

SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUND



Culturally Appropriate Planning Framework

Belize Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project (BCRIP)

April 14, 2014

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

| | |
|---------|---|
| ACP | Africa Caribbean Pacific |
| BCRIP | Belize Climate Resilience Infrastructure Project |
| BSIF | Belize Social Investment Fund |
| CAPP | Culturally Appropriate Participation Plan |
| DRM | Disaster Risk Management |
| DAVCO | District Association of Village Councils |
| EU | European Union |
| GOB | Government of Belize |
| MFID | Ministry of Finance and Economic Development |
| MLLGRDI | Ministry of Labour, Local Government, Rural Development and Immigration |
| MNRA | Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture |
| MOWT | Ministry of Works and Transport |
| MCE | Multi-criteria Evaluation |
| NAVCO | National Association of Village Councils |
| NCRIP | National Climate Resilient Infrastructure Plan |
| NPESAP | National Poverty Elimination Strategy and Action Plan |
| PMU | Project Management Unit |
| RCDO | Rural Development Officer |
| UNFCCC | United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| WB | World Bank |

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE BCRIP PROJECT

Climate change is a significant threat to Belize as it is expected to alter the hazard dynamics that affect competitiveness of its key productive sectors. Planning for adaptation has therefore been prioritized among national authorities and steps are underway to understand the extent of the impact of climate change on Belize's sustainable economic and human development. Within this context, the Government of Belize (GOB) has expressed a strong interest in investing resources to address the issues related to infrastructure vulnerability. Over 70 percent of Belize's population is located near the primary road network and is exposed to hazards that pose a recurrent risk of affecting highly productive agricultural industries, critical life-line assets such as access roads and major power infrastructure as well as private property and human life. The lack of redundancy of road networks in the country adds to the high economic impact of weather related events on the road infrastructure. There is an urgent need to improve the infrastructure improvement, to address infrastructural vulnerability to hazard events and the adverse socio-economic impacts resulting from climate change.

The Government of Belize, through the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) in partnership with the Ministry of Works and Transport (MOWT) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture (MNRA), is currently in the process of preparing a project to be funded by the World Bank (WB) designed to contribute to 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 that will be financed under the proposed Belize Climate Resilient Infrastructure Project (BCRIP) will cover only critical infrastructure needs. The BCRIP aims to primarily reduce physical vulnerability of critical infrastructure through the retrofitting and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure within the primary and secondary road network - including associated drainage and flood mitigation systems in order to strengthen their resilience to natural hazards and the anticipated impacts of climate variability

1.2 WORLD BANK SOCIAL SAFEGUARD POLICIES

The proposed project must comply with World Bank Operational Policies for bank-funded projects. Two social Operational Policies, namely, OP 4.10 Indigenous Peoples and OP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement have been triggered for the BCRIP. To ensure that BCRIP takes social concerns into account, the preparation of safeguards instruments which includes a social assessment during the project preparation stage is necessary, based on the nature of activities planned for execution. The Bank's Policy 4.10 (Indigenous People) contributes to the Bank's mission of poverty reduction and sustainable development by ensuring that the

development process fully respects the dignity, human rights, economies, and cultures of Indigenous Peoples. This spirit of the Indigenous Peoples Policy, with the concurrence of the World Bank, is being extended to all communities that are within the project's zone of influence given the multi-ethnic and culturally diverse nature of Belizean society. Social safeguard measures are further recognized to be beneficial to both indigenous and non-indigenous peoples alike in Belize's setting especially to rural communities.

This Culturally Appropriate Participation Framework is intended to establish measures through which affected communities who are adversely affected by the project will receive culturally appropriate social and economic benefits and also measures to avoid, minimize, and mitigate potential adverse effects. As there are no specific sub-projects identified at this stage, the Framework provides guidelines for the development of Culturally Appropriate Participation Plans during implementation.

1.3 ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

The remainder of the Framework is organized accordingly: Section 2 provides a description of the BCRIP as it is being conceived. Section 3 discusses the socio-economic characteristics of potentially affected communities (indigenous peoples and non-indigenous). Section 4 identifies potential positive and adverse social impacts resulting from the project. Section 5 provides guidelines for the development of CAPPs and Social Assessments. Section 6 identifies the consultation process that is to be followed during implementation. Section 7 presents the institutional arrangements for the implementation of the Framework and Section 8 concludes the document with a presentation of the Monitoring and Reporting Arrangements.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 BELIZE CLIMATE RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT (BCRIP)

The Government of Belize, through the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) in partnership with the Ministry of Works and Transport (MOWT) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture (MNRA), is currently in the process of preparing a project to be funded by the World Bank (WB) designed to contribute to 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 Belize Climate Resilience Infrastructure Project (BCRIP) will be informed by an extensive project identification and prioritization process, the primary output of which would be a comprehensive cross-sectoral climate resilience investment plan, which is currently being developed jointly with the GOB. Activities included in the National Climate Resilience Investment Plan (NCRIP) will 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.

Specific investment programs will then be identified for the BCRIP will be selected based upon a set of criteria which will take into account the requirement of safeguards policies and economic and financial analysis. The investments that will be financed under the proposed BCRIP will cover only critical infrastructure needs and would therefore not be sufficient to build climate resilience across all sectors of public infrastructure. The BCRIP will finance climate resilience activities under the following two main mutually reinforcing components:

Component 1: Climate Resilient Infrastructure

This component aims to reduce physical vulnerability of critical infrastructure through the retrofitting and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure within the primary and secondary road network - including associated drainage and flood mitigation systems in order to strengthen their resilience to natural hazards and the anticipated impacts of climate variability. Under the investment identification process, characteristics and components of infrastructure such as primary and secondary road networks, drainage systems, as well as select critical public buildings, and critical flood mitigation infrastructure will be assessed in terms of the extent they are exposed to natural disasters and climate variability. The intent of this risk exposure assessment is to identify critical infrastructure, focusing specifically on infrastructure performance, that are at risk of failure, loss of service, damage and/or deterioration from hazards and extreme climatic events. Based on the outcome of this assessment, a set of strategic investments would be identified to be financed under the BCRIP.

Activities will be comprehensive in nature and include activities such as river defense, drainage and small scale flood mitigation improvements, the rehabilitation and replacement of critical small-scale bridges, and road improvements. It may also include reinforcement of embankments and slopes. This component will also fund supporting studies required for the development of physical works packages such as in-land flood studies relating to the design of specific river defenses, hydrologic/hydraulic investigations, geotechnical investigations and associated pre-engineering and engineering efforts required to support engineering design options and final detailed designs solutions. During the execution of the proposed physical works investments, the integration of climate resilient design standards and hazard/risk analysis would be integrated into each sub-project specific preparation process in order to ensure the design and construction of climate resilient infrastructure.

Some of the potential activities that are expected to be carried out as sub-projects include:

- a. Building of drains, creek alignment - which may include repairs to small bridges;
- b. Flood mitigation of small embankments;
- c. Fixing culverts and sizing of culverts;
- d. Creek alignment (cuts and fills);
- e. Sizing of culverts and replacing of culverts with bridges;
- f. Road re-surfacing, widening of roads and shoulder improvement; and
- g. Road realignment and re-surfacing.

Component 2: Technical Assistance for Improved Climate Resilience Management

This component aims to strengthen relevant technical line ministries capacity to mainstream climate resilience considerations into their core development planning. Technical assistance provided under this component would potentially include four mutually-reinforcing core activities: 1) mainstreaming climate variability considerations into the existing land-use and territorial planning decision making processes; 2) support the deployment of an information platform and complimentary data management infrastructure; 3) strengthen infrastructure maintenance and asset management; and 4) strengthen institutional coordination and capacity to implement their Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and climate resilience policy framework.

3 POTENTIALLY AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

3.1 PROJECT AFFECTED AREAS

3.1.1 Demographics

The main communities to be affected by the project are those that are located on or next to the primary and secondary roads considered critical identified in each of the four target areas. All of these communities with the exception of Belmopan are considered rural communities. Indigenous communities that have been identified have been included because they all fall within the projects zone of influence as shown in Section 3.1.1 above. Of all the communities that are likely to be affected by the project, seven are considered to be indigenous communities. Six are made up predominantly by indigenous Mayas and one by the Garifuna. These are all found in Target Area D¹. Table 1 below provides a list of these communities.

Table 1: Indigenous Peoples in Area D

| Village | District | Indigenous Group |
|----------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Maya Center | Stann Creek District | Maya Mopan |
| 2. San Roman | Stann Creek District | Maya Mopan |
| 3. Santa Rosa | Stann Creek District | Maya Mopan |
| 4. Georgetown | Stann Creek District | Garifuna |
| 5. Maya Mopan | Stann Creek District | Maya Mopan |
| 6. Red Bank | Stann Creek District | Maya Mopan/Q'eqchi |
| 7. San Pablo | Toledo District | Maya Q'eqchi |
| 8. Bladen | Toledo District | Maya Mopan/Q'eqchi |

The indigenous Maya communities of the Stann Creek District, while maintaining several aspects of their indigenous culture, vary in economy, land tenure, and local leadership from their counterparts in the Toledo District. They are not involved in the Maya land rights case before the courts as they have adopted the State system of land tenure of individual ownership through leases and titled properties. While San Pablo and Bladen are involved in the Maya land rights case through the Toledo Alcalde Association, significant portions of their community lands are also held through individual leases issued by the State. This is further addressed in section 3.1.3.3 *Land Use & Land Rights* below.

3.1.1.1 Population

Area A (Greater Belize City) is made up of thirteen potentially affected villages. These villages generally share a common history and are culturally tied to Belize City, the largest population

¹ Area D – Independence Area is the only area of the 4 target areas that is ranked at “medium criticality” with others being ranked as “high criticality.”

center in the country. There are approximately 17,928 persons living in communities likely to be affected in this area in 4,926 households. The average household size is 3.9 persons.

Table 2: Population of Area A

| Community | District | Total | Male | Female | # of HHs | Avg. HH Size |
|------------------------|----------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Bermudian Landing | Belize | 183 | 87 | 96 | 43 | 4.3 |
| 2. Burrell Boom | Belize | 2,218 | 1,128 | 1,090 | 617 | 3.6 |
| 3. Double Head Cabbage | Belize | 406 | 206 | 200 | 102 | 4.0 |
| 4. Flowers Bank | Belize | 121 | 67 | 54 | 31 | 3.9 |
| 5. Hattieville | Belize | 2,344 | 1,104 | 1,240 | 628 | 3.7 |
| 6. Isabella Bank | Belize | 143 | 82 | 61 | 37 | 3.9 |
| 7. Ladyville | Belize | 5,458 | 2,627 | 2,786 | 1,527 | 3.6 |
| 8. Lord's Bank | Belize | 3,140 | 1,517 | 1,623 | 884 | 3.6 |
| 9. Rancho Dolores | Belize | 217 | 109 | 108 | 48 | 4.5 |
| 10. Sandhill | Belize | 1,843 | 912 | 931 | 508 | 3.6 |
| 11. Scotland Halfmoon | Belize | 259 | 128 | 131 | 70 | 3.7 |
| 12. St. Paul's Bank | Belize | 153 | 79 | 74 | 37 | 4.1 |
| 13. Western Paradise | Belize | 1,258 | 599 | 659 | 348 | 3.6 |
| 14. Willows Bank | Belize | 185 | 97 | 88 | 46 | 4.0 |
| TOTAL | | 17,928 | 8,742 | 9,141 | 4,926 | 3.9 |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2010

The population of potentially affected communities in Area B (West of Belmopan) is approximately 20,438 persons. There are approximately 4,791 households with the average household size being 4.8 persons. This area has the highest number of persons mainly because Belmopan, being a larger urban area, is included.

Table 3: Population of Area B

| Community | District | Total | Male | Female | # of HHs | Avg. HH Size |
|--------------------|----------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Belmopan | Cayo | 13,931 | 6,775 | 7,156 | 3,463 | 4.0 |
| 2. Cristo Rey | Cayo | 873 | 441 | 432 | 212 | 4.1 |
| 3. Georgeville | Cayo | 921 | 464 | 457 | 190 | 4.8 |
| 4. La Gracia | Cayo | 271 | 146 | 125 | 48 | 5.6 |
| 5. San Antonio | Cayo | 1,847 | 933 | 914 | 381 | 4.8 |
| 6. Seven Miles | Cayo | 483 | 252 | 231 | 96 | 5.0 |
| 7. Valley of Peace | Cayo | 2,112 | 1,091 | 1,021 | 401 | 5.3 |
| TOTAL | | 20,438 | 10,102 | 10,336 | 4,791 | 4.8 |

There are ten communities in Area C (Northern Area) that are likely to be affected by the project with a total of 10,411 persons. There are approximately 2,168 households in the area with the average household size being 4.7 persons. This area has the second highest average household size after Area D.

Table 4: Population of Area C

| Community | District | Total | Male | Female | # of HHs | Avg. HH Size |
|-----------------|----------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Chunox | Corozal | 1,375 | 705 | 670 | 234 | 5.9 |
| 2. Concepcion | Corozal | 1,275 | 613 | 644 | 257 | 4.9 |
| 3. Consejo | Corozal | 350 | 178 | 172 | 117 | 3.0 |
| 4. Copper Bank | Corozal | 470 | 237 | 233 | 104 | 4.5 |
| 5. Louisville | Corozal | 880 | 454 | 426 | 176 | 5.0 |
| 6. Patchakan | Corozal | 1,374 | 693 | 681 | 281 | 4.9 |
| 7. San Narcisso | Corozal | 2,422 | 1,198 | 1,224 | 517 | 4.7 |
| 8. San Pedro | Corozal | 519 | 260 | 259 | 123 | 4.2 |
| 9. San Roman | Corozal | 884 | 423 | 461 | 183 | 4.8 |
| 10. Santa Clara | Corozal | 862 | 455 | 407 | 176 | 4.9 |
| TOTAL | | 10,411 | 5,216 | 5,177 | 2,168 | 4.7 |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2010

Area D (Independence Area) in the South has fourteen villages that may be affected by the project with a combined population of approximately 14,790 persons. This area has the highest number of villages and all the predominantly indigenous communities within the project's zone of influence. Area D also has one of the largest household sizes at 4.8 persons. Some community such as Red Bank and San Pablo has up to 6 persons on average per household. The large family sizes indicate a large degree of dependence on the working members of those households.

