

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: ISDSC7135

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 04-Apr-2014

Date ISDS Approved/Disclosed: 14-Apr-2014

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Congo, Democratic Republic of	Project ID:	P149049
Project Name:	Forest Dependent Communities Support Project (P149049)		
Task Team Leader:	Loic Jean Charles Braune		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	08-Sep-2014	Estimated Board Date:	15-Jan-2015
Managing Unit:	AFTN1	Lending Instrument:	Investment Project Financing
Sector(s):	Forestry (50%), General agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (25%), Public administration- Agriculture, fishing and forestry (25 %)		
Theme(s):	Participation and civic engagement (20%), Land administration and management (20%), Other environment and natural resources management (20%), Decentralization (20%), Indigenous peoples (20%)		
Financing (In USD Million)			
Total Project Cost:	6.00	Total Bank Financing:	0.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
Financing Source		Amount	
Borrower		0.00	
Strategic Climate Fund Grant		6.00	
Total		6.00	
Environmental Category:	B - Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		

B. Project Objectives

The objective of the project is to empower targeted Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) to benefit from and engage in REDD+ policies and FIP activities.

C. Project Description

The proposed project will implement activities that are a national declination of the Thematic Areas and Potential Activities for Sub-Component 1 and 2 from the DGM Framework Operational Guidelines. They will be geared towards strengthening community capacity to: engage on policy; participate in land-use planning, production practices, and organization; and to develop as entrepreneurs and businesses. It will also finance demand-driven local investments held by community organizations. This approach complements, and contributes to, the Government's ongoing efforts to engage non-state actors, in particular local communities in sustainable natural resource management.

The proposed project components are as follows:

- Component 1 – Reinforce the role of IPs and LCs in the REDD+ process. This component will provide tailored support including on administrative and financial management issues and improve dissemination of information about REDD+ and its impact on IPs and LCs (including a communication strategy and workshops). The activities that could be financed out this component will support both capacity building and knowledge exchanges. They may include: (i) large audience trainings and seminars for the communities; (ii) study tours, virtual discussions, development of community/farmer demonstration plots, community-level internships to support a practical transfer of knowledge nationally, regionally, and internationally; (iii) selected scholarships, technical training in specialized institutes; and (iv) setting up cultural centers to support knowledge transfer among generations and promotion of the forest-dweller culture.
- Component 2 – Small grants aiming at promoting economic activities and rural livelihoods that enhance climate change adaptation and support the sustainable management of forest landscapes, including non-timber products. Those activities will provide grants to communities to engage in alternative livelihoods or in making their current livelihood more sustainable, such as: (i) community-led sustainable management, development, natural regeneration and restoration of forest landscapes; (ii) traditional farming and cultivation practices that enhance local agro-biodiversity, including medicinal and aromatic; (iii) agro-forestry production systems, agro-ecology tillage practices, reforestation and plantations; (iv) collection and processing of non-timber products (medicinal plants, essential oils, etc.); (v) indigenous/traditional landscape management practices including water and soil conservation. (vi) energy-efficient or energy-saving practices including wood energy plantations, sustainable charcoal/briquette production, biogas/other renewable energy supply projects, in every case in a locally adapted form, operating at a community and family level.
- Component 3: Monitoring & evaluation This component will finance the costs of the National Executing Agency (NEA) which will implement the project. The NEA will be selected through a competitive process (see also section on Implementation Agency Assessment). The NEA will be charged with tasks including developing review and risk assessment criteria, disbursing the grants to projects, ensuring appropriate use of DGM funds, maintaining documentation of country projects, and reporting to the WB on use of DGM funds. In addition, under this component the NEA will undertake monitoring and evaluation activities of the various pilot activities.

Components and related activities will be further developed during project preparation and in consultation with communities in the target areas and with the support of the National Steering Committee.

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

The project area for the investments is following the analysis from the FIP Investment Plan, which identified three supply basins: (i) Kinshasa (WB project); (ii) Kananga/Mbuji-Mayi and (iii) Kisangani (AfDB projects). While the FIP activities will only focus on portions of each of 3 basins, the area selected for the investments in this project will include surrounding sectors and territories in order to fit with the indigenous people (IP) and local communities (LC) living territories.

