

# INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET

## IDENTIFICATION / CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: ISDSC13407

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 21-Jun-2016

### I. BASIC INFORMATION

#### A. Basic Project Data

<b>Country:</b>	South Asia	<b>Project ID:</b>	P155851
<b>Project Name:</b>	Himalayan University Consortium Grant		
<b>Team Leader(s):</b>	Christina Leb,Halla Maher Qaddumi		
<b>Estimated Date of Approval:</b>	30-Jul-2016		
<b>Managing Unit:</b>	GWA06	<b>Lending Instrument:</b>	IPF
<b>Financing (in USD Million)</b>			
Total Project Cost:	1.022	Total Bank Financing:	0
Financing Gap:	0		
<b>Financing Source</b>			<b>Amount</b>
South Asia Water Initiative (SAWI)			1.022
<b>Environment Category:</b>	C - Not Required		

#### B. Project Development Objective(s)

The development objective of this grant is to build a sustainable partnership of research institutions in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region working on issues of significance to regional water resources management.

#### C. Project Description

The grant objective will be achieved through strengthening the Himalaya University Consortium and its secretariat as a platform to facilitate collaborate research partnerships among institutions in the HKH region and beyond. Conferences, training programs and exchange visits will be funded to facilitate contact and establishment of partnership between researchers who may otherwise not have had the opportunity to meet as well as to create a network and build joint research capacity of young researchers. Seed grants will be provided to develop high quality proposals for joint research on issues related to the management of the transboundary water resources of the HKH region.

The initiative has the following components:

Component 1: Strengthening the network of research institutions.

This component will finance activities between the academic institutions across HUC current and potential full and associate members to broaden the network and intensify the interactions, as well as establish a collaborate web-based platform for knowledge and information exchange. Limited

support will be provided to strengthening the capacity of the HUC secretariat to effectively perform its role, including providing essential office equipment, contributing towards the costs of the Project Coordinator and Project Associate, and training in project management.

Component 2: Building capacity for collaborative research.

This component will finance conferences for knowledge exchange, training programs and exchange visits to build the capacity of researchers to engage in knowledge exchange and for joint research that builds on synergies between institutions and the collective expertise on water resources management in the Himalayan River Basins. In addition, new grants will be provided to at least twelve institutions from existing and / or potential HUC members for potential collaborative research and to two existing partners for conducting already identified joint research projects.

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

Project Location: South Asia Region

Salient Physical Characteristics: None; this is a knowledge and capacity building activity with no physical interventions.

#### **E. Borrower's Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies**

Not required. This project will not have any safeguard implications.

#### **F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team**

Drona Raj Ghimire (GEN06)

## **II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY**

<b>Safeguard Policies</b>	<b>Triggered?</b>	<b>Explanation (Optional)</b>
Environmental Assessment OP/ BP 4.01	No	
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	No	
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	No	
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**

Appraisal stage ISDS required?: No

## **IV. APPROVALS**

Team Leader(s):	Name: Christina Leb,Halla Maher Qaddumi	
<b><i>Approved By:</i></b>		
Safeguards Advisor:	Name: Maged Mahmoud Hamed (SA)	Date: 15-Oct-2015
Practice Manager/ Manager:	Name: Ousmane Dione (PMGR)	Date: 16-Oct-2015

<sup>1</sup> 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.