Table 5: Population of Area D

| Community | District | Total | Male | Female | # of HHs | Avg. HH Size |
|-----------------|-------------|-------|-------|--------|----------|--------------|
| 1. Bella Vista | Toledo | 3,508 | 1,802 | 1,706 | 827 | 4.2 |
| 2. Bladen | Toledo | 466 | 247 | 219 | 110 | 4.2 |
| 3. Georgetown | Stann Creek | 473 | 241 | 232 | 96 | 4.9 |
| 4. Independence | Stann Creek | 4,014 | 2,011 | 2,003 | 972 | 4.1 |
| 5. Kendall | Stann Creek | 118 | 72 | 46 | 37 | 3.2 |
| 6. Maya Center | Stann Creek | 386 | 198 | 188 | 87 | 4.4 |
| 7. Maya Mopan | Stann Creek | 632 | 316 | 316 | 110 | 5.7 |
| 8. Monkey River | Toledo | 196 | 98 | 98 | 37 | 5.3 |
| 9. Red Bank | Stann Creek | 1,201 | 621 | 580 | 200 | 6.0 |
| 10. San Juan | Stann Creek | 437 | 250 | 187 | 123 | 3.6 |

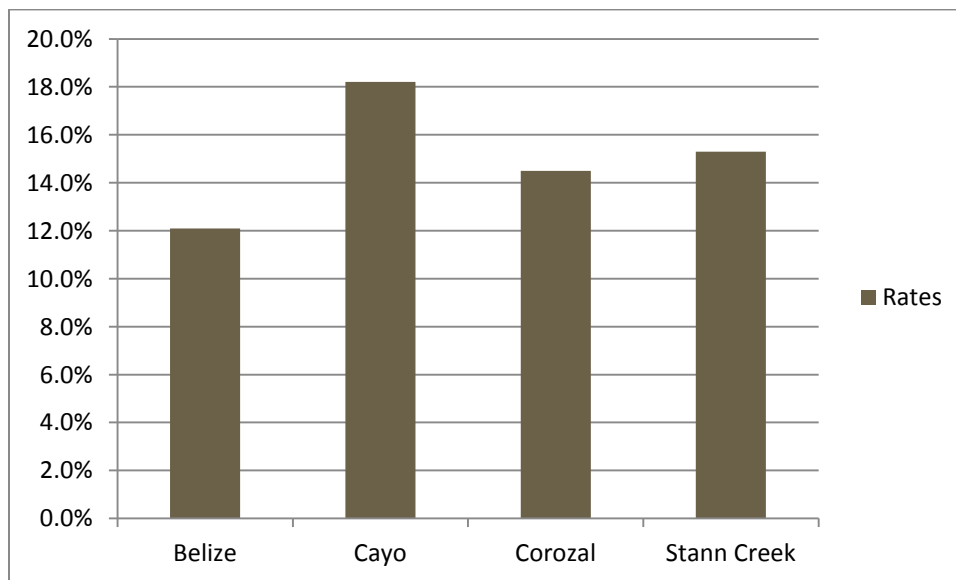
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|----------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| 11. San Pablo | Stann Creek | 250 | 127 | 123 | 40 | 6.3 |
| 12. San Roman | Stann Creek | 894 | 446 | 448 | 168 | 5.3 |
| 13. Santa Cruz | Stann Creek | 774 | 399 | 375 | 192 | 4.0 |
| 14. Santa Rosa | Stann Creek | 542 | 284 | 258 | 89 | 6.1 |
| 15. Trio | Stann Creek | 899 | 481 | 418 | 188 | 4.8 |
| TOTAL | | 14,790 | 7,593 | 7,197 | 3,276 | 4.8 |

Source: Statistical Institute of Belize, 2010

3.1.1.2 Economy & Employment

At the national level, Belize’s GDP per capita, which is low relative to peers in the region, grew at about 1 percent in real terms on average yearly since 2008. This along with increasing poverty is reflected in high unemployment, widening income disparity, lagging educational attainment and rising crime. The national unemployment rate was at 16% in September 2012, affecting the youth (30%) and women (22.4%) more severely. The tertiary sector provides almost two-thirds of jobs in Belize and the retail sector alone provides one-fifth of all jobs. For women, the tertiary jobs make up almost 80% of all female employment (23% of women’s employment is in retail and 15% in tourism). The primary construction sectors are a much more important source of jobs for men than for women; 26% of working men work in the agricultural sector and another 12% work in construction. These realities are reflected in the communities of the four areas targeted under the BCRIP project though the predominant industries that provide employment in each area vary.

Figure 1: Unemployment Rates in Target Areas



Source: SIB, 2013

The communities of Area A (Greater Belize City) in the Belize District are considered rural but are connected historically and economically to Belize City, the largest urban population in the country. Many residents of this area commute to work mainly in Belize City and as such some of the rural communities can be considered suburban and peri-urban extensions of the urban center. Aside from those working in the service sectors (retail, banking, tourism) residents do take advantage of the availability of land in outer areas and many practice agriculture especially cattle rearing. The level of dependence on agriculture varies from community to community as some practice mainly subsistence farming to those producing crops for sale at local markets. Typical crops grown in the area include, rice, plantains, corn, cacao, and cassava. Some residents of those communities along the main highway have begun to take opportunities of their location by opening several types of small businesses including stores and restaurants. The residents of the Belize River Valley on the other hand, have begun to take advantage of the tourism opportunities presented within the area and have established a Community Baboon Sanctuary that attracts many visitors, locals and foreigners alike. An important source of household income for many residents this target area is remittances from relatives abroad, especially from the United States of America. Residents of Area A have the lowest rate of unemployment in the country as compared to the other target areas under the project and the lowest income inequality.

Area B (West of Belmopan) in the Cayo District covers a wide area starting from the capital city of Belmopan extending to La Gracia in the north and to San Antonio Village in the south. Belmopan, being the capital, has a diverse economy that is predominated by public service employment at government offices and local embassies. As a growing city, the outskirts of Belmopan show greater characteristics of residents participating in the informal economy through several micro-enterprises and other forms of self-employment. The rural communities of Area B, such as Valley of Peace, La Gracia and San Antonio can be considered agricultural communities. They produce significant amounts of cash crops (fruits and vegetables) for sale in the domestic market. This area of the country is also known as a tourism destination so many community residents also work in that sector. Reflecting national unemployment rates, unemployment in the Cayo District was the highest in the country in 2012 at 18.2%.

Meanwhile, Area C communities in the Corozal District are highly dependent on sugar cane farming and participate heavily in the sugar industry especially those around the San Narcisso area. Those on the eastern side of Area C, while many continue to participate in the sugar industry, are now commercial fishers exploiting mainly the conch and lobster fishery products. These products are exported by the two largest fishing cooperatives in the country. The sugar industry is the predominant industry in northern Belize seeing the participation of most of the communities in both the Corozal and Orange Walk districts. Other types of economic activities include subsistence farming (corn and beans), and small scale commercial farming of cash crops (peppers, tomatoes, potatoes, and onions). Many of the youth in this area work in the Corozal Free Zone as wage workers. Even though the sugar industry is large and provides significant

employment throughout the value chain there is still a high rate of unemployment in Area C. In 2012, the rate of unemployment was almost equal to the national average at 14.5%; the national average being 14.4%. There are other small agro-industries such as papaya farming for export in the area but these have been continuously affected by dramatic changes in weather patterns and there has been significant losses in production and have even recently began reducing their number of workers.

Area D (Independence Area) in the Stann Creek District², where all indigenous communities within the project's scope of influence are located, is home to several important agro-industries. Consequently the employment opportunities for both indigenous and non-indigenous communities located here are found in the citrus, bananas, aquaculture and tourism industries. On the road to San Pablo alone, off the Southern Highway, there are five large banana farms, namely Farm 12, Farm 21, Farm 22, Farm 14 and Farm 20. A significant number of the residents of Area D gain long term and temporary employment at these farms. Women from the area often obtain temporary employment at the banana farms during shipment periods when they are employed in processing and packing bananas for export. Some of the communities, such as Trio, Bella Vista, Cowpen, San Juan, Santa Cruz are the result of immigrant banana workers from Central America settling in the area.

The residents of the Maya communities of Red Bank, Santa Rosa, San Roman, Maya Mopan and Maya Center maintain some traditional aspects of livelihoods while seeking out wage employment. While some are fully dependent on outside jobs in the various local industries as wage labourers, some continue to maintain small plots for agriculture producing mainly corn for household consumption. Some participate in the citrus industry by having small orchards from which they harvest fruits to deliver to the processing factories in Pomona and Bella Vista. Due to the location of Maya Center near the Cockscomb Basin Wildlife Sanctuary, it is now a key player in eco-tourism in the area.

There is considerable agricultural produce that comes from Area D whether for subsistence or as cash crops. These agriculture products include cacao, plantains, ground food, peppers and honey. Bella Vista and Trio especially produce pineapples in significant quantities. There is a small cooperative in Trio that produces and sells pineapple to the Citrus Products of Belize Ltd. which in turn produces pineapple juice. The coastal community of Monkey River on the other hand is considered a fishing village as many residents depend on fisheries for their livelihoods. There is also now some tourism related activities happening in the village in conjunction with the growth of tourism in the Placencia Peninsula to the north.

² While there are 2 communities in Area D that are physically located in the Toledo District, for the most part their economic activities are tied to the main economic sectors of the Stann Creek District.

3.1.2 Socio-Cultural Characteristics

3.1.2.1 Ethnicity

The communities of Area A (Greater Belize City) are considered to be predominantly Belizean Creoles. Belizean Creoles are afro-descendants of British colonialists and African slaves. Creoles continue to represent a significant segment of Belize's population second only to Mestizos, who are the largest group, in terms of population size.

The communities of Area B (West of Belmopan) are generally considered to be Belizean Hispanics/Mestizo. There are some historical distinctions however between these communities. La Gracia and Valley of Peace for instance originated as refugee settlements by persons coming from the neighbouring countries of El Salvador and Guatemala to escape the civil wars occurring in those countries in the 1980's. The residents of Cristo Rey and San Antonio are Spanish speaking Mestizos who are essentially a mix of indigenous Mayas and European Spaniards and have longer ties to the area. Some community members in San Antonio actually continue to speak Yucatec Maya which is an indigenous language. The central part of Area B, which is mostly along the George Price Highway, are inhabited mostly by Creoles though recently there has been increasing presence of Hispanic/Mestizo residents moving into the area. Georgeville, one of the villages under consideration, is still predominantly a Creole village.

The communities of Area C are all located within the Corozal District and share a common history, culture and ethnicity. These communities are inhabited predominantly by the Mestizos. Mestizos, who are descendants of indigenous Maya and European Spaniards, first came into northern Belize from southern Yucatan, Mexico as refugees of the Caste War of Yucatán in 1848. The Caste War was a Maya uprising against the Spaniards but it eventually became a war against the Mestizos. The Mestizos, mixed Spanish and Maya (indigenous), were allies of the Spaniards, and thus became targets of attacks by the Mayas. They came over to Belize to escape from these attacks and eventually settled in most of northern Belize. Even though Belizean Mestizos of the north share Mayan ancestry from Mexico they do not as an ethnic group self-identify as indigenous peoples. Most consider themselves Mestizos and do not claim indigenous status. While a few speak the Maya Yucatec language, the predominant language spoken is Spanish.

Indigenous peoples within the project's scope of influence can be found in Area D (Independence Area). These include Maya Q'eqchi, Maya Mopan and Garifuna. These communities speak their own indigenous languages in addition to Belizean Creole and English. The Maya residents of the communities identified in this area are originally from the Toledo District and so maintain familial ties with their relatives there. The Garifuna community of Georgetown was similarly established around the 1960s by Garinagu who came from Seine Bight along the coast in search of farmland. Other communities in Area D are mostly

Hispanic/Mestizo communities established around banana farms except for Independence (also known as Mango Creek) and Monkey River villages, which are considered Creole villages. The growth in Independence however is notable and is now home to a wide mix of persons from various cultural backgrounds.

3.1.2.2 Indigenous Traditions & Cultural Practices

Generally speaking indigenous communities have a close connection to the land as a primary means of their livelihoods. Those Maya communities that are now located in Stann Creek District still maintain some aspect of their culture but have also experienced some changes due mainly to their participation in the labour market and cash economy. There is still a strong sense of community where their indigenous language is still spoken. Family structures remain extended families but there are signs of a shift towards having more nuclear families. The practice of reciprocity has also eroded due to a growing labour market and by participating in wage work time is now valued differently so only a few continue to maintain their traditional practice of labour exchange. The fact that these communities are located near some of Belize's main industries including, aquaculture, citrus, bananas, and tourism, means that they rely less on subsistence farming and more on wage work as a means of livelihoods. Nonetheless, the sense of community is maintained through family ties, marriage, religious gatherings and other community social events especially sports. While most community members are considered Christians there are still some aspects of traditional beliefs maintained in parallel. It is still widely held for instance that one can be cursed and made ill as a consequence of envy or improper and unfair behavior towards another. These illnesses are considered to be incurable by modern medicine and need the intervention of traditional healers. Maya communities are also generally patriarchal with clear division of labour between males and females even though some Mayan women are now working outside the home especially in the banana farms.

Similarly, while the Garifuna continue to recreate their culture over time, there are some more longstanding traditional practices that continue to play a significant role within their community. Given their history and ancestry, Garifuna spirituality is a mixture of Christianity (Catholicism), African and indigenous beliefs. Belief in and respect for the ancestors is at the very core of their faith. They believe that the departed ancestors mediate between the individual and the external world. The religious system thus implies certain responsibilities and obligations between the living and deceased. Food and drink should occasionally be laid out for the ancestors. Garifuna women especially, even with their changing roles, remain prominent in traditional practices. Rituals for the dead, for example, often have female organizers. Ceremonies such as *dugu* and even other celebrations often have women as dancers, singers and *trancers*. The *buyei* or healer/spirit-medium positions are held by men. The *dugu* ceremony is not a public event but engages large sections of the community through familial relations. It is not uncommon to have relatives from the other countries who come to participate. A *dugu* generally lasts for about a

week. The Garinagu also celebrates the 19th of November as Garifuna Settlement Day and is also a national holiday to commemorate their arrival to Belize in 1832. The celebrations are a strongly display of Garifuna culture and nationalism and includes weeklong schedule of activities.

