

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: ISDSC1103

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 10-Dec-2015

Date ISDS Approved/Disclosed: 15-Dec-2015

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Central Asia	Project ID:	P152346
Project Name:	Central Asia Water Resources Management (CA-WARM) Phase-I Project (P152346)		
Task Team Leader(s):	Nagaraja Rao Harshadeep, Daryl Fields		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	06-Sep-2016	Estimated Board Date:	13-Dec-2016
Managing Unit:	GWA03	Lending Instrument:	Investment Project Financing
Sector(s):	Irrigation and drainage (10%), Public administration- Water, sanitation and flood protection (10%), Hydropower (10%), General water, sanitation and flood protection sector (70%)		
Theme(s):	Water resource management (85%), Climate change (15%)		
Financing (In USD Million)			
Total Project Cost:	90.00	Total Bank Financing:	75.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
Financing Source		Amount	
BORROWER/RECIPIENT		5.00	
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development		15.00	
International Development Association (IDA)		50.00	
IDA Grant		10.00	
Global Environment Facility - Cofinancing Trust Funds		10.00	
Total		90.00	
Environmental Category:	B - Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		

B. Project Objectives

The proposed Project Development Objective of the Phase-I CA-WaRM project is to increase

accessibility, reliability and analytical capacity to use water resources information for improved water resources planning, monitoring, and management in selected Central Asia water institutions.

C. Project Description

This support is expected to be packaged in the form of a regional project set in a programmatic framework as a Series of Projects, combining credit, grant and other World Bank funds at regional and country levels. The exact financing will evolve based on discussions with the national and regional institutions of Central Asia, Bank management, and other potential financiers.

The proposed project is expected to improve the technical capacity and knowledge platform for water resources management in Central Asia. Initial areas of focus for the proposed project at regional and national levels could include:

- **Information:** Support to improve water resources monitoring, use of available satellite products, data management, analysis, forecasting, decision support systems and other modeling tools to improve water resources planning and operations, access, knowledge products, portals/apps and other services.
- **Institutions:** Modernizing institutions and standards with appropriate policies, training, capacity-building, internship programs, and professional networking at national and regional levels to take advantage of new technologies and approaches and strengthening institutional effectiveness for both national and transboundary levels
- **Investments:** Improve investments in modern hydro-meteorological and water systems monitoring and modernizing the institutional infrastructure to access, use, and train staff on these systems and protocols for extreme events

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

This regional project focuses on the Central Asia Region which includes two IDA-only recipients (Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan), one blend lower middle-income country (Uzbekistan) and two upper middle-income countries (Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan), representing a total population of 64.5 million. The region suffers from being geographically isolated with all five republics landlocked, but is also located at the crossroads of the large economic areas of Europe/Russia, China, South Asia, and the Middle East. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the cooperation across the countries of the Central Asia region has waned and has impacted their relationship in a number of areas including water resources, energy, trade, tourism, etc. The region faces several challenges in terms of optimizing the development and use of its water resources and being better prepared to face climate risks.

The project is expected to have minimal impact from a safeguards perspective given that it focuses on modernizing the knowledge and institutional platform for water resources planning and management.

E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

The safeguard capacities of the client organizations at regional and national levels will be assessed during early preparation and appropriate capacity building measures introduced. The types of physical investments (e.g. monitoring equipment, building refurbishment) being proposed should not pose a major challenge from a safeguards perspective as it is expected that many issues will also be addressed in the bid documents for the contractors. Most of the national-level organizations have recent or ongoing experience implementing Bank-financed projects, but regional-level organizations will require support for technical, monitoring, and reporting aspects related to safeguards.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Ekaterina Romanova (GSURR)

John Bryant Collier (GENDR)

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II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	<p>The project is rated Category B because of the nature of its foreseen civil works, which are likely to have a low impact on the biophysical environment. An overall Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the regional activities and five individual ESMFs for the five participating countries will be prepared in order to better reflect differences in national laws and institutional structures for implementation. The ESMFs will be disclosed prior to appraisal as follows - the common ESMF Template will be disclosed in Russian and translated along with a brief summary of the aspects which differ in the five country specific ESMFs, while the five country-specific ESMF's will be attached in original Russian but not translated. These ESMFs will include specific guidance for the proposed civil works that are expected to comprise the construction/rehabilitation of buildings and the upgrading of monitoring networks. During implementation, site-specific ESIA's/ESMP's will be prepared by the design consultants and approved by the Bank for specific works to be undertaken.</p> <p>Additionally, as the project will likely prepare identification and pre-feasibility level studies for future infrastructure investments, the ESMFs will provide guidance on the safeguard requirements and instruments expected as part of those studies.</p>
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	TBD	Once sites are identified for the construction/ rehabilitation of buildings and upgrading of the monitoring networks, an assessment will be made to determine if any structures of cultural and historical significance are involved.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	Indigenous peoples as per OP 4.10 are not present in the project area.

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Involuntary Resettlement OP/ BP 4.12	Yes	The project (Component C) is expected to finance critical physical investments in constructing/upgrading buildings and monitoring systems (e.g. for hydro-meteorology, water quality, etc.). The project will also finance preparation studies for investments relating to the modernization and hydraulic safety of water resources infrastructure of regional importance (e.g. scoping studies for modernizing existing water conveyance systems and associated water infrastructure). The nature of the investments and the works involved will be identified early in project preparation and appropriate Resettlement Policy Frameworks (RPF) will be developed and disclosed similarly to the ESMFs (see above) to provide guidance in case there are any small land acquisition needs (e.g. for monitoring equipment installation and buildings) and resettlement plans developed for identified investments.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	Some preparation studies and capacity-building on hydraulic safety may be included; however, the project is not expected to be directly involved in the construction of hydraulic structures that would trigger this policy.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	The policy is not triggered as the proposed activities include surveys, scoping studies for modernizing water conveyance systems, and possibly preparation of pre-feasibility studies focused on safety and modernization of hydraulic infrastructure, but not feasibility studies or detailed designs. The project is also in response to the IFAS' Third Aral Sea Basin Program endorsed by the heads of state of the five Central Asian countries that emphasizes issues such as integrated water resources management, supporting monitoring, modeling, basin plans, institutional strengthening, etc. In response to the EC-IFAS request to the Bank, an MoU between the Executive Committee of IFAS and the World Bank has been signed that has initiated this project preparation which will be based on the national and regional levels working together to define the details of the proposed activities.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/ BP 7.60	No	

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS: 15-Nov-2015

¹ Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.

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

The ESMF and RPF as well as site specific studies for known locations for construction/ rehabilitation of buildings and upgrading of the monitoring networks will be completed prior to Appraisal.

IV. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader(s):	Name: Nagaraja Rao Harshadeep, Daryl Fields	
<i>Approved By:</i>		
Safeguards Advisor:	Name: Zeynep Durnev Darendeliler (SA)	Date: 11-Dec-2015
Practice Manager/ Manager:	Name: Dina Umali-Deiningger (PMGR)	Date: 15-Dec-2015