

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: ISDSC2937

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 08-Apr-2013

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I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Belize	Project ID:	P127338
Project Name:	Climate Resilient Infrastructure (P127338)		
Task Team Leader:	Yoonhee Kim		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	27-Jan-2014	Estimated Board Date:	20-May-2014
Managing Unit:	LCSDU	Lending Instrument:	Specific Investment Loan
Sector(s):	Flood protection (30%), Urban Transport (30%), Central government administration (20%), Irrigation and drainage (20%)		
Theme(s):	Climate change (50%), Natural disaster management (25%), Land administration and management (25%)		
Financing (In USD Million)			
Total Project Cost:	15.00	Total Bank Financing:	15.00
Total Cofinancing:		Financing Gap:	0.00
Financing Source			Amount
Borrower			0.00
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development			15.00
Total			15.00
Environmental Category:	B - Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		

B. Project Objectives

The development objectives of the proposed Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project (CRIP) are to improve the resilience of critical infrastructure to natural hazards and understood impacts of climate variability and to strengthen the capacity of the national and local government in managing climate resilience.

C. Project Description

The Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project (CRIP) would support the GoB in strengthening the resilience of critical infrastructure to natural hazards and the anticipated impacts of climate variability through targeted retrofitting, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities. The investments financed by the CRIP would be informed by an extensive project identification and prioritization process enabled through provisions provided by a Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and European Union (EU) Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) grant in the amount of US\$750,000. The primary output of the GFDRR/EU-ACP grant would be a comprehensive cross-sectoral climate resilience investment plan, which is currently being developed jointly with the GoB, and is expected to be adopted as the GoB's mid-term investment strategy. Activities included in the national climate resilience investment plan would be identified and prioritized using a multi-criteria evaluation (MCE) methodology. The MCE will be based on a combination of physical, social, economic, and environmental criteria, which will be defined and confirmed by key national stakeholders.

In order to establish the institutional priorities and appropriately define the weight of each criterion included in the MCE methodology the following activities would be conducted under the GFDRR/EU-ACP grant: 1) the establishment of a hazard and disaster baseline, 2) the conduction of a series of participatory workshops to reach consensus on MCE criteria, 3) the analysis of socio-economic vulnerability, and 4) an integrated (qualitative and quantitative) locational-based vulnerability assessment of critical infrastructure.

The secondary output of the GFDRR/EU-ACP grant would be a country specific hazard and disaster risk analysis framework and an inter-institutional capacity-building strategy for improved disaster/climate risk identification and assessment. The referenced framework and capacity building strategy would identify activities that could be financed under the CRIP. These would likely include technical assistance activities such as land-use and physical planning, improved performance of infrastructure maintenance, institutional strengthening, capacity-building, awareness raising and knowledge-building around geospatial data management, climate/disaster risk analysis. The combination of these activities would establish the institutional capacity and analytical foundation required for the GoB to create an information platform and integrate risk analysis into the decision making process as well as facilitate the mainstreaming of disaster risk management across sectors.

It is anticipated that the investment portfolio identified under the GFDRR/EU-ACP grant will exceed the CRIP financing envelope. The CRIP would, therefore, seek to finance the most critical investments within the agreed Project envelope. Specific investment programs for the CRIP will be selected based upon a set of criteria which will be developed further, taking into account the requirement of safeguards policies and economic and financial analysis. As noted above, the investments that would be financed under the proposed CRIP would only cover critical infrastructure needs and would therefore not be sufficient to build climate resilience across all sectors of public infrastructure. However, the CRIP would provide a strong institutional foundation to strengthen climate resilience across sectors in the long-term.

In parallel, the GoB would seek partnerships with other donor partners and funding sources – particularly international climate funds, to support any financing short falls within their national climate resilience investment plan. Currently, the GoB is in preliminary discussions with the Climate Investment Funds (CIF), which has agreed, in principle, to endorse the cross-sectoral national climate investment plan currently under preparation. This will significantly increase the likelihood of leveraging additional resources from the CIF as well as other climate funds.