3.1.2.3 Poverty and Social Development

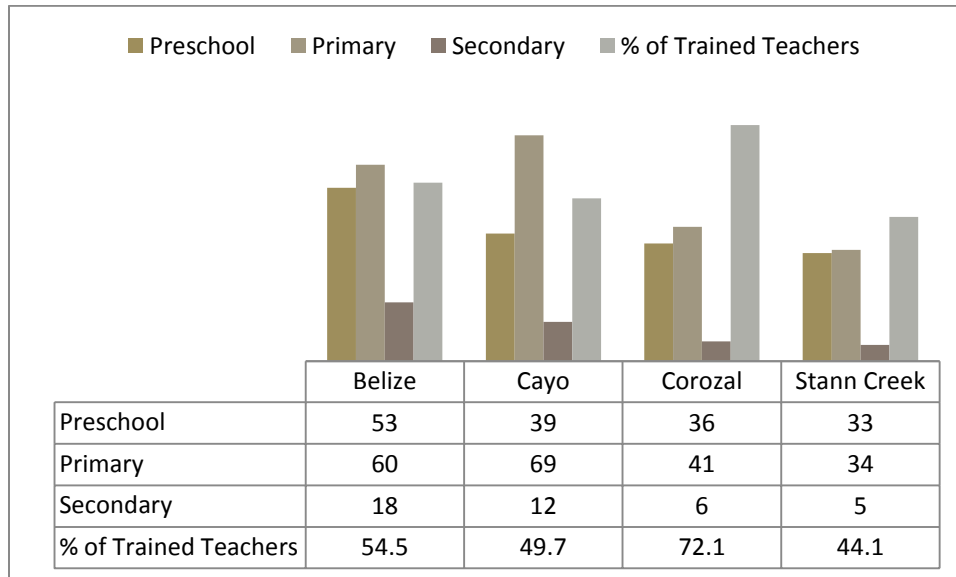
The Country Poverty Assessment (CPA) 2010 shows that 43% of the national population falls below the official poverty line of which 16% are considered indigent. The sharpest rise in poverty has been in the northern district of Corozal (Area C) where poverty doubled and indigence tripled from 2002 to 2010. Notably, during the period when the CPA was conducted, Corozal was one of the districts repeatedly impacted by hurricane and flooding, thus underscoring the population's vulnerability to disasters. Agricultural workers and people with unskilled jobs are more likely to be poor or indigent. Overall, the agricultural sector has not changed since 2002 and continues to have higher poverty rates than any other sector. Unsurprisingly, rural Belizeans are almost twice as likely to be poor as compared to urban Belizeans.

Challenges persist in terms of addressing rural and indigenous groups that remain at greater risk of poverty and poor health indicators than urban and non-indigenous groups. The CPA shows that the rate of poverty among the Mayas is at 68%, the highest among all other ethnic groups in the country. Poverty as a major social issue among indigenous peoples is manifested in related issues such as limited access to education, and lack of proper health care. For instance, attendance of Mayan children in school is lower than all other ethnic groups, at all levels, from primary to tertiary levels. Similarly, a high rate of malnutrition is evidenced by the highest rate of stunting occurring among Mayan children besides other issues related to maternal and child health.

All of the forty-six communities identified in all of the four project target areas have access to primary school education. There is generally a high gross enrollment ratio at the primary education levels which stands at 107%³. There are variations in the supply of education services at various levels across the four areas. While the Belize District (Area A) has the highest number of educational facilities, the Corozal District (Area C) has the highest rate of trained teachers in rural areas. The percentage of trained teachers in rural Stann Creek (Area D) on the other hand, is the lowest at only 44.1%.

³ The surpassing of 100% has to do with a high rate of repetition.

Figure 2: Supply of Education Services

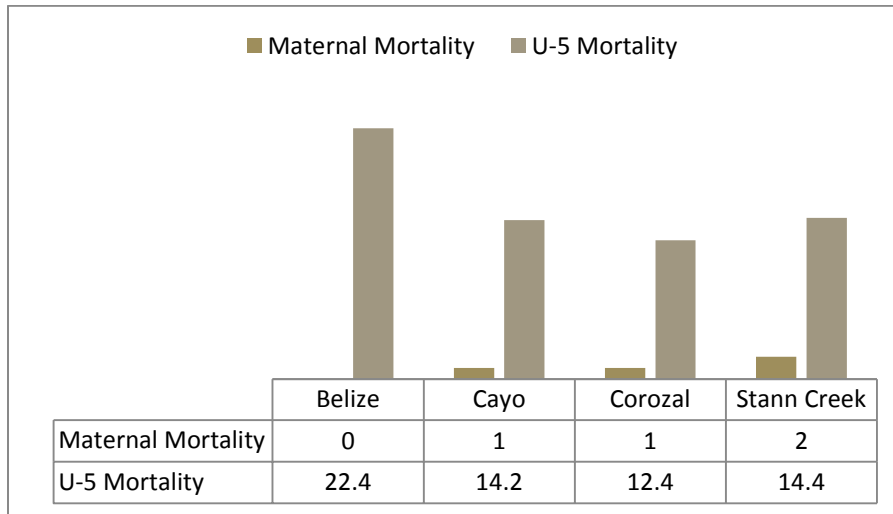


Source: Belize Education Statistics 2012 - 2013

At the national level, the country’s health profile is a reflection of the trends seen in most countries in Central America and the Caribbean. It is undergoing the transition from communicable diseases (CD) to non-communicable diseases (NCDs) as the main causes of death and illness. In general, health indicators show improved life expectancy and survival, but improvements in quality of life decreases with deaths and illnesses occurring mainly from preventable causes which remain major health challenges. These challenges are undoubtedly reflected across the population including the rural communities of the project target areas.

Maternal mortality and under-5 infant mortality rates are good indicators of the social welfare of the location population. In general, Belize is doing well in reducing maternal mortality and this is reflected in the target areas. Under-5 infant mortality however still remains high especially in the Belize District (Area A). Of the four target areas, Corozal (Area C) has the lowest under-5 mortality rate. Maternal mortality is measured at every 100,000 live births while the under-5 mortality rate is measure per every 1,000 live births.

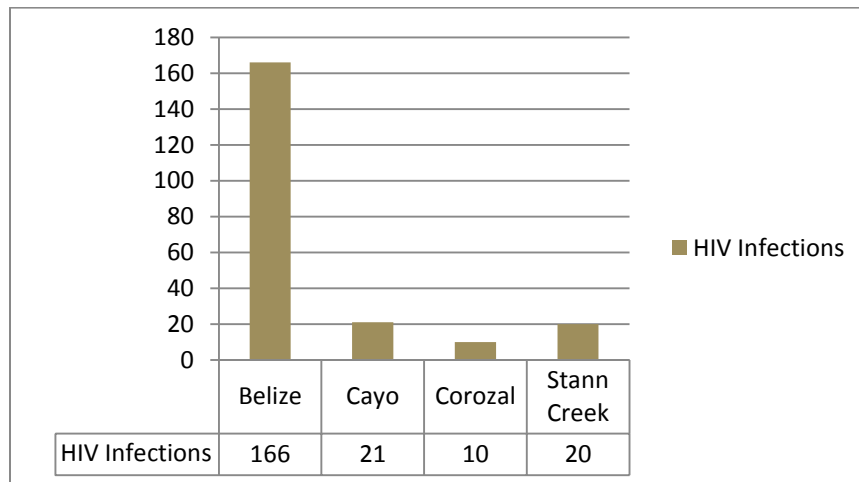
Figure 3: Maternal & U-5 Mortality Ratio of Target Areas



Source: Ministry of Health, 2011

Meanwhile, HIV and AIDS continue to pose major challenges to Belize. Belize has the highest sero-prevalence in Central America and the third highest in the Caribbean. From 1986 – 2009, there were 5,045 reported cases of HIV and 963 deaths. The majority of deaths were recorded in the Belize District (Area A) at 69.5%. In 2009, of the 9,236 persons were tested for HIV, 4.9% tested positive. The Stann Creek (Area D) had the highest positivity rate (7.8%) followed by Belize District (4.3%). Of the reported HIV infections in 2010, Belize District has the highest number with Corozal (Area C) reporting the lowest.

Figure 4: HIV Reported Infections, 2010



Source: Ministry of Health, 2011

3.1.3 Institutional and Political Characteristics

3.1.3.1 Leadership & Governance

All of the villages under consideration in this report, including indigenous Maya and Garifuna communities, have a duly elected Village Council as a form of local government. The Village Council Act, Chapter 88, Laws of Belize, establishes and empowers Village Councils to act on the good governance and improvement of their respective villages. Most village councils however remain weak and are challenged by limited capacity. They often do not have the financial resources or the leadership capacity to carry out their mandate. The Village Councils of each of the six districts of Belize are organized into District Association of Village Councils (DAVCO). Each of the six DAVCOs nominates two members to represent them at the national level to form the National Association of Village Councils (NAVCO). The purpose of NAVCO is to represent the interests of the DAVCOs and be a lobbying body on behalf of rural communities. With the recent election of new leadership at NAVCO there has been a revitalization of the organization.

There is the traditional Alcalde leadership in only three of the seven Mayan communities within the target area. These can be found in the villages of Bladen, San Pablo and Maya Mopan. Within the Alcalde system, there is a 1st Alcalde, a 2nd Alcalde and five police men who work along with the Alcalde. Unlike the Chairman of a Village Council, the Alcalde is considered a traditional leader and has the authority exercise judicial powers in minor offenses committed within his jurisdiction. Alcaldes and their team are elected every three years and are officially sworn in to their duties by a local Magistrate.

3.1.3.2 Community Infrastructure

All of the communities within the four project target areas have 24 hour access to electricity with the exception of San Pablo. Similarly, all have access to potable water through a rudimentary or upgraded water system. San Pablo similarly does not have access to potable running water and obtain water from the Swasey River for household use.

While a significant number of communities have immediate access to health facilities within their communities most do not. However, health facilities are available within one hour of their communities. Thirteen identified communities have health centers within the community. Of the thirteen, one is a regional hospital located in the capital, Belmopan. Furthermore, each of the other districts has a hospital which is accessible by all identified communities.

In terms of public safety and security eleven identified communities within the four target areas have a police station within the village. Generally, criminal activities are low in rural areas however some of the larger communities such as Ladyville are experiencing an increase in crime including gun violence. The actual number of health centers/hospitals and police stations with potentially affected communities are shown below in Table 6. It should be noted that the target

areas specified are not inclusive of all villages in each district and as such does not include all existing facilities with the entire district.

Table 6: Health Centers and Police Stations in Target Areas

| Community Infrastructure | Area A (Greater Belize City) | Area B (West of Belmopan) | Area C (Corozal Area) | Area D (Independence Area) |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Health Center/Hospital | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Burrell Boom 2. Hattieville 3. Ladyville 4. Sandhill 5. Double Head Cabbage | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Belmopan 2. Georgeville 3. San Antonio 4. Valley of Peace | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. San Narcisso | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bella Vista 2. Independence 3. San Juan |
| Police Station | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bermudian Landing 2. Hattieville 3. Ladyville 4. Sandhill | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Belmopan 2. Georgeville 3. San Antonio 4. Valley of Peace | None | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bella Vista 2. Independence 3. Santa Cruz |

Source: Adapted from Ministry of Health, 2011.

3.1.3.3 Land Use & Land Rights

The land tenure systems in the project area are either national lands or private lands. Private lands are held either as leasehold or freehold interest. Leasehold is an interest in land that is provided for a certain number of years, usually 7 years, under stipulated conditions by the Minister responsible for lands whereas the freehold interest is accepted as absolute title and the term can be infinite. Private lands are generally surveyed with defined parameters regardless of size.

Communities generally have two broad areas of land use especially those heavily dependent on agriculture. A segment of community lands are allotted as residential areas surveyed into house lots and other segment dedicated to farming and cultivation. This distinction is very clear especially in the sugarcane farming communities of the northern area around Corozal (Area C). This reality can also be found in most of Area A, B and C. Even the communities of Areas D, where indigenous people are found, have subscribed to the national system of land tenure of individual private leases and properties. This includes the communities of Bladen and San Pablo where there are individual survey blocks of land held by community members.

It should be noted however that indigenous Maya communities in the Toledo District have received recognition of collective property at the Supreme Court ruling in 2007 in the *Aurelio Cal et. al vs. the Attorney General and the Minister of Natural Resources* case. The Alcaldes of Bladen and San Pablo in Area D are members of the Toledo Alcalde Association and are party to

the Association's claim for indigenous land rights. A further ruling of the Supreme Court in 2010 further extended recognition of indigenous traditional lands to all 38 Mayan villages. This ruling has been appealed by the Government of Belize at the Caribbean Court of Justice. Nonetheless, members of those two communities are holders of individual leases and titles under the national system of land tenure while at the same time are claiming collective rights to community lands. Works under the BCRIP are not expected to affect community lands or those lands that the Mayas of Toledo are laying claim to, based on traditional use and occupancy. Consequently, the project is unlikely to prejudice the outcome of the land rights case before the Caribbean Court of Justice in any way, unless significant community lands are required for the project. This however is not expected to occur given the nature of the project and its focus on major roads only, and these roads already exist.

4 POTENTIAL SOCIAL IMPACTS

Social impacts can be defined as the consequences to people of any proposed action that changes the way they live, work, relate to one another, organize themselves and function as individuals and members of society. This definition includes social-psychological changes, for example to people's values, attitudes and perceptions of themselves and their community and environment. Social impacts are the 'people impacts' of development actions. Social impact assessments focus on the human dimension of environments, and seek to identify the impacts on people who benefits and who loses. A social impact assessment can help to ensure that the needs and voices of diverse groups and people in a community are taken into account.

One of the unique features of the BCRIP is that it focuses on road infrastructure that is already in place. The primary road networks under consideration especially are the main highways of the country. Some of the roads within the target areas are also recently constructed or upgraded. This feature significantly reduces the potential negative impacts of the project. Nonetheless, some of the activities typically associated with road construction and rehabilitation that need to be considered include:

- a. Establishment of construction camps;
- b. Construction of temporary/permanent accommodation;
- c. Construction of workshops;
- d. Transportation of construction materials and equipment;
- e. Recruitment of the labor force;
- f. Earthworks;
- g. Construction of detours and access routes;
- h. Quarries, borrow pits and materials extraction;
- i. Crushing and screening of materials;
- j. Screening, mixing, and stockpiling of aggregates;
- k. Heating of bitumen and aggregates separately and then mixing in asphalt plant;
- l. Transportation of asphaltic concrete mixes to the road for laying using paver;
- m. Construction of drainage structures, e.g. culverts, bridges;
- n. Pavement Construction; and
- o. Construction of erosion protection works

These activities have various degrees of impacts on both the biophysical and human environment. This Social Assessment report includes a section on mitigation measures that is intended to guide implementation in avoiding impacts and mitigating those, which are not avoidable.

The tables in the section below present a list of potential positive and adverse impacts that are likely to occur from the implementation of the project. The list does not provide a list of all potential impacts but rather attempts to highlight the most likely and main impacts. The impacts are shown by multiple social factors which are broken down into several variables. The type of impact whether Direct (D), Indirect (I) or Cumulative (C) is shown. The phase of the project in which it is likely to occur is also shown. These phases considered are Planning (P), Implementation (I), and Operational (O).

