works regarding the proper disposal of all liquid and solid waste (including plastic trash) and construction waste, sanitation management, including management of any associated dust emission, potential pollution of water sources, noise impacts when implementing the during construction and operation. Efficient use of natural resources will include the restoration of any newly opened trenches or land cleared to similar to pre-project conditions. The Project is not expected to procure any pesticides, nor to promote pesticides use. For these reasons, preparation of a specific Pest Management Plan is not expected. Project investments are expected to generate negligible GHG emissions as well as energy and water use. The Borrower will adopt measures specified in the EHS



and GIIP to the extent feasible. The ESMF will provide measures for addressing waste management impacts and risks, including non-hazardous waste during implementation of project activities.

#### **ESS4 Community Health and Safety**

Since the project's civil works will mainly be undertaken in protected areas, the number of affected communities is expected to be limited. Although they will be carried out away from the communities, some activities are expected to impact the health and safety of communities. Specifically, the use of community labor but also the works in very close proximity to national parks that might expose them to animal attacks. Small-scale civil works as well as community interventions also face the risk of being implemented in a COVID-19 situation. The E&S assessment will include detailed measures to address likely risks from animal attack to workers including guidance to prepare OHS plans, community awareness programs, emergency procedures, as well as hiring and induction procedures for community and all workers. The ESMF will also include strict protocol to minimize the risk of introducing and/or spreading COVID in the project area. In addition, the ESMF will include assessment on the project areas, infections status as well as availability of diagnostic, treatment and isolation resources in the project area so to design COVID protocols tailored to the context targeted areas. The Project will also support information and awareness-raising measures in the community on COVID-19 risks that could be exacerbated by the project and need to be addressed at the community level through responsible action. On the other hand, downstream measures to address the potential risks and impacts on beneficiaries will be included the TORs for TA activities ESMF and will be detailed in work specific ESMPs, in line with this standard, as applicable.

#### **ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement**

No Land acquisition or restrictions on land use and access to natural resources that may cause a community or groups within a community to lose access to resource usage where they have traditional or customary tenure, or recognizable usage rights are expected under the project. Similarly, the livelihoods of PAPs are not expected to be affected

#### **ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources**

Proposed activities, mainly under component 1 will involve management of invasive plant species aimed promoting human-wildlife conflict prevention, thus the relevance of ESS6. The use of pesticides and herbicides is not expected, thus, the proposed project activities shall in general positively contribute to biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources. Other project interventions (including civil works) will be carefully screened to avoid any significant loss or degradation of natural habitats and to avoid damaging any protected areas or critical habitats. The ESMF will deliberately include criteria and procedures to ensure that project investments are designed and implemented in ways that avoid damage to protected areas or critical habitats, including description of appropriate methods of managing invasive plant species in selected forests and park areas. Moreover, the existing Protected Areas Management Plans recently prepared remain valid for this operation and will be used to provide specific guidance for biodiversity management and they will be used to inform the preparation of the ESMF and TORs for TA activities.



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

The targeted areas under the project do not host members of Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups

**ESS8 Cultural Heritage**

Planting of trees and trenching might uncover objects of cultural importance to surrounding communities. Likewise, they might also impact tangible and intangible physical and cultural resources. The ESMF will make provisions for screening and avoidance of potential cultural heritage sites including guidance for pre-intervention assessment as part of "chance find" procedures. Furthermore, attention will be given to the potential downstream impacts of the TA activities which will include specific provisions in the TORs to address cultural heritage aspects, such as sacred groves and intangible resources. The TORs for TA activities will form part of the ESMF.

**ESS9 Financial Intermediaries**

The use of Financial Intermediaries is not expected under the project.

**C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply**

<b>OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways</b>	No
<b>OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas</b>	No

**III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE**

**A. Is a common approach being considered?** No

**Financing Partners**

N/A

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

**Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:**

- Preparation of ESCP
- Preparation of a LMP
- Preparation of an ESMF
- Preparation of a SEP

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

Preparation of specific ESMPs  
TORs for TAs and capacity building plans in the ESMF

Public Disclosure





**IV. CONTACT POINTS**

**World Bank**

Contact: Nigel Ross Hughes Title: Senior Natural Resources Management Specialist

Telephone No: 5358+6153 / 1-202-53586153 Email: rhughes@worldbank.org

**Borrower/Client/Recipient**

Borrower: Republic of Uganda

**Implementing Agency(ies)**

Implementing Agency: Uganda Wildlife Authority

Implementing Agency: National Forestry Authority

**V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

The World Bank  
1818 H Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20433  
Telephone: (202) 473-1000  
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

**VI. APPROVAL**

Task Team Leader(s): Nigel Ross Hughes

Practice Manager (ENR/Social) Helene Monika Carlsson Rex Recommended on 19-Oct-2020 at 12:27:49 GMT-04:00