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

The project location and salient physical characteristics will be identified during the project implementation. As mentioned before, under the GFDRR/EU-ACP supported investment identification process, characteristics and components of infrastructure such as primary and secondary road networks, drainage systems, as well as critical public buildings, and critical infrastructure in the water sector and in the drainage system will be assessed in terms of the extent they are exposed to natural disasters and climate variability. Out of the identified investment programs, the Project will select sub-projects of investment based upon a set of criteria e.g. the urgency, socio-economic impact, environmental and social benefits, etc. Given that specific sites are not identified as yet, an Environmental Management Framework (EMF) will be prepared, reviewed, and disclosed prior to project appraisal. In addition, social assessment will be carried out to identify and address the needs of the beneficiaries and stakeholders in the unlikely event of adverse impacts experienced as a result of the physical investments proposed and implemented under the CRIP.

E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

While the implementation arrangement is to be further discussed and agreed with the GoB, the Belize Social Investment Fund (SIF) is considered as the implementation entity. The BSIF is currently implementing Belize Municipal Development Project (15 US\$ million, Category B). The BSIF's capacity to implement environmental management practices in road works and small infrastructure projects is judged to be satisfactory based on the most recent site visits conducted in December 2012. The project engineers and contractors working on the Belize Municipal Development Project have followed acceptable environmental management practices with regard to construction waste disposal, occupational health and safety, appropriate consultation with cultural institutes regarding sites of potential historical importance, and flood prevention measures. Similarly, the BSIF has acquired some initial experience in implementing the involuntary resettlement policy through a current Bank operation they are currently managing. The Social Investment Fund has two engineers on staff who have proved capable to screen sub-projects for environmental impact, and adopt appropriate mitigation measures. For example, the project engineers worked with the Corozal House of Culture to protect two old (small) watchtowers that were identified on the periphery of a secondary road rehabilitation sub-project. They have been assigned national heritage status, appropriate measures were taken during construction to protect the watchtowers, and plaques and protective fencing will be placed around the site after construction is complete. The majority of environmental impacts for the MDP's small civil rehabilitation and upgrade works related to construction waste, prevention of runoff, and safety measures. The project engineers have proved diligent in addressing these minor impacts. They have been requested to provide more timely written feedback in the form of regular progress reports. Nevertheless, the BSIF is still relatively unfamiliar with Bank Operational Policies with regards to safeguards. It is therefore suggested that close monitoring be provided by the Bank safeguard specialists, and that BSIF staff attend upcoming training on Bank safeguards to be held in Honduras in summer 2013. For the proposed project, two separate PIU staff will be recruited to manage all the related safeguards policies. Given that some sub-project sites will be located in the vicinity of natural habitats, the inclusion of an environmental specialist with some knowledge of biodiversity protection would be useful.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Noreen Beg (LCSEN)

Kimberly Vilar (LCSSO)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

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Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/ BP 4.01	Yes	<p>Potential adverse environmental impacts on human populations or environmentally important areas are site-specific, and are related to small-scale retrofitting and rehabilitation works which are expected to be mainly localized, temporary and readily manageable. Since the exact location and/or nature of potential small investments to be financed under this project have not yet been determined, an Environmental Management Framework will be prepared to conform to Bank safeguard policies. This will provide the framework within which EMPs will eventually be developed. EMP(s) will be prepared and disclosed prior to appraisal for any project activities fully identified by the appraisal date.</p>
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	<p>OP 4.04 - Natural Habitats will be triggered. The EMF will screen sub-projects to ensure that no significant degradation or conversion of natural habitat will occur. In cases where sub-projects are located in the vicinity of natural habitats (without imposing significant degradation or conversion) appropriate mitigation measures will be adopted, and will be described in the EMF and subsequent EAs.</p> <p>This project will help protect degraded critical ecosystems, which are important to preserve local biodiversity and the quality of water resources. The EMF will explicitly forbid any project activities in areas supporting critical natural habitats or inducing significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats.</p>
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	<p>Based on site visits to seven potential sub-projects, and discussions held during the April 2-5 preparation mission, it is clear that there are no sub-projects that would have an impact on the health and quality of forests, would affect the rights and welfare of people living in forests, or would bring about changes in the management, protection, or utilization of natural forests or plantations. There is therefore no need to trigger OP 4.36.</p>