4.1 POTENTIAL POSITIVE IMPACTS

4.1.1 Factor 1 - Population Characteristics

| Variable | Positive | Type of Impact | Phase |
|-----------------------------------|--|----------------|-------|
| 1. Population Change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No significant change in population of target areas anticipated as a consequence of project. | NA | NA |
| 2. Ethnic and Racial Distribution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No significant change in ethnic and racial distribution in target areas anticipated as a consequence of project. | NA | NA |

4.1.2 Factor 2 – Livelihoods and Family

| Variable | Positive | Type of Impact | Phase |
|------------------------------|--|----------------|-------|
| 1. Income and Livelihood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased employment opportunities. ▪ Skills transfer and training during road works. ▪ Increase in trade opportunities. ▪ Reduced vulnerability of livelihoods and household income s. | D, I | I, O |
| | | D | I |
| | | I | I, O |
| | | | |
| 2. Land and other Properties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in value of real estate. ▪ Increase opportunities to rent properties for | D | I, O |
| | | D | I |

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|
| | temporary workers. | | |
| 3. Gender Relations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased indirect economic opportunities (by selling food to work crews, rent, etc.). ▪ Increase job opportunities for women and youth. | I | I |

4.1.3 Factor 3 - Lifestyle and Well-being

| Variable | Positive | Type of Impact | Phase |
|------------------------------|---|----------------|-------|
| 1. Risk, Safety and Security | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduced need for students and residents to cross flooded areas to get to school and work. | D | O |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduced vulnerability of households to natural disasters. | I | O |
| 2. Psycho-social well-being | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduced anxiety from risk and vulnerability of livelihoods. | C | O |

4.1.4 Factor 4 - Political and Institutional Resources

| Variable | Positive | Type of Impact | Phase |
|---|--|----------------|---------|
| 1. Trust in political and social institutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Trust in government institutions is enhanced by addressing community infrastructure needs. | I, C | P, I, O |
| 2. Local/National Linkages | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Social and economic linkages between rural and urban centres improved. | C | O |
| 3. Leadership Capability and Characteristics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stronger recognition of role of Village Councils in development activities. | I | P, I |

4.1.5 Factor 5 - Community Resources

| Variable | Positive | Type of Impact | Phase |
|-----------------------------|--|----------------|-------|
| 1. Community Infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved transport system and accessibility. | D | O |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved drainage within and around communities. | D, I | O |

4.2 POTENTIAL ADVERSE IMPACTS

Adverse impacts are similarly represented by multiple social factors which are broken down into several variables. The type of impact whether Direct (D), Indirect (I) or Cumulative (C) is shown. The phase of the project in which it is likely to occur is also shown. These phases considered are Planning (P), Implementation (I), and Operational (O).

4.2.1 Factor 1 - Population Characteristics

| Variable | Negative | Type of Impact | Phases |
|---|--|----------------|--------|
| 1. Population Change | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No significant change in population of target areas anticipated as a consequence of project. | NA | NA |
| 2. Ethnic and Racial Distribution | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No significant change in ethnic and racial distribution in target areas anticipated as a consequence of project. | NA | NA |
| 3. Influx/Outflows of temporary workers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disruption of social order by migrant work crews coming from diverse cultural and geographic backgrounds. | D | I |

4.2.2 Factor 2 - Individual and Household Livelihoods

| Variable | Negative | Type of Impact | Phase |
|--------------------------------|--|----------------|-------|
| 1. Displacement and Relocation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resettlement of persons currently occupying/encroaching on roads reserves. | D | I, O |

| | | | |
|------------------------------|---|------|---|
| 2. Income and Livelihood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discrimination in employment opportunities for locals. | D | I |
| 3. Land and other Properties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of land and other properties (buildings, fences, driveways, signs etc.) from appropriation, r, acquisition and demolition. | D | I |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disruption of access to properties from main road. | D | I |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moving into area near primary and secondary roads to capitalize on compensation opportunities under project⁴. | D, I | P |
| 4. Gender Relations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gender disparities (economic, political power, social benefits) are further entrenched. | I | I |

4.2.3 Factor 3 - Lifestyle and Well-being

| Variable | Negative | Type of Impact | Phase |
|---|--|----------------|-------|
| Acquaintanceship and Interpersonal Networks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widening of socio-economic disparities and social differences. | I | I, O |
| 2. Risk, Safety and Security | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dust and air pollution from road works. | D | I |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise pollution from heavy machinery and equipment. | D | I |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Open borrow pits and quarries can threaten safety of small livestock and children. | D | I, O |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased chances of work-related | D | I |

⁴ Project mitigation measure for this impact is the census taken on an established cut-off date which circumscribes eligibility to those people occupying the road reserve up until the cut-off date.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------------|
| | <p>accidents, injuries and illnesses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Temporary and migrant workers can facilitate the transmission of diseases. ▪ Increase in road traffic accidents from high speeds and high traffic volume. | <p>D, I</p> <p>D, I</p> | <p>I</p> <p>O</p> |
| 3. Psycho-social well-being | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased annoyance and stress reaction resulting from road works. | D, I | I |

4.2.4 Factor 4 - Political and Institutional Resources

| Variable | Negative | Type of Impact | Phase |
|---|--|----------------|-------|
| 4. Trust in political and social institutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resentment of authorities from land acquisition or displacement actions. | D | I |

4.2.5 Factor 5 - Community Resources

| Variable | Negative | Type of Impact | Phase |
|---|--|----------------|-------|
| 2. Cultural, Historical and Archeological | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disturbances caused to historical and archaeological sites arising from road works⁵. | D | I |
| 3. Community Infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disruption of services from public utilities (light and water) from necessary relocation. ▪ Delays in transportation due to disruption of traffic flow from | D | I |
| | | D | I |

⁵ See BCRIP's environmental management framework that includes a cultural heritage management plan.

| | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--|
| | works being carried out. | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--|

5 PARTICIPATION PLANS AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT

The World Bank requires that projects, such as the BCRIP, where it involves the preparation and implementation of annual investment programs and multiple sub-projects that social assessments are carried out where indigenous peoples and other locally affected persons can be identified. Subprojects under the BCRIP will therefore need to be screened and reviewed and a social assessment of potentially affected communities will need to be done. This section outlines the process in which this is to be carried out.

5.1 SUB-PROJECT CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE PARTICIPATION PLANS (CAPP)

The Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) is being referred to in this instance as the Culturally Appropriate Participation Plan (CAPP) as it includes and addresses the interests of both indigenous and non-indigenous communities alike. A CAPP is to be prepared for each program or sub-project before it is implemented and each CAPP is to be provided to the Bank for prior review. The Bank may decide that review of CAPPs will be done as part of overall project supervision.

The CAPP is prepared in consultation with affected communities and sets out measures that ensures, a) project affected communities receive culturally appropriate social and economic benefits; and b) when potential adverse effects are identified, those adverse effects are avoided, minimized, mitigated or compensated for. The CAPP is to be prepared in a flexible and pragmatic manner and its level of detail varies depending on the specific sub-project and nature of effects to be addressed. The CAPP is also integrated into the sub-project design.

The CAPP includes the following elements, as needed:

- a) A summary of baseline information including demographic, social, cultural and political characteristics well as applicable legal and institutional frameworks;
- b) A summary of the social assessment;
- c) A summary of results of the free, prior, and informed consultation with the affected communities that was carried out during sub-project preparation and that led to broad community support for the sub-project.
- d) A framework for ensuring free, prior, and informed consultation with the affected communities during project implementation;

- e) An action plan of measures to ensure that the affected communities receive social and economic benefits that are culturally appropriate, including, if necessary, measures to enhance the capacity of the project implementing agencies.
- f) When potential adverse effects on local communities are identified, an appropriate action plan of measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate, or compensate for these adverse effects.
- g) The cost estimates and financing plan for the CAPP.
- h) Accessible procedures appropriate to the project to address grievances by the affected Indigenous Peoples' communities arising from project implementation. When designing the grievance procedures, the borrower takes into account the availability of judicial recourse and customary dispute settlement mechanisms among communities; and
- i) Mechanisms and benchmarks appropriate to the project for monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on the implementation of the CAPP. The monitoring and evaluation mechanisms will include arrangements for the free, prior, and informed consultation with the affected communities.

5.2 SOCIAL ASSESSMENTS OF SUB-PROJECTS

Social assessments of programs or sub-projects under the BCRIP are to be carried out as part of the designing of sub-projects. Preliminary designs of expected works to be carried out under the sub-projects should be available to use during consultations.

The breadth, depth, and type of analysis required for the social assessment are proportional to the nature and scale of the proposed sub-project's potential effects on the indigenous peoples and local communities. The social assessment includes the following elements, as needed:

- a) A review, on a scale appropriate to the sub-project, of the legal and institutional framework applicable to Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- b) Gathering of baseline information on the demographic, social, cultural, and political characteristics of the affected communities (indigenous and non-indigenous), the land and territories that they have traditionally owned or customarily used or occupied, and the natural resources on which they depend.
- c) Taking the review and baseline information into account, the identification of key project stakeholders and the elaboration of a culturally appropriate process for consulting with local communities at each stage of sub-project preparation and implementation.

- d) An assessment, based on free, prior, and informed consultation, with the affected communities, of the potential adverse and positive effects of the project. Critical to the determination of potential adverse impacts is an analysis of the relative vulnerability of, and risks to, the affected communities given their distinct circumstances and close ties to land and natural resources, as well as their lack of access to opportunities relative to other social groups in the communities, regions, or national societies in which they live.

- e) The identification and evaluation, based on free, prior, and informed consultation with the affected communities, of measures necessary to avoid adverse effects, or if such measures are not feasible, the identification of measures to minimize, mitigate, or compensate for such effects, and to ensure that the Indigenous Peoples receive culturally appropriate benefits under the project.

The result of the Social Assessment is to be integrated into the CAPP to be prepared for each sub-project. The social assessment is to be carried out by the project social officer or a social development to be retained by the project.

6 CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION PROCESS

6.1 CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE CONSULTATION

The World Bank's Policy (OP 4.10 - Indigenous Peoples) aims to contribute to the Bank's mission of poverty reduction and sustainable development by ensuring that the development process fully respects the dignity, human rights, economies, and cultures of Indigenous Peoples. For all projects that are proposed for Bank financing and affect Indigenous Peoples, the Bank requires that there are free, prior and informed consultations of potentially affected Indigenous Peoples. The World Bank recognizes that the identities and cultures of Indigenous Peoples are inextricably linked to the lands on which they live and the natural resources on which they depend. These distinct circumstances expose Indigenous Peoples to different types of risks and levels of impacts from development projects, including loss of identity, culture, and customary livelihoods, as well as exposure to disease.

In considering the objectives and approach of OP 4.10, and the multi-ethnic and culturally diverse nature of Belizean society, the consultation protocol presented here is designed to include and consider indigenous and non-indigenous communities alike. The consultation protocol is to ensure that indigenous peoples and other potentially affected communities, especially rural ones, impacted by the project will have an opportunity to provide their views and feedback in a culturally appropriate manner during project implementation as well as to ensure access to appropriate project benefits.

6.1.1 CONSULTATION PRINCIPLES

For the consultation process of communities to be participatory, inclusive and comply with the spirit of the World Bank's OP 4.10, it is required that the engagement of communities is based on the principles of free, prior, and informed consultation. It must also be culturally appropriate. Free, prior and informed consultation is defined as follows:

- Free – the engagement should be free of coercion, corruption, interference and external pressures. Community members should have the opportunity to participate regardless of gender, age or socio-economic status.
- Prior – the engagement should be during the design phase and prior to the execution of any project or sub-project activities that may affect them. Times of engagement should be established in advance.
- Informed – information sharing during consultation should be timely, sufficient, and accessible and should cover the potential impacts of the project whether positive or adverse.

- Consultation - the consultation process is to be carried through in good faith, is meaningful and that it meets the conditions set out by the consultation principles, and adheres to established protocol.
- Culturally appropriate – the process must ensure that information is provided in the appropriate language, traditional and customary leadership and decision-making processes are respected and seek to maximize community input into the process regardless of age or gender.

6.2 CONSULTATION PROTOCOL

6.2.1 Role of Local Leadership

All communities identified in this assessment have established systems of leadership and these will be used when undertaking consultations with communities during the implementation phase of the project. For those indigenous communities that have an Alcalde, they too must be informed and engaged in conjunction with their Village Councils as required by the nature of the sub-projects. The Toledo Alcalde Association (TAA) must be consulted in the event that subproject activities affect the communities of Bladen and San Pablo. In the case of Belmopan, being an officially designated city, the City Council is to be engaged. The leaders in these positions are to be approached first and all arrangements for meetings are to be done through them. It should be noted that in some communities there are informal leaders that will be engaged to assist with the consultation process.

6.2.2 Role of Rural Community Development Officers

The Ministry of Labour, Local Government, Rural Development and Immigration (MLLGRDI) has a Rural Development Unit that has Rural Community Development Officers (RCDO) assigned to work with all rural communities and their village councils. The RCDOs can play an invaluable role in liaising with communities, village councils and the project. Through their regular engagement with village councils, they have firsthand information on challenges and opportunities facing the local communities and are often aware of whom the local informal leaders are. They can be called upon to assist with planning and facilitating meetings given their mandate. This relationship will need to be formalized between the project and the MLLGRDI.

6.2.3 Holding Consultation Meetings

Once there are preliminary designs of sub-project activities, a meeting will be called with all potentially affected communities. These consultations meetings can be held separately in each affected community along the target road segments or meetings can be held in clusters of

affected communities represented by their village councils. Meetings called within any community will be open to the public and RCDOs will be invited to be present at these meetings. The purpose of the first meeting is to be mainly informational and to gain feedback on potential community issues and concerns relating to the social assessment. Where there are direct impacts to be realized, persons who are likely to be affected will be called to a follow up meeting and the impacts such as land appropriation, dislocation or displacement are to be discussed then. It is important for project officers to already have a preliminary list of those that are likely to be affected as well as types of properties to be affected. The meeting will cover the process of notification, compensation and grievance redress.

In carrying out the relevant consultation meetings the following steps will be observed:

- a. Identify community leaders and notify RCDOs of planned meeting.
- b. Contact formal community leaders and provide the notice of meeting to them. When providing notice of meeting, a rationale for the meeting should be provided and the importance of having their participation emphasized. Community leaders get meeting requests all the time and so it is important to help them to distinguish the purpose of calling them together. If leaders are clear on why the meeting should be held, it helps to motivate them to call on others to attend.
- c. The notice of meeting will be made a minimum of 1 calendar week prior to date of the meeting. Use of the media to provide notice of meetings is encouraged.
- d. Undertaking activities including consultations within communities without the notification of community leaders is considered disrespectful by both indigenous and non-indigenous communities in Belize. When this occurs it can lead to the process being stalled or opposed outright by community leaders who often have considerable influence.

