

**INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET
APPRAISAL STAGE**

Report No.: ISDSA11239

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 21-Nov-2014

Date ISDS Approved/Disclosed: 19-Nov-2014, 21-Nov-2014

I. BASIC INFORMATION

1. Basic Project Data

Country:	Belarus	Project ID:	P147760
Project Name:	Forestry Development Project (P147760)		
Task Team Leader:	Andrew Michael Mitchell		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	19-Nov-2014	Estimated Board Date:	27-Mar-2015
Managing Unit:	GENDR	Lending Instrument:	Investment Project Financing
GEF Focal Area:	Multi-focal area		
Sector(s):	Forestry (100%)		
Theme(s):	Other environment and natural resources management (65%), Climate change (15%), Water resource management (5%), Biodiversity (5%), Environmental policies and institutions (10%)		
Is this project processed under OP 8.50 (Emergency Recovery) or OP 8.00 (Rapid Response to Crises and Emergencies)?			No
Financing (In USD Million)			
Total Project Cost:	43.44	Total Bank Financing:	40.71
Financing Gap:	0.00		
Financing Source			Amount
Borrower			0.00
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development			40.71
Global Environment Facility (GEF)			2.73
Total			43.44
Environmental Category:	B - Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		

2. Project Development Objective(s) / Global Environmental Objective(s)

A. Project Development Objective(s)

The Project Development Objective is to enhance silvicultural management and re/afforestation, increase the use of felling residues and improve the public good contribution from forests in targeted forest areas.

B. Global Environmental Objective(s)

The Project Development Objective is to enhance silvicultural management and re/afforestation, increase the use of felling residues and improve the public good contribution from forests in targeted forest areas.

3. Project Description

1. The proposed forestry development project has three main components:

i) Improving silviculture and the sustainability of forest management: through increasing the intensity of silvicultural thinning of young and middle-aged stands; piloting the enhancement of biodiversity values of forest and also in developing resistance of forest to climate change through silvicultural interventions; increasing the use of logging residues for production of woody biomass (this will be complementary to the newly approved Biomass District Heating Project); and improving the quality of seedling production for afforestation and reforestation. The increase in thinning intensity in young and middle aged stands, and the utilization of woody biomass that would otherwise be left in the forest will create additional skilled and semi-skilled employment opportunities in rural areas over and above the current situation. Creation of semi and semi-skilled rural jobs will help contribute to the economic development of the rural areas, which are currently becoming more and more depopulated as people move to the cities looking for employment. Creating better jobs in rural areas will help maintain the village populations and increase the prosperity of the rural poor;

ii) Improving forest fire prevention, monitoring, detection and suppression: will include increasing prevention activities (raising public awareness, use of mineralized strips on the forest boundaries with agriculture and communities), use of new technologies (video and communications) to improve monitoring, surveillance and detection rates and provision of fire-fighting equipment to help extinguish the fires once started. ;

iii) Building the capacity for sustainable forest management: through enhancing the forest management information system (including forest carbon monitoring); updating the ‘Strategy of Adaptation of Forestry to Climate Change until 2050’; development of and training in the use of advanced technologies; and developing appropriate management approach for the rational use of radioactively contaminated forest.

2. Project implementation will be mainstreamed within a Ministry of Forestry subsidiary enterprise. The UE (Unitary Enterprise) “Bellesexport” of the Ministry of Forestry has been designated as the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) for the new project. UE “Bellesexport”, founded in 1995, promotes the sale of the domestic timber products in foreign markets as well as procurement of international equipment for the State Forest Enterprises.

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

The Project will be implemented at the territory of 87 state-owned SFEs across the country in Brest, Vitebsk, Gomel, Grodno, Minsk, and Mogilev oblasts.

Most forest in Belarus is located in rolling hillsides and gentle terrain. Ground conditions can be boggy and soils are frequently peaty. To avoid damage to soils and ground conditions it is necessary to use the correct forest machinery for the location and at the correct time of year and ground conditions. This project is all about enhancing sustainability of forest management and improving its environmental performance.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists

Alexei Slenzak (GENDR)

Jennifer Shkabatur (GSURR)

6. Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/ BP 4.01	Yes	The Project triggers OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment and is assigned environmental Category B (Low B). The Project will not have significant and/or irreversible adverse environmental impacts. Overall, project implementation will have positive environmental effects and will outweigh negative environmental impacts. An Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental and Social Management Plan was prepared which highlights necessary mitigation measures to avoid or minimize negative impacts. EMP checklists will be prepared for works under Component 1 (sub-component 1.4) on as needed basis.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	
Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	OP 4.36 is triggered because the project will support forest management and enhance its environmental performance. As of today, all State Forest Enterprises (SFEs) participating in the Project were certified to PEFC standards. Additionally, 70 SFEs have Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forest management and chain of custody certificates (as of September 25, 2014).
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	
Physical Cultural Resources OP/ BP 4.11	No	N/A
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	N/A
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	No	All project activities will be implemented within state owned nurseries and/or state owned forest Funds and thus no resettlement issues are anticipated.

Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	N/A
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	

II. Key Safeguard Policy Issues and Their Management

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

It is important to highlight that the ultimate objective of the project is to improve silviculture and enhance sustainability of forest management.

The potential physical environmental impacts from project activities under sub-components 1.1 and 1.2 will include impacts associated with the use of multiple-function machinery during felling operations, including mechanical damage of trees and vegetation and operation of other machinery (e.g. wood chippers, chip trucks, rigs for slash removal). However, these impacts are standard for forestry operations and generally will be less damaging in comparison with impacts caused by outdated machinery that is being used today. Application of multiple-function machinery (harvesters and forwarders) will allow use forest resources more efficiently and shift to more environmentally sustainable forest use, including wider application of selective timber cutting, while producing the same volumes of tree harvest.

For the purposes of modernization of forest nurseries at 30 State Forest Enterprises under sub-component 1.3 the project will procure equipment for planting seeds, green-houses, refrigeration equipment for storage of seedlings and watering systems. SFEs may select specific equipment they need, for example Kobrinsky and Luninetsky SFEs will get greenhouses and watering systems, while Rechitsky and Borisovsky SFEs will receive refrigeration equipment for storage of seedlings. Typically, nurseries and greenhouses are located at the footprint of utility space (i.e. administration building, storages, garage, guesthouse, canteen, etc.) of the SFEs. In case the expansion of the nurseries will be needed, this will take place within the utility space. The potential environmental impacts may include small-scale civil works on re-arrangement and preparation of space for new equipment and/or greenhouses.

Also, under Component 1 twenty (20) trucks for wardens will be provided to 6 SFE. The trucks will be kept and maintained at the designated parking space of SFEs. Impacts are expected to be minimal.

Under Component 2 thirty (30) fire-fighting trucks will be procured and supplied to 30 SFEs. Impacts are expected to be minimal.

Under Component 3 the project will finance development and maintenance of a decision support system "Radioactive Contamination of Forests. RadFor", to be performed by the State Institution "Belleozaschita" in partnership with forestry enterprises, as well as improvement of the system of protective measures and optimization of radiological monitoring activities in the forest fund. Activities under this component will bring improvements (environmental and radiological safety

<p>will be enhanced) in the area of handling forests contaminated by Chernobyl radioactive fallout.</p> <p>As all project activities will be implemented on state-owned lands, OP 4.12 is not triggered and there are no adverse social impacts that should be addressed.</p>
<p>2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:</p>
<p>Potential indirect and/or long-term environmental impacts will be positive due to environmentally sound forest management, healthier young stands due to selective thinning operations and improved quality of seedlings and composition of tree species due to introduction of container-grown methods of seeds growing in the nurseries. Long-term effects of improved management of radioactively-contaminated forests will be positive.</p> <p>The project is likely to have a positive social impact on the forestry sector, as it will provide improved training opportunities to forestry sector employees and contribute to the creation of higher skilled jobs.</p>
<p>3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.</p>
<p>N/A</p>
<p>4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.</p>
<p>The borrower has prepared the Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental and Social Management Plan (EIA/ESMP), which highlights mitigation measures to avoid or minimize potential negative effects. The staff of the State Forest Enterprises (SFEs) will be trained on the fundamentals of environmentally sound operation of machinery (harvesters, forwarders, wood chopping equipment) to be procured under the project. Regular maintenance and check-ups of the machinery will be made by SFEs to ensure environmentally sound operations. As described in the ESMP, the project will include a range of information provision and consultation activities to engage all interested stakeholders in the preparation and implementation of the project.</p>
<p>5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.</p>
<p>Population of the project region and of Belarus broadly, staff of SFEs participating in the project, Ministry of Forestry.</p>

B. Disclosure Requirements

Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other	
Date of receipt by the Bank	29-Oct-2014
Date of submission to InfoShop	12-Nov-2014
For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors	
"In country" Disclosure	
<i>Comments:</i>	
If the project triggers the Pest Management and/or Physical Cultural Resources policies, the respective issues are to be addressed and disclosed as part of the Environmental Assessment/Audit/or EMP.	

If in-country disclosure of any of the above documents is not expected, please explain why:

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level

OP/BP/GP 4.01 - Environment Assessment			
Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?	Yes [<input type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
OP/BP 4.36 - Forests			
Has the sector-wide analysis of policy and institutional issues and constraints been carried out?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>]	NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Does the project design include satisfactory measures to overcome these constraints?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>]	NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Does the project finance commercial harvesting, and if so, does it include provisions for certification system?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>]	NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information			
Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank's Infoshop?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>]	NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>]	NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
All Safeguard Policies			
Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>]	NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>]	NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>]	NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]	No [<input type="checkbox"/>]	NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]

III. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader:	Name: Andrew Michael Mitchell	
<i>Approved By</i>		
Practice Manager/ Manager:	Name: Kulsum Ahmed (PMGR)	Date: 21-Nov-2014