At local level, locations of activities to be funded by the project will be decided in consultation processes with the local communities, and are therefore yet to be identified. Consequently, the precise locations or the potential physical impacts of project activities will first be known at the time of sub-project identification and preparation at local level.

E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

At national level, the DRC has a legislative and regulatory framework which is conducive to good environmental management. In addition, the DRC has signed a number of international treaties and conventions. However, implementation capacity is weak. Environmental policies and their compliance are governed by the Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Conservation de la Nature et du Tourisme (MENCT) – (Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Tourism). The MECNT has three departments in charge of environmental monitoring and management: i) Le Groupe d'Etudes Environnementales du Congo (GEEC); ii) le Centre National d'Information sur l'Environnement (CNIE); and iii) La Cellule Réglementation et Contentieux Environnementaux (CRCE). The GEEC is responsible for safeguards compliance of all projects in the country, but with emphasis on environmental category A project. The unit is understaffed and has limited capacity. Despite several donor-funded capacity building initiatives, the unit still largely relies on donor funds to carry out its field supervision duties.

The Ministry of Environment, Nature Conservation and Tourism (MENCT), which will oversee implementation (but will not implement itself), has prior experience with the Bank's Safeguard Policies and a variety of safeguard instruments, including an Environmental and Social Management Framework that was finalized in 2013 for the REDD+ activities and for the FIP project.

A programmatic Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been prepared at the global level for the DGM and can be reviewed during preparation for any country-level specificities. In addition, an ESMF has been established for the 2 FIP projects for similar investments anywhere in the country. OP 4.12 has been triggered as a precautionary measure to manage impacts that may result from restrictions of access – a Process Framework will be prepared for the FIP and may be adjusted for the DGM. The specific safeguard instruments for this project will be therefore local adaptations from broader safeguard instruments that focus either on REDD+ or on the DGM projects. The REDD and the FIP are strengthening the capacity of the MECNT with the assistance of consultants, the DGM will benefit from that capacity building.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Antoine V. Lema (AFTCS)

Abdoulaye Gadiere (AFTN1)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/ BP 4.01	Yes	The project under component 2 expects to support forest management activities in selected

		sites. These activities may have environmental impacts on a limited scale. An ESMF will be prepared based on the FIP ESMF and the national ESMF for REDD+ activities, consulted upon, and disclosed before appraisal.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	The ESMF will provide guidance on the kind of Habitat in the project area and on the actions for avoiding or mitigating impacts on natural habitats.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	Forest policy and management are a primary focus of this project. The ESMF will include guidance on managing forestry issues.
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	TBD	This policy could be triggered if the project activities promote actions in areas containing sites deemed physical cultural resources by the local communities (e.g. holy/secret sites such as sacred groves, sacred forests, etc.). Though it is not anticipated that the project will have negative impacts on any such sites, the existence of any such sites and the corresponding need to trigger this policy will be determined once the targeted zones are confirmed further guidance will be sought during the review meeting.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	Yes	The project main purpose is to support Indigenous People and their communities. As Indigenous Peoples will be the overwhelming majority of direct project beneficiaries, as project preparation will be carried out in a broadly participatory way including an intensive process of consultation with Indigenous Peoples, and as ruled by this Safeguard Policy (OP 4.10, paragraph 12), no separate Indigenous People Policy Framework (IPPF) or Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) is required. A Social Assessment will also be performed during preparation.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	No taking of land is anticipated, however as for any REDD+ activity, limitation of access may happen and will be discussed at village level. Also, the project may require land gazetting to the benefits of indigenous people
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	

Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS: 15-Sep-2014

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

During preparation, the team will build and organize consultations on the programmatic ESMF that is being prepared for the Global component of the Dedicated Grant Mechanism (P128748). Additional and country-specific data will be embedded in the Project implementation Manual. Both instruments (programmatic ESMF and the additional information will be consulted upon and disclosed by appraisal.

In addition to the consultation with IP communities to select the representatives for the Steering Committee, an in depth Social Assessment will be performed to ensure the project will match with the main priorities of the communities – in particular regarding the share between CDD sub-projects and empowering activities to reinforce their impact on land governance.

IV. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader:	Name: Loic Jean Charles Braune	
<i>Approved By:</i>		
Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Name: Alexandra C. Bezeredi (RSA)	Date: 13-Apr-2014
Sector Manager:	Name: Benoit Bosquet (SM)	Date: 14-Apr-2014

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.