6.2.4 Provide Relevant Information

The communities to be affected by the project must be provided with all relevant information about the project activities in a culturally appropriate manner at each stage of its implementation. The information to be provided must include details of subproject activities, potential positive and negative impacts, role and participation of community members, mitigation measures, and grievance redress mechanism. The information will be provided during consultations meetings prior to the initiation of works and in a format that is accessible to community members. This means that the information should be concise and technical terminology used in project documents and other documentation must be simplified.

6.2.5 Use Appropriate Consultation Methods

The methods used to convey information and engage community members in consultation will be done using appropriate methods. This includes, firstly, the use of the most appropriate language. In Area C (Corozal Area) and Area B (West of Belmopan) it is expected that

presentations and meetings will be done in Spanish. It may be necessary to identify a translator as the primary language used to communicate in these areas is Spanish. Similarly, Area D (Independence Area) it would be best to communicate in the indigenous language. In most cases, there are community members who are able to translate between the indigenous languages or Spanish and English. In the affected Garifuna community, if community members wish to express themselves in their local language, this will be accommodated.

When holding meetings the sessions will be participatory and will use formats that take advantage of various learning styles and incorporate adult learning principles. The information being provided will be delivered in an objective format. It is reasonable to expect a delay in getting a response from participants if the topics being discussed are being shared with them for the first time. If follow-up meetings are necessary then it will be established who to communicate with.

Rural communities in Belize and especially indigenous communities have strong cultural practices that distinguish them either individually or as a collective. These traditions and practices are important aspects of community life. They also help to shape and perpetuate their collective identities and as such must be respected. One of the main ways indigenous people and rural communities manifest and express their culture is through community gatherings and celebrations. These events normally engage the entire community and as such focus on other activities are often deferred. For the consultations to ensure maximum participation while respecting their culture it is important to consider this. No consultation activities arranged around these times.

6.2.6 Planning Meeting Logistics

In carry out consultation activities that aim to maximize participation, it is important that the following critical aspects of logistics be observed.

In collaboration with RCDOs and Village Council Chairperson, the most appropriate times for meetings will be identified in advance. Experience has shown that rural residents are likely to be available for meetings in the evenings and on weekends though meetings during the work day are sometimes possible. It is also important to identify an appropriate venue. The locations of the meetings must be the most suitable but also the most neutral. Some locations in the communities are associated with special interests groups and selecting such a location may deter some from attending. The location should also allow maximum participation from those who attend. A community center usually provides the most suitable location in rural communities.

6.2.7 Gender Considerations

Generally, most of the community leaders are men and therefore calling a meeting of community representatives are likely to have limited gender equitable participation. For instance, it is not

common for indigenous women to participate in public meetings in their communities. This often limits participation from indigenous women. On the other hand, in some Area A communities, women are the ones who attend community meetings mostly but these are exceptions when looking at all four project target areas. Nonetheless, some of the project affected persons may be women and the project will need to ensure that they are not excluded from consultation activities. In order to ensure their participation in the implementation process, the following points will be considered:

- a. Hold meetings separately with women to ensure their participation where necessary;
- b. Consider conducting home visits to conduct interviews or surveys to reach women who are not able to attend a community meeting;
- c. When inviting to meetings, recognize the care-giving role of women;
- d. When setting up meetings, identify a time that is likely to ensure maximum participation from both men and women;
- e. Project officers should be prepared to discuss the role of women in project implementation activities and how they may benefit.

7 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

In order to ensure that the social safeguard policy requirements of the World Bank are adhered to under the project, and that the required community engagement processes for the Culturally Appropriate Participation Framework are followed the following institutional arrangements are proposed for implementation.

7.1 PROJECT COORDINATION

The Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF) will be the project management agency responsible for overall coordination of the BCRIP. A Project Management Unit (PMU) has been established under the BSIF with the responsibility of overseeing the execution of the project.

7.1.1 Project Management Unit

The PMU will have the overall responsibility for project management including, ensuring compliance with agreed implementation procedures and other Bank guidelines, in particular, the Bank's safeguards policies. The PMU is therefore charged with ensuring that the social assessments and the culturally appropriate participation plans (CAPP) for sub-projects are developed. This will be carried out by the social officer within the PMU.

7.2 PREPARATION AND EXECUTION OF CAPPs

The PMU, through the social officer, will take the lead in the development and implementation of the required social assessments and CAPPs. The social officer will work closely with the technical line ministries who are also working on the project. The MOWT, while being the implementing agency for the infrastructure component and will be responsible for the oversight of the technical aspects of the infrastructure sub-projects, will also support the PMU with the development of the social assessment and CAPP. Similarly, the MNRA will play a similar role in addition to being the lead agency for Component 2 of the BCRIP.

In carrying out the community consultations, the PMU will liaise directly with RCDO officer of the Ministry responsible for Rural Development. The RCDO officers are charged with responsibility of monitoring and working closely with Village Councils to promote community development and so have a key role to play in ensuring community engagement.

7.3 GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

Grievances may arise during the planning and execution of the sub-projects and as such a grievance mechanism will need to be put in place. This mechanism⁶ will also serve the processes for involuntary resettlement, displacements and land acquisition addressed in the Involuntary

⁶ See accompanying Involuntary Resettlement Framework (BCRIP) for the Grievance Redressal Mechanism.

Resettlement Framework under World Bank OP 4.12. The establishment and operation of a grievance redressal mechanism is a shared responsibility between the PMU and the MOWT. A detailed Grievance Redressal Mechanism for the project is elaborated in the Involuntary Resettlement Policy Framework.

7.4 DISCLOSURE OF PARTICIPATION PLANS

The PMU is required to make the sub-project social assessment report and draft CAPP available to the affected communities in an appropriate form, manner, and language. Before sub-project appraisal, the PMU sends the social assessment and draft CAPP to the Bank for review. Once the Bank accepts the documents as providing an adequate basis for sub-project appraisal, the Bank makes them available to the public in accordance with The *World Bank Policy on Access to Information*, and the PMU will make them available to the affected communities in the same manner as the earlier draft documents in order to ensure that communities that are like to be affected are aware of the social safeguard instruments.

8 MONITORING AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

8.1 MONITORING PROCESS

The monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of the Culturally Appropriate Planning Framework will be led by the PMU. The objective of monitoring is to identify implementation problems and successes as early as possible so that the implementation arrangements can be adjusted. The monitoring process will help to determine the extent to which activities are being implemented effectively and will help to identify areas that need improvement or require adjustment. The implementation will be monitored on a regular basis and a monitoring report will be provided to the Project Steering Committee at their regular meetings. The reports are to be based on the indicators identified in the Monitoring Framework shown in sub-section 8.3 below.

8.2 SOURCES OF DATA

Sources of data that will be used to monitor the Framework will come from various internal sources.

- a) Staff Field Activity Reports – Staff will be required to document and report their activities engaging with community members for every session or event. Reports will capture date and time of events, purpose of meeting, attendance, summary of proceedings, agreements made and observations.
- b) Consultant Reports – Technical consultants hired to work on various Framework related activities will be required to submit consultancy reports on their activities and engagement with community members. Data specific to participation in discussions social assessments the reports.
- c) Community Visits and Meetings – Monitoring visits can and should be held to verify various aspects of project implementation. The results of visits by the project officers are to be documented and reported similar the Field Activity Reports.

8.3 MONITORING FRAMEWORK

Table 7: Monitoring Framework and Indicators

| Component of Framework | Indicators | Means of Verification | Responsible |
|--|---|--|---|
| Goal 1 – There is Free, Prior and Informed Consultation of Communities | | | |
| Objective 1.1: Communities are provided with relevant project information | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of awareness raising events held • No. of consultation workshops held • Materials developed are user-friendly | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff field reports • Meeting reports • Project literature | Consultant Social Officer Project Coordinator |
| Objective 1.2: Cultural traditions and practices of communities are respected | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time of community meetings • Community leaders involved in decision-making | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff field reports • Correspondence between PMU and Village Councils • Attendance lists | Consultant Social Officer Project Coordinator |
| Objective 1.3: Project affected men and women are consulted in a gender-sensitive manner. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of consultation meetings held • Number of persons affected by the project by gender • No of women only consultations sessions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff field reports • Meeting reports | Social Officer Consultant Project Coordinator |
| Goal 2 – Social Impacts are identified and mitigated. | | | |
| Objective 2.1: Identified sub-projects are accompanied by a social assessment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of social assessment carried out. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant reports • Subproject participatory evaluation reports | Consultant Social Officer Project Coordinator |
| Objective 2.2: CAPPs are | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of CAPPs prepared. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant Reports | Consultant |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| prepared prior to start of works. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback received from affected communities | | Social Officer Project Coordinator |
| Objective 2.3: Affected men and women- receive appropriate assistance and benefits. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No. of men and women employed under sub-project • No. of men and women receiving compensation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects approved by PSC • Project Site Visits | Social Officer Project Coordinator |
| Objective 2.4: GRM Committee is established. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings held every quarter • Report to PSC on GRM activities submitted • GRM responsibilities are incorporated into staff TORs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of meetings • Copies of reports submitted • Staff TORs | Project Coordinator Social Officer GRM Committee |
| Objective 2.5: Staff and community members are aware of and are able to use the GRM. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training meetings held with staff on GRM • Community consultations held on GRM • Marketing materials on GRM developed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training report • Staff Field Reports • GRM Literature available | Project Coordinator Social Officer GRM Committee |

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ANNEX 1 – SCOPING OF AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

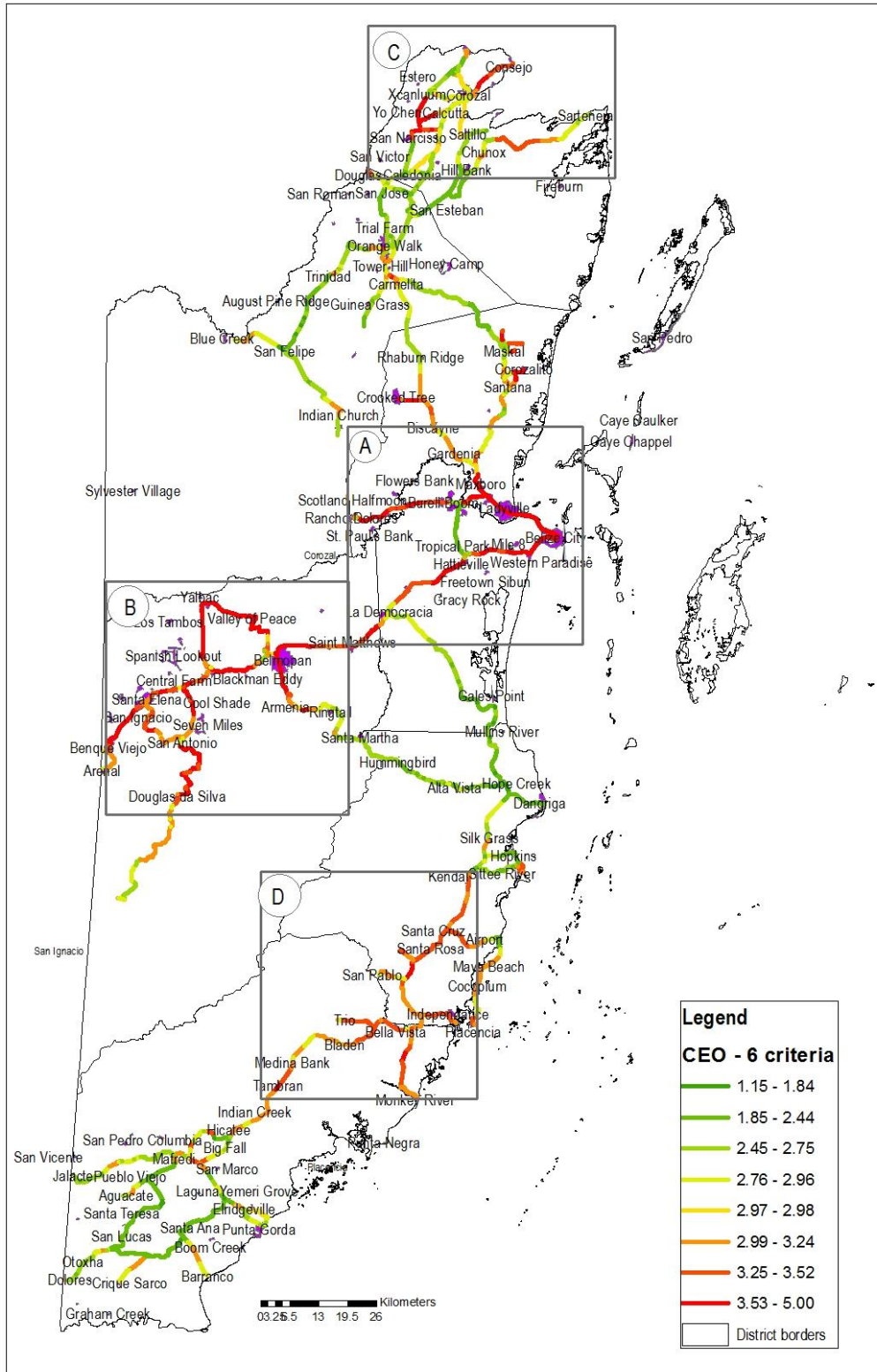
Four specific areas have been identified as target areas for the BCRIP based on the National Climate Resilient Infrastructure Plan (NCRIP). The NCRIP is a comprehensive cross-sectorial plan that has been elaborated by the GOB with support from the WB and financial support from the Africa Caribbean Pacific (ACP) European Union (EU) Natural Disaster Risk Reduction Program. During the preparation of the NCRIP, an extensive project identification and prioritization process was carried out for the transportation network aiming at understanding vulnerabilities and risks in order to be able to efficiently direct funds for the highest climate resilience enhancing impact. The proposed activities included in the national climate resilience investment plan were identified and prioritized using a comprehensive and participatory approach based on two main pillars: (a) flood susceptibility and (b) criticality of the primary and secondary road network. The criticality of transportation infrastructure assets refers to the importance of a specific road, road segment or bridge in the transportation network in terms of its provision of access to various economically or socially significant locations.

Criticality was developed using a multi-criteria evaluation (MCE) approach. Various indicators were further established for each criterion. The main criteria utilized include the following:

- a) Physical Vulnerability
- b) Use & Operational Characteristics
- c) Economic Parameters
- d) Social Parameters
- e) Health
- f) Safety & Security
- g) Environment & Ecology

The result of the MCE exercise produced the target areas A, B, C, and D as shown in the map in Figure 1 below and are the target areas for the BCRIP.