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		The EMF will explicitly forbid any project activities that would lead to the destruction, degradation or conversion of forests and key forest ecosystems.
Pest Management OP 4.09	TBD	During the project implementation, the team will assess if any of the sub-projects finances retrofitting or rehabilitating the existing buildings (for termites) or drainage (road insecticide) which could require a pest management plan.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/ BP 4.11	Yes	The project is not expected to have negative impacts on cultural property, including movable or immovable objects, sites, structures, groups of structures or natural features or landscapes with archaeological, paleontological, historical, architectural, religious, aesthetic or other cultural significance. However, “chance findings” during implementation of activities could be possible. During implementation, possibility that the Project in the context of potential sub-project affect known archaeological sites or chance finds will be assessed. In the event that such sub-projects are contemplated, project implementation will include an archaeological survey of all potentially affected area by qualified archaeologists and the local authorities responsible for the protection of Belize's cultural heritage will be consulted. . Chance finds procedures will be incorporated into EMPs and construction contracts.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	TBD	Site visits and discussions during the April preparation mission clarified that no sub-projects will take place in areas of heavy indigenous population. However, one of the potential sub-projects, the Ten Cent (Mount Pleasant) Creek located on the outskirts of Belmopan, is located in an urban district with an 80% Mayan population, which is integrated into the workforce of Belmopan. It is unclear to determine at this stage if this presence of this population in an urban area would trigger OP 4.10. There will be a screening for the presence of IPs and if IPs fulfilling the four requirements of the policy are present, an IPP will be prepared.

		<p>The stand-alone social assessment will include an analysis to determine the relative vulnerability of IPs to disaster and climate risks in Belize.</p> <p>The EMF will not include this social analysis on relative vulnerability of IPs. It will be undertaken as part of the stand-alone social assessment.</p>
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	<p>The project is not expected to have major impacts on private land or livelihoods, especially given its focus on rehabilitation of existing infrastructure. However, it is possible that works such as river defense, drainage improvements, the rehabilitation and replacement of critical bridges and road improvements, could possibly elicit some minor impacts covered by this policy. For that reason, an involuntary resettlement framework will be prepared as a precautionary measure. If cases arise during implementation, an (most likely, abbreviated) involuntary resettlement plan(s) would be prepared during implementation.</p>
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	TBD	<p>During the implementation, the project team will assess if any of the flood mitigation components would involve a retention structure that would trigger this policy.</p>
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	Yes	<p>There is a possibility of affecting international waterways. Benque Viejo del Carmen and Belmopan are located along the international waterway, which originates in Guatemala (the Mopan River) and flows downstream into Belize (where the Mopan flows into the Belize River). The Belize River in turn discharges into the Caribbean Sea. The proposed project could include the sub-projects of drainage or flood mitigation works near Benque Viejo del Carmen and Belmopan areas. Similar to Municipal Development Project, these potential investments, if any, are not expected to have any adverse effects on the water quantity or quality of any of these waterways or on any of the riparian. This policy will be triggered as a precaution.</p>
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	Yes	<p>While project activities will not be undertaken in disputed areas, this policy has been triggered in earlier Bank financed projects in Belize in the</p>

	context of Belize and Guatemala having a longstanding territorial dispute and having recently (12/2008) signed a Special Agreement to submit, after ratification via referenda, to the International Court of Justice regarding this dispute. This policy will be triggered as a precaution.
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III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS: 30-Aug-2013

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:

Not Applicable

IV. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader:	Name: Yoonhee Kim	
<i>Approved By:</i>		
Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Name:	Date:
Sector Manager:	Name: Anna Wellenstein (SM)	Date: 09-Apr-2013

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.