Figure 5: Map Showing Target Areas for BCRIP



Source: MCE Report, 2013

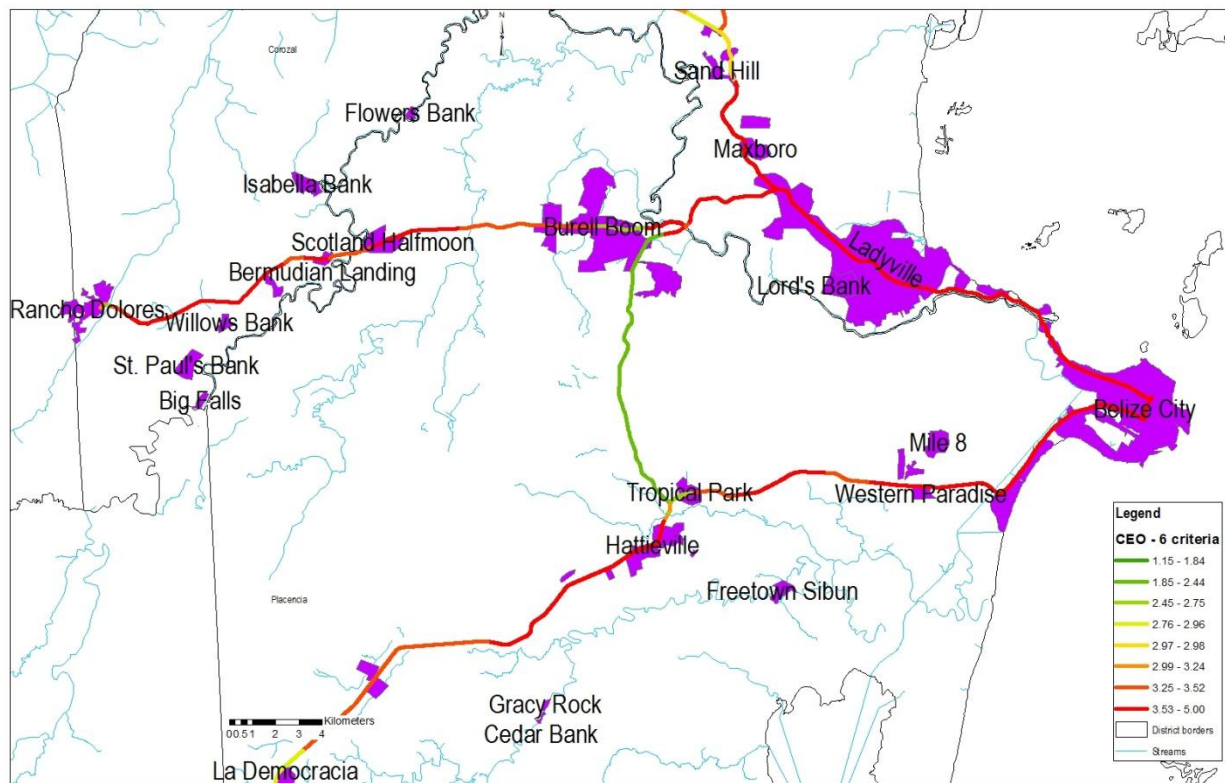
Project Target Areas

As shown above, there are four target areas under the BCRIP. The following is a brief geographic description of each of the four priority areas.

Area A - Greater Belize City:

The primary and secondary roads ranked high by both the criticality analysis and the flood susceptible assessment in this area include the George Price Highway from Belize City to Mile 25, The Philip Goldson Highway from Belize City to just beyond the junction with the Old Northern Road in San Hill Village, and the Bermudian landing Road from the Junction with the Burrell Boom Road to Rancho Dolores.

Figure 6: Area A - Greater Belize City



Source: MCE Report, 2013

There is a road safety project currently ongoing on the George Price Highway from Belize City to Belmopan but it does not currently include any flood mitigation works. There will be a road works investment by the Caribbean Development Bank on the Philip Goldson Highway from

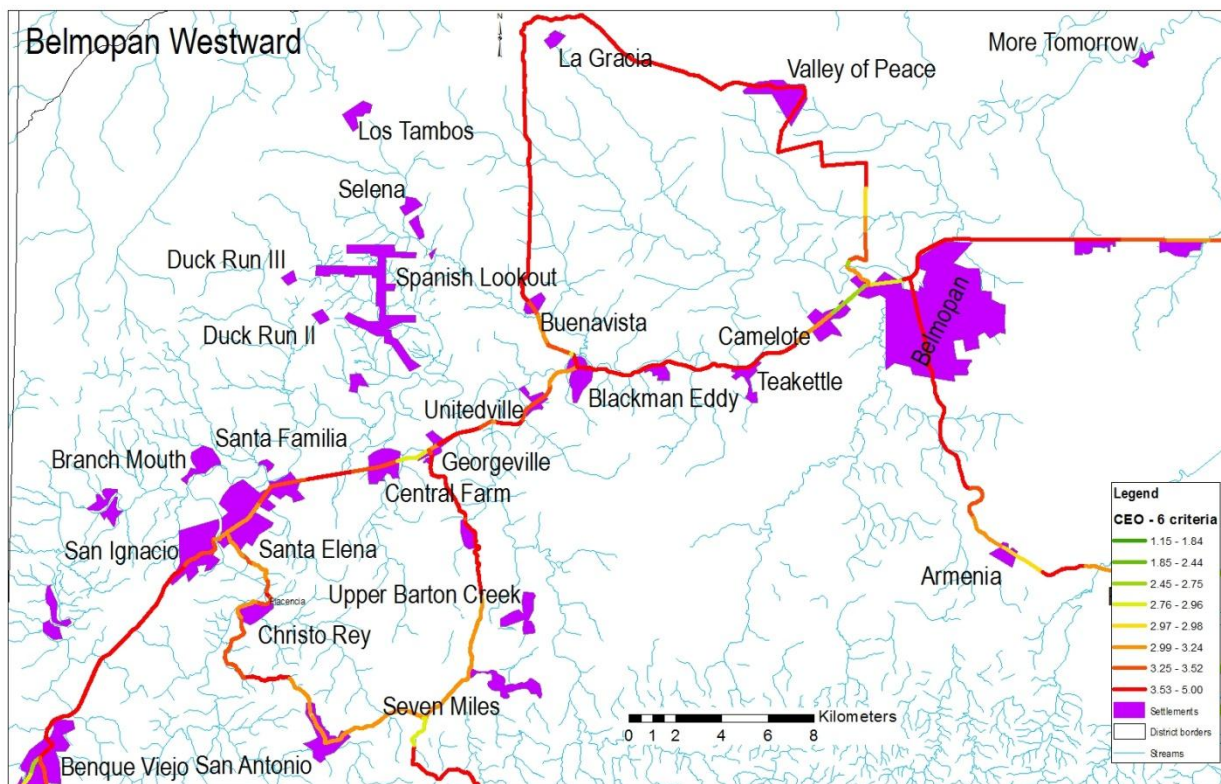
Belama in Belize City to the Philip Goldson International Airport. It is anticipated that the works will include flood mitigation and climate resilience measures.

Area B - West of Belmopan:

The roads with high criticality and flood susceptibility include the George Price Highway from Mount Pleasant Creek west towards San Ignacio and the Guatemalan border; the La Gracia Road, the Valley of Peace Road, The San Antonio Road, and the Pine Ridge Road starting at the Georgeville junction.

An investment is being planned for the section of the George Price Highway from the Agricultural Show Grounds to the Western Border under a different funding source. This works is expected to include flood mitigation and climate resilience measures. No investments are currently identified for the other roads in this area.

Figure 7: Area B – West of Belmopan

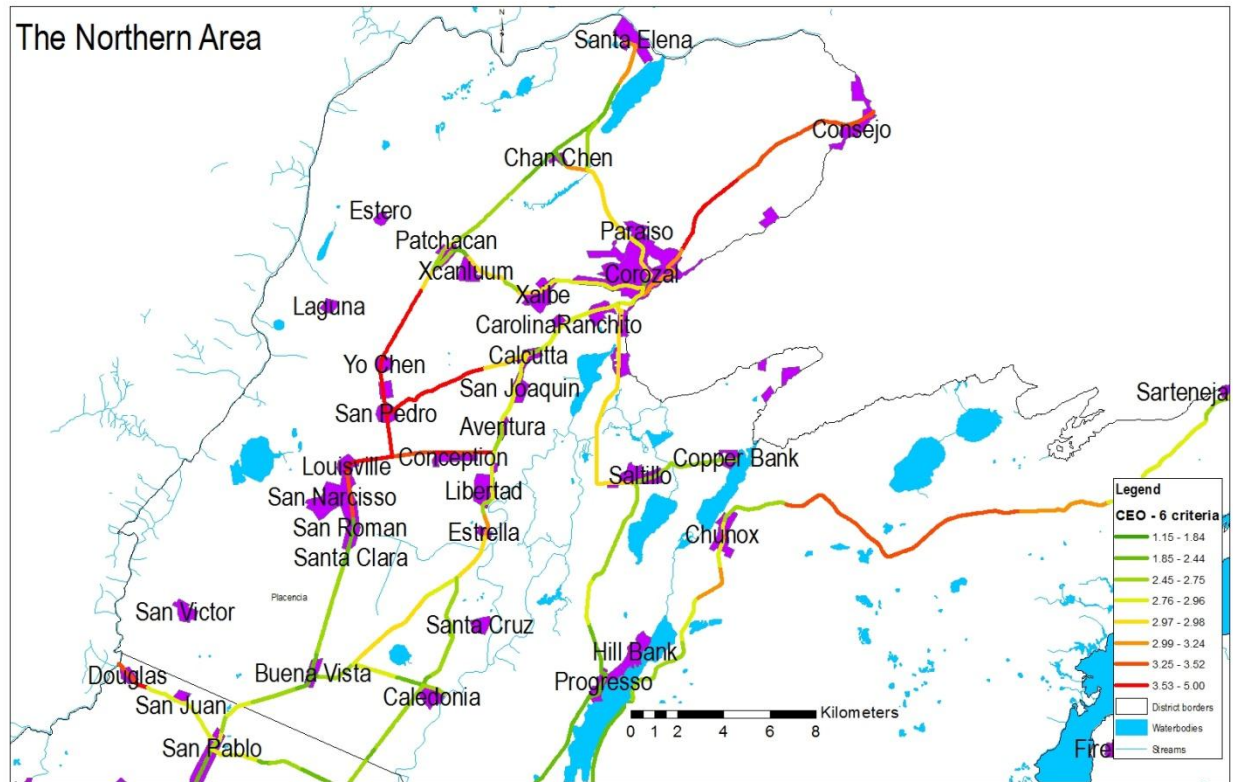


Source: MCE Report, 2013

Area C - Northern area around Coroazl:

In this area, the roads with the highest criticality and flood susceptibility include roads near San Narciso Village, the road to Consejo Village and the road to Sarteneja. There investments on the road to Sarteneja from Orange Walk Town but not on the road to Coroazl. The San Narciso – San Victor road is currently being upgraded to pave standard with EU Grant Funds.

Figure 8: Area C - Northern Area Around Coroazl

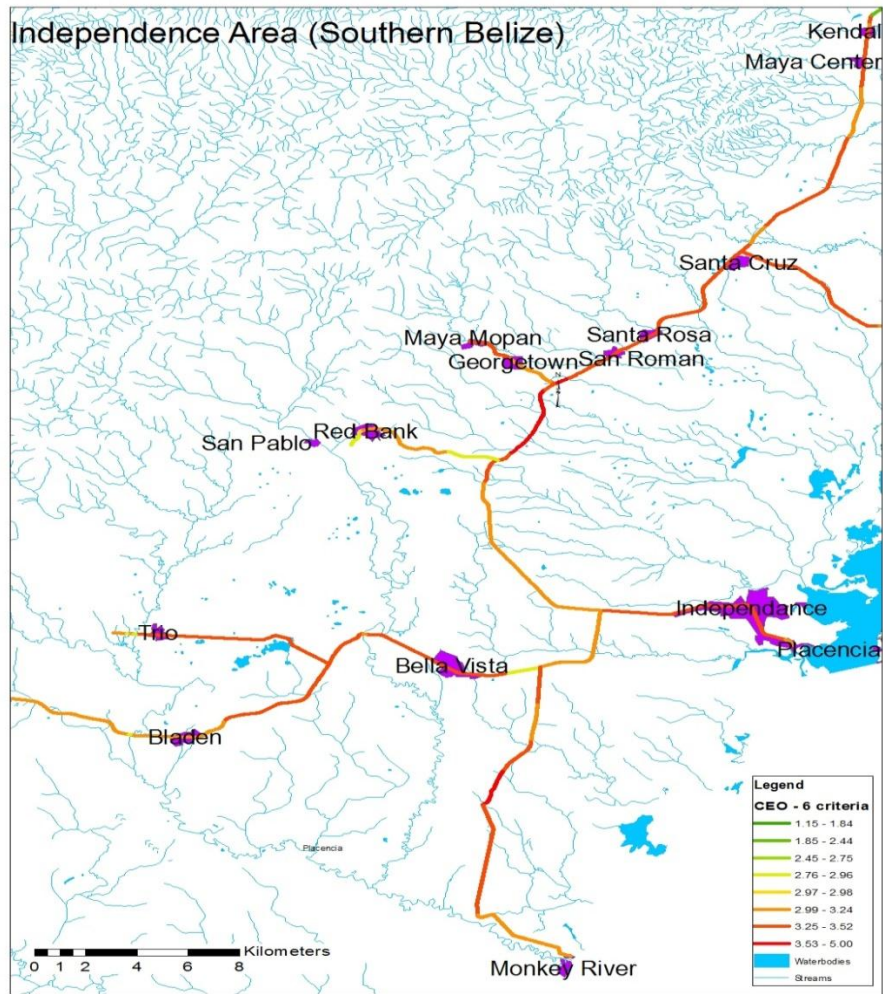


Source: MCE Report, 2013

Area D - Southern Area Around Independence:

The roads in this area have medium criticality and medium to high flood susceptibility. These include the Southern Highway from Maya Centre to Bladen, the Trio Road, the Independence Road, and the road to Monkey River. There are currently no on-going projects in the area, and most of the roads are paved with the exception of the segment connecting the highway to Monkey River and the Trio Road.

Figure 9: Area D - Independence Area



Source: MCE Report, 2013

ANNEX 2 - LIST OF PERSONS/STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

Interview with MOWT – 30th January, 2013

1. Mr. Lennox Bradley, Chief Engineer, MOWT

Consultation Meeting With DAVCO and Rural Development - 18th February, 2014

1. Mr. Antoine Devonshire, Project Coordinator, BSIF, 822 0508
2. Mr. Irving Thimbriel, Ministry of Works, 620 3189, irvingthimbriel@yahoo.co.uk
3. Miss Yolanda Molina, President, DAVCO, Cayo District, 605 5135
4. Mr. Herman Castillo, Sr. Valuation Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture, 626 1989, cas.values@yahoo.com
5. Mr. Justo Augustine, Chairman, DAVCO, Stann Creek District, 660 1687
6. Mr. Marion Lewis, Rural Development Officer, 621 4273
7. Mr. Santiago Pop, Rural Development Officer, Stann Creek District, 620 2481
8. Miss Cordelia Forman, Rural Development Officer, 622 1990
9. Mr. Evan Dakers, Social Specialist, BMDP/SIF, 622 4365
10. Miss Jacqueline Franklin, Rural Development Officer, 623 8218
11. Miss Ruth Staine Dawson, President, NAVCO, Belize District, 610 1719

Focus Group Meeting with Indigenous Community Leaders – 25th February, 2014

1. Mr. Primitivo Teul, Chairman, Maya Mopan Village Council, Stann Creek, 661-2043
2. Mr. Maximiliano Makin, Chairman, San Pablo Village Council, Stann Creek, 651-0815
3. Mr. Antonio Shal, Chairman, Santa Rosa Village Council, Stann Creek, 634-5281

Validation Meeting with DAVCO and Rural Development – 26th March, 2014

1. Mr. Antoine Devonshire, Project Coordinator, BSIF, 822 0508
2. Mr. Irving Thimbriel, Ministry of Works, 620 3189, irvingthimbriel@yahoo.co.uk
3. Miss Yolanda Molina, President, DAVCO, Cayo District, 605 5135
4. Mr. Herman Castillo, Sr. Valuation Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture, 626 1989, cas.values@yahoo.com
5. Mr. Justo Augustine, Chairman, DAVCO, Stann Creek District, 660 1687
6. Mr. Marion Lewis, Rural Development Officer, 621 4273

7. Mr. Santiago Pop, Rural Development Officer, Stann Creek District, 620 2481
8. Miss Cordelia Forman, Rural Development Officer, 622 1990
9. Mr. Evan Dakers, Social Specialist, BMDP/SIF, 622 4365
10. Miss Jacqueline Franklin, Rural Development Officer, 623 8218
11. Miss Ruth Staine Dawson, President, NAVCO, Belize District, 610 1719
12. Mr. William Lamb Jr., Executive Director, BSIF.

Validation Meeting with Indigenous Community Leaders – 29th March, 2014

1. Mr. Maximiliano Makin, Chairman, San Pablo Village Council, Stann Creek, 651-0815
2. Mr. Antonio Shal, Chairman, Santa Rosa Village Council, Stann Creek, 634-5281

ANNEX 3 - MINUTES OF STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

1.) Minutes of Meeting with DAVCO and Community Representatives

Facilitator: Mr. Valentino Shal

Participants: See Annex 3

The meeting commenced with welcome remarks by Mr. Shal followed by introduction of all participants which was then followed by an overview of the project by Mr. Antoine Devonshire, Project Coordinator, BCRIP Coordinator

Overview

Mr. Devonshire, the SIF representative gave an overview of the project, pointing out that the NCRIP study carried out which is the basis of the BCRIP was very comprehensive: the report contained merged information collected by both an internal and an outside teams. This was then followed by questions and comments:

- What other projects have been identified so far? BCRIP will only be addressing road infrastructure.
- Will the project address current or new roads? The project will only address current roads to improve their resilience to climate change impacts.
- Climate change has affected the Placencia Peninsula, biggest problem is lack of Hurricane Shelters. Is this an area being looked at? No – road infrastructure only.
- In the past we use to clean river ways before the rains fall e.g.: in Sittee River, Kendall, etc. This no longer happens. It needs to be done to help.
- Why is Toledo not in the frames? Project is only addressing Primary and Secondary roads based on NCRIP study of infrastructure criticality. Nonetheless, Monkey River, Trio, Bladen, all from Toledo, are within the target area.
- Infrastructure and rivers – on the old Northern Highway (Maskall), there is a wide area that leads out to the sea. Because Crooked Tree is a basin, it comes out through and then channels. Because of the build-up that blocks the access, we have flooding problems now. Mr. Thimbriel of MOWT informed the group that these issues were considered in the analysis.

- Natural Resources should play a big role in managing challenges posed by climate change, i.e. not granting license to build along the rivers.
- What is the “pot of money” available for this infrastructure project? The group was informed that there is a road works portion of approximately US\$20m. Estimated cost of building a mile of paved road is \$1.6 – \$2.5 m while a small bridge (steel and concrete) ranges anywhere between \$20 - \$70k.

World Bank Social Safeguards Policies

Bank funded project must not have a negative impact on people’s lives and if so, it should be mitigated in various ways – the people should either remain the same or better off conditions after the project. If there are negative effects then they must be mitigated. There are only few laws to protect social side (livelihood) of any development project in Belize. Thus the reason for the importance of the World Bank Policies:

Operational Policy 4.10 Indigenous People

Operational Policy 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement

Historically, indigenous people have been one of the most affected worldwide when there is development. However, this framework is being called the Culturally Appropriate Participation Framework (not Indigenous Framework) to include all communities.

On the Policies:

Biggest concerns were squatters. It was noted that the World Bank Policies had indicated that only people who have been in the location prior to project started (Jan/Feb 2013), will be compensated/relocated based on the policy.

Consultation Process

What is the best way of informing people in the affected area? What is the best approach to engage them?

- Public Meetings
- Identify the area first, the people, the type of properties to be affected.
- Set up a framework process for when the time comes to consult, it can easily be followed.

Mr. Dakers suggested RCDOs invite the key credible persons who are informal leaders in their areas. They know the best times to have meetings to have maximum participation.

Things to consider:

- Time
- Who should participate
- Know what the law states regarding villages and road infrastructure
- Preliminary road designs
- RCDOs do not have copies of the Land Acquisition and Public Roads Act.

SIF should formally inform the Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Rural Development of the need for the RCDOs continuous participation in this project. They will be able to play a key role in the consultation process that needs to take place.

Gender Equity

A question was posed as to how to ensure that there is gender equity in the participation for the consultation. It was noted that at Belize District's meetings women are normally the major participants. On the other hand, Cayo District has weak women participation.

In respect to who and how to extend an invitation to attend the meetings, the general view was that it must not only be village council members but rather the wider community must be invited to attend a first meeting. This can be done through the media especially radio, with individual invitations to village council members and key influential members of the communities.

A second meeting should then be held specifically for those that will be directly affected.

Mr. Dakers brought to attention the fact that Municipal Elections is fast approaching and consideration must be given to whether area representatives should be invited or informed out of courtesy. Mr. Shal recommended that they be approached through a different forum and be informed by BSIF/MED.

Potential Social Impacts

Negative

- One of the fears in Lords Bank is the result of the SIF drainage project of 2008/9. Due to the lack of communication between SIF and the community, the villagers now fear that flood waters might run back into the village. They are unaware if it is/is not a possibility. This should be avoided in BCRIP.
- SIF Experience: Town Councils/Villages look forward to job opportunities for its community members when projects move in. However, contractors are not necessarily from within the same district and bring their own technical people instead of using the locals - this causes disagreements. Mr. Thimbriel said that getting a contract is based on the Technical Skills a company has to carry out the job.

- Conditions to employ locals cannot be made to contractors. Persuasion is the best method to get contractors to contribute to the positive impact in the areas affected, e.g.: cost reduction – no need for travel expenses, etc.
- Communities in the past have commented that they feel disrespected because they are not informed of projects in order for them to prepare for it. To minimize negative effects, it was noted that communication is key for a community to understand. A visual presentation on how the project will be carried through different stages would be good as well as taking them on field visits to view completed road segments.
- MOW looks after safety related impacts of construction such as sign posting, safety, when carrying out construction by putting it into the contracts.

Positive

- Employment opportunities for service providers i.e. Food vendors or providing accommodation to workers in rural areas.

In respect to obstructions on road reserves, MOW is responsible for dealing that with the issue. The standard process is to inform the person/s in writing on action, copying the Commissioner of Police and the Attorney General.

Land Acquisition and Resettlement (Land Acquisition (Public Purposes) Act Chapter 184)

Concerns were raised on immigrants/squatters putting up shacks along the highways and on road reserves. Even after resettlement, they may return. Community leaders see this as a continuous problem and do not feel that squatters should be compensated to move.

When you give relocation compensation, who identifies the piece of land? The project will be responsible for take care of relocation but squatters can identify on their own where they may wish to go as long as it is not to squat again.

When it comes to relocation, land being used for relocation should be assessed properly, to ensure that development of the said property does not cause a negative effect on the community. For example, properties that require backfilling can create bigger issues for the wider community.

World Bank and local laws do not seem to be harmonized when it comes to compensation. This needs to be brought to their attention.

Both MOW and Natural Resources are parties to the negotiations for compensation. However, MOW is responsible for road obstructions while the acquisition of property fall under Lands.

The latter is signed off by the CEO. Advice and request for removal from location is kept within MOW.

The Central Building Authority (CBA) should be monitoring construction on properties throughout the country but they don't have the capacity to do so, hence the reason for encountering obstructions on the road reserves, i.e., overhangs, fences etc.

It was suggested that RDOs assist in the verification of established constructions that are present before the project's commencement.

Grievance Redress Mechanism

Ministry of Natural Resources usually addresses concerns on land issues while MOW deals with infrastructure issues. MOW will be the first stop under the project.

Compensation money will come from GOB funds, not World Bank. This was a concern due to past experiences as local authorities don't always have ready financial resources to address this. A board in MNRA decides value for land but not for other assets such as stands/shacks along the road. There is a resettlement assistance to allow for the transition.

It was suggested that a survey be done early to identify those to be relocated in order to give them plenty of notice. This was duly noted and will be a part of the feasibility study process for subprojects.

Mr. Dakers suggested that members of civil society are brought in to help where possible. To address some resettlement issues creative measures can be developed. As an example, the Dangriga Town Council reduced taxes for vegetable vendors who have lost income due to the incomplete market project.

A complaint system must be in place and clearly available to affected members of the community, explaining the procedure to submit a complaint if any, as well as what happens, how the complaints will be dealt with, what to expect (including time frame for the issue to be resolved and what to do next if not resolved satisfactorily). (Perhaps this can be done in a booklet form and copies made available at meetings once affected properties are identified.) This can include the process that should be followed by MOW for the acquisition of any private property for the project. Personnel on the ground should also be aware of the procedures. These should be available before community consultations are carried out.

Lastly, a monitoring procedure needs to be in place in order to ensure that resettlements are being done according to plan and issues arising can be adequately addressed.

Summary of Issues/Concerns

| Main Issues/Concerns Raised | Response |
|---|--|
| 1. Will the project address current or new roads? | The project will only address current roads to improve their resilience to climate change impacts. |
| 2. Why is Toledo not in the frames? | Project is only addressing Primary and Secondary roads based on NCRIP study of infrastructure criticality. Nonetheless, Monkey River, Trio, Bladen, all from Toledo, are within the target area. |
| 3. Denial of employment opportunities for locals during road works. | Getting a contract is based on the Technical Capacity a company has to carry out the job. Conditions to employ locals cannot be made to contractors. Persuasion is the best method to get contractors to contribute to the positive impact in the areas affected, e.g.: cost reduction – no need for travel expenses, etc. |
| 4. Communities in the past have commented that they feel disrespected because they are not informed of projects in order for them to prepare for it. | Project anticipates a consultation approach and that affected persons will be engaged through free, prior and informed consultations. Affected persons will be engaged in developing resettlement plans. |
| 5. Immigrants/squatters are putting up shacks (vendor stalls) along the highways and on road reserves. Even after resettlement, they may return. Community leaders see this as a continuous problem and do not feel that squatters should be compensated to move. | The project is responsible for planning and implementing resettlement activities required by the project. This includes providing assistance to squatters as appropriate but no compensation for land as there is no direct legal right to it. |

Next Steps – Disclosure

Participants were informed that a Disclosure Meeting will be held on 19th March 2014.

2.) Minutes of Focus Group meeting with Indigenous community leaders in Area D.

Facilitator: Valentino Shal

Attendance: See Annex 3

The Meeting was facilitated by Valentino Shal.

Project Overview:

An overview of the project was presented along with copies of project related documents outlining the goals and objectives of the BCRIP project. The participants were informed that the

project is in the design phase and consulting with local community leaders was considered key in that process.

WB Social Safeguard Policies

A description of the WB social safeguard policies was provided to the community leaders. The rationale for having such policies especially those relating to OP 4.10 Indigenous People was clarified. It was further explained that all potentially affected communities will be provided the same level of safeguarding as rural communities. The participants welcome the new approach of the BCRIP in first informing community leaders of a potential project during the design phase. Generally, they said, they would learn of projects when they are already starting.

Questions, Concerns and Interests in BCRIP Activities

Community representatives asked where exactly the road works would take place. They were told that specific subprojects have not yet been identified and that even though there are four target areas, how much work is actually done will depend on the level of critical in the target zones and available funds under the project. Community leaders referred to the experience with the Kendal Bridge that was washed away by flooding and expressed their concurrence with having such a project attempt to pre-empt a repeat of the loss of a major bridge in the country's infrastructure.

Area D was specifically looked at and the community leader from Maya Mopan stated that they criticality map reflects their experience as they often experience flooding on the road leading to their village during the rainy season. The flooding he said interrupted traffic flow for extended periods and workers and students are often not able to get across to get to their job sites and schools. There are even sections of both villages that go under water during rainy season. Addressing this road he would meet the needs of both his village and neighboring Georgetown. The community leader from San Pablo similarly shared that the road going up to his community is used both by community members and by 5 large banana farms where members of his community often obtain employment. The road has similarly been affected by rains in the past where culverts have collapsed and there are 3 nearby lagoons that often overrun their banks.

Indigenous Communities in Area D

There was a discussion on livelihoods and traditions and practices of indigenous peoples in the area. Only Maya Mopan, Bladen and San Pablo continue to practice their traditional forms of leadership through the Alcalde in parallel to the Village Council. Bladen and San Pablo are both in the Toledo District, are members of the Toledo Alcalde Association but are administratively managed from the Stann Creek District due to their location. The other Maya communities in the Stann Creek District, are originally from the Toledo District. A discussion was held around changes that have since occurred in their socio-cultural practices. The leaders present said that

they do realize that many changes have occurred in their forms of livelihoods and cultural expression. They are not as land dependent as their counterparts in the Toledo District thought they continue to practice farming on a more limited scale. They tend to take up more employment opportunities available in the agro-industries and tourism sector in the vicinity. Landholdings are mostly individually surveyed parcels especially those within the village itself. The traditional practice of reciprocity is also on the decline as off-farm labour market begins to take hold. While the use of Maya languages remains, some aspects of local/traditional dress are changing.

Potential Social Impacts & Grievance Redress

Community leaders were not very concerned with the potential social impacts since the projects will be focused on the main highways which in their area is in good condition. They said that their experience with the construction of the Southern Highway already gives them an idea of what to expect. They did point out that they welcome the consultation as during the last project, one village lost a portion of their football field without any type of remedy or consultation. They felt that there was not much they could really do about it at the time. They also want to be kept informed in order to take advantage of some of the potential economic benefits such as temporary employment for their community members. If there is any resettlement, involuntary land acquisition or loss of assets, they do expect to be consulted and compensated accordingly. They shared that they expect projects such as BCRIP to have some level of inconvenience but if it is for the benefit of their communities and their concerns at that time are addressed they are willing to cooperate with the project.

In terms of road reserve encroachment they do not have this experience and so don't expect it to be an issue in their Area. If there are encroachments they said, they should be dealt with according to the law. They did welcome the idea of having a grievance redress mechanisms and suggested that the Chairman or Alcalde be an uptake point for concerns from community members. This is to ensure that outside workers are able to comply with the traditions and norms of their communities and do not create any disruption.

Summary of Issues/Concerns Raised

| Main Issues/Concerns Raised | Response |
|--|--|
| Criticality map reflects communities' reality as they often experience flooding on the road leading to some of their villages during the rainy season | Specific subprojects have not yet been developed and each target area will be further examined to determine what specific actions need to be taken. This will likely be done after project has received WB approval. |
| Be kept informed in order to take advantage of some of the potential economic benefits such as temporary employment for their community members. If there is any resettlement, involuntary | The role of the PMU is to ensure that affected communities are informed of the project. In terms of resettlement and involuntary land acquisition this will be done through a consultative approach |

| | |
|---|---|
| land acquisition or loss of assets, they do expect to be consulted and compensated accordingly. | and will be systematically carried out through the development of Resettlement Plans. Affected persons will be made aware and engaged throughout the process. |
|---|---|

Conclusion

Community leaders appreciated the new approach of consulting them even before the project starts and also appreciated the goals of the project. They were able to specifically point out from their own experience how BCRIP would be able to benefit them. They were supportive of the project and asked to be kept abreast of the start of the project.

3.) BCRIP Validation Meeting with DAVCO and RCDOs

NAVCO Headquarters, Belmopan - 26th March, 2014

Attendance: See Annex 3

Introduction:

The relevant WB social safeguard policies, namely OP 4.10 (Indigenous Peoples) and OP 4.12 (Involuntary Resettlement) were presented as an introduction to the session. The rationale and objectives were presented to remind participants as to the purpose of the validation session.

Safeguard Policies:

The measures for each safeguard instrument were presented separately with comments sought in between presentations.

The measures covered under the OP 4.10 - Culturally Appropriate Participation Framework – included:

- a) Types of subprojects expected under the project;
- b) Development of Culturally Appropriate Participation Plans (Social Assessments, Participation Plans)
- c) Consultation Protocol
- d) Institutional Arrangements
- e) Monitoring and Reporting

The measures covered under OP 4.12 – Involuntary Resettlement Policy Framework included:

- a) Principles and Objectives of the Policy
- b) Impacts covered under the Policy
- c) Legal Framework
- d) Eligibility for Assistance under Policy
- e) Potential Displacement and Impacts
- f) Preparing Abbreviated Resettlement Plans
- g) Organizational Procedures
- h) Funding Arrangements
- i) Grievance Redressal Mechanism

Comments and Feedback:

One of the participants suggested that different persons should be considered for monitoring the safeguard measures and community members had a role in the process. This was acknowledged and told that this was actually contemplated in the instrument.

The President of NAVCO stated that proper consultation should take place and welcomed this from the project. At the same time she said that consultation is going to be challenging as there are persons with vested interest or personal agendas who may create difficulties for the process. Things can be deliberately misconstrued she said by those with personal agendas. This is the risk you run she said when you open up a project process to community consultation.

Others responded that the project is presenting a graduated process of avoidance of potential negative impacts to compensation where this is not possible. The process they said was not intended to please everyone but to engage people as much as possible to avoid or minimize negative impacts.

A question was asked about potential impacts on indigenous people's lands. Examples of impacts on Maya lands are always an extreme case and can easily become a legal matter and so the person wanted to know how much of this is expected to occur. This was clarified that indigenous land rights claim were confined to the Toledo District and only two of those communities may be potentially affected. Even so the lands that **may** be affected however were not community lands and so the effect would be very minimal to none in that regard.

The representative of the MOWT wanted to know if indeed the social protection measures were actually being extended to all communities. This was confirmed in the affirmative and it was further explained that this was a precedent set by the BMDP another World Bank funded project. The interest here was that such measures be afforded to all affected persons.

One participant said that indeed Village Councils should be consulted and should participate as appropriate in the project.

A question on how compensation was going to be done was asked. The response was that firstly compensation for land acquisition would be carried out by the MNRA according to standard processes. A further question by the Stann Creek DAVCO representative was how land was to be valued and the MNRA representative said that it was according to market value at the time of acquisition. There was a follow up question regarding tree crops that may be destroyed. The MNRA representative said that these are generally valued based on production output and the value of such output. He added that the MNRA sends notices to land owners on the intent of the MNRA with regards to land acquisition. It was further emphasized that the social assessment and surveys was key in determining who is being affected by the project and the extent of such effect. This is all to be captured in the Abbreviated Resettlement Plan.

The MOWT representative asked whether those in Category C (persons with no legal title) i.e. persons encroaching on road reserves would be compensated. The response given was that they would not be compensated for the land but that they would be given assistance to relocate and compensated for loss of income/livelihoods that may occur as a consequence of the project. The purpose and intent of the Policy is that no person should be worse off than before the project started. They must be at the same level or better. If persons experience hardship or are impoverished as a consequence of the project then this defeats the development objective of the project and the mission of the Bank.

The MOWT representative re-emphasized that the BCRIP was focused on ensuring that the road infrastructure was resilient to climate change and that those roads that will be addressed under the project have been studied and the most vulnerable will be given priority.

There was a short discussion on the cut-off date for those who may be compensated if impacted by the project. It was explained that the cut-off date in the document was the date of the survey when it is carried out. There was concern that Bank representatives have communicated that no person can be moved as of the date discussions for the project got underway with the government. Does this mean that persons who move in after that date cannot be compensated or that people can still move in and will have to be compensated? If the date is as the Bank says is the cut-off date, then anyone moving in after that would not be eligible for compensation. This will need to be clarified by the PMU with the Bank.

One community representative said that while she appreciates the humanitarian approach of the Bank and its policy, she feels that in all of that, those who are encroaching illegally will obtain benefits at the expense of citizens who comply with the law because everyone will have to repay the loan and cost of the project. It was stressed that the policy was meant to ensure that no one was left worse off by the project.

In regards to the GRM the BSIF Executive Director stated that he wished for affected persons to make use the Project GRM and as such the GRM project should be promoted even in the way it

is presented. While it is acknowledged that the national grievance redress mechanisms were in place, they should be options of last resort. It was agreed that changes would be made to the GRM schema to emphasize which is the project GRM in relation to general national GRM.

Summary of Issues/Concerns Raised

| Main Issues/Concerns Raised | Response |
|--|--|
| Safeguard measures should be monitored and there should be a role for communities. | Monitoring of safeguard measures are included in the Framework and there is a role for communities in the both the development, implementation and monitoring of safeguard measures. |
| Consultation welcomed but consultation may turn out to be challenging due to personal agendas. | Consultation is to provide affected persons an opportunity to be heard and process to be informed by social concerns. It will not be able to meet everyone's expectation. The purpose and intent of the Policy is that no person should be worse off than before the project started. They must be at the same level or better. If persons experience hardship or are impoverished as a consequence of the project then this defeats the development objective of the project and the mission of the Bank. |
| Potential impacts on indigenous people's lands and how much of this is being expected? | Indigenous land rights claim are confined to the Toledo District and only two of those communities may be potentially affected. Even so the lands that may be affected however were not regarded as community lands but actual highway and so the effect would be very minimal to none in that regard. The Culturally Appropriate Participation Framework (CAPF) addresses engagement of indigenous peoples should the need to do so under the project arise. |
| How compensation was going to be done? | This will be led mainly by the MNRA under the existing laws and regulations. This however, will be supplemented by the Policies of the bank where non-land related compensation is required or expected. Social assessment and surveys are key in determining who is being affected by the project and the extent of such effect. This is all to be captured in the Abbreviated Resettlement Plan. |
| When is the cut-off date? | The cut-off date in the document was the date of the survey when it is carried out. Nobody should be moved until cut-off date has been established. |
| Use of Project GRM should be emphasized. | GRM will be promoted by the project and that use of national systems will be encouraged only as a means of last resort. |

Conclusion:

In concluding the session, participants were informed that the final copy of the instruments would be disclosed to them by sending copies to them directly. Copies would also be uploaded to the Banks InfoShop and BSIF's website. Other organizations such as NAVCO, Rural Development, MNRA, and MOWT were welcome to also upload the documents to their website.

The discussions and feedback on the safeguard measures were on target and community representatives were supportive of the policy measures being put in place. Considering the feedback and comments received it can be reasonably concluded that the community representatives are supportive of the project.

4.) BCRIP Validation Meeting with indigenous Chairpersons

Independence Village

March 29, 2014

Attendance:

- Maximiliano Makin, Chairman, San Pablo Village
- Antonio Shal, Chairman, Santa Rosa Village
- Antoine Devonshire, Project Coordinator, PMU

A review and clarification of the project and rationale for WB policy was provided as an introduction to meeting.

The project is focused on main road and secondary work and we are to inform the people so that they clearly understand and know what we are doing. We are looking at how we can improve the highway so as to reduce problems and ensure it is operational in any sort of weather conditions and effects of climate change.

Policies Applied

There are two main policies being addressed:

OP 4.10 – Indigenous People (Culturally Appropriate Participation Framework).

Two key areas include:

1 – Consultation with affected communities/persons: This is that we must inform those that may be affected of the project and of procedures being put in place. We must listen and work with the people to avoid or minimize effects to them and their wellbeing.

2 - Potential Social Impacts: If the projects have effects such as the involuntary taking land then the project must compensate for it.

Overall the project is to ensure that affected persons are not left worst off by the project but better off or on their same level at minimum.

The Independence area is important in that indigenous people live in the area and two are engaged in Maya land rights claim.

-Types of activities that come under this Policy.

1. Social assessment
2. Participation plan

-Consultation

Free, prior, and informed

- Free in that no one forces you to attend meetings or consultations or coerces you to take a decision in a certain way. You should have your freedom of choice.
- Prior in that you are informed before the project commences.
- Informed in that we must inform you of the project and you can express your opinions and concerns which are then documented.

In terms of project activities:

Project Management Unit - is the unit in charge of the project and Headed by Mr. Antoine Devonshire

Ministry of Works team will carry out the actual works under the project

Feedback and Comments Provided:

Chairman of Santa Rosa asked if project was already approved. Response given was that no, project was not yet approved.

Participants were asked if they okay with this process. What do you think about this process?

Chairman of San Pablo responded by saying that he does not see a problem with it.

Chairman of Santa Rosa similarly stated that it was not a problem since it is right to consult the people first because a few years ago when they were constructing the highway the construction

company took some land from the first lots near the highway and paid the people and survey new lands over and now they are having problems getting the map for the land. All he has is the old map and the people that have the land behind want to apply for title and cannot because they don't have the right map. When asked how long that has been he said he not exactly sure, but around early 2000.

Participants were informed that that is the type of things are being avoided by the project. When asked what the process was under that project the Chairman of Santa Rosa said that they came and consult with those people individually almost the same day they were going to construct the road and compensated them.

Involuntary Resettlement:

The approach to compulsory acquisition was explained. If the project will take the land from the owners it will first try to avoid that, if it cannot be avoided then it is minimized. If that is not possible then there is compensation either in monetary terms or with land and those involved are consulted on where they would resettle.

The project coordinator asked if the land that is owned by the Mayans in your village owned by right of being indigenous or by the government giving them it.

The Chairman of Santa Rosa stated that they had Individual land that they obtained from the government based on national land system. San Pablo similarly has approximately 1000 acres of land surveyed for them by the government. Individuals have leases for them. It has one road, a banana farm road that is already there but is in bad condition.

The project coordinator further asked what is the land used for. Response was mostly for agricultural uses. House lots are surveyed for individual owners in Santa Rosa.

Feedback and Comments Provided:

A question was asked to the participants on what they thought of the involuntary resettlement and procedures presented. Santa Rosa Chairman responded that he saw it as a good plan if approved even though he doesn't think any work will happen in his area. He said that if it does he would now know where exactly to go and project plans shouldn't be a problem him.

The two chairmen were reminded of the previous meeting the project was described. There are four areas being looked at but that does not mean that works will be done in all those area. Specific subprojects are not yet developed. All this is done is to inform those who may be affected so they are aware of what possibly may happen. The project essentially is to upgrade the main road that already exists so there are likely to be limited effects especially in this area.

The Chairman of San Pablo said that he though it is a good procedure.

The Chairman of Santa Rosa asked if other Chairmen who were not present would be called to another to another meeting. They were informed that this portion of the process ends on Monday but what will happen is that through DAVCO they will be given a copy of the document. They can then read it and ask question about it. Feedback can still be provided to the PMU even after the process is concluded.

Summary of Issues/Concerns Raised

| Main Issues/Concerns Raised | Response |
|---|--|
| Consultation and participation in resettlement activities | This is a primary aim and activity of the safeguard measures and not an afterthought. An Abbreviated Resettlement Plan will be prepared for such instances so that resettlement activities are clear to all concerned. |

Conclusion:

The meeting and discussions focused on the two main social safeguard instruments namely the Indigenous People’s Policy and the Involuntary Resettlement Policy Framework. Similar to the first meeting the community leaders did not express any major concerns and appreciated the objectives of the project. Unfortunately, not all the community leaders invited attended the meeting. The meeting was set on a weekend and at a time convenient to them based on local transportation schedules. A reminder two days prior was also given to them. Nonetheless, the district association of those same village councils attended a separate meeting where the same information was presented.