



Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 04/25/2023 | Report No: ESRSA02765



I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Operation Data

Operation ID	Product	Operation Acronym	Approval Fiscal Year
P178861	Investment Project Financing (IPF)	Resilient Water Management & Irrigation	2024
Operation Name	Bolivia Resilient Water Management for Community and Household Irrigation Project		
Country/Region Code	Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)	Region	Practice Area (Lead)
Bolivia	Bolivia	LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	Water
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Plurinational State of Bolivia	Viceministerio de Recursos Hidricos y Riego (VRHyR), Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Agua (MMAyA)	16-Oct-2023	30-Jan-2024
Estimated Decision Review Date	Total Project Cost		
21-Mar-2023	174,200,000.00		

Public Disclosure

Proposed Development Objective

To improve integrated water resources management in water stressed basins and increase the resilience to climate variability of vulnerable rural families in selected micro basins.

B. Is the operation being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

No

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project Activities

The Project will support the implementation of the first phase of the Government of Bolivia's Climate Smart and Resilient Program, which is a comprehensive rural development program, covering actions from water conservation, irrigation and risk management investments to information, knowledge management and water governance. It will have a strong focus on adaptation strategies for tackling the impacts of climate change on water security as well as



developing resilience to climate change exacerbated flood and drought risks for Bolivia's poorest communities. The Project will adopt an integrated approach, from basin to micro-basin planning, and will include investments for water management at the micro-basin level, investments for hydrological risk management, as well as investments to secure adequate water for irrigation of rain-fed crops, increasing farmers' ability to improve food security and reducing their vulnerability to the increasing, climate change-induced rainfall variability. The Project design will consider some basic principles:

- A comprehensive analysis of needs at the basin level. Activities or subprojects to secure the availability and sustainable use of water resources for target areas will be identified through a comprehensive analysis of the needs of 15 targeted basins with areas between 2,000 to 20,000 km² and the development of basin-level strategic integrated water plans (EPHIC) - formerly known as Basin Master Plans.
- Micro-basins as the basic geographic unit. Project interventions will target micro-basins spanning less than around 250 km² (operational hydrographic units), whose management units are OGCs. These micro-basins form part of larger basins managed by UGCs. Most of the micro-basins are located within the territory of one or a few autonomous municipal governments, thus facilitating coordination with the OGCs. In turn, larger basins that are managed by UGCs oftentimes extend beyond the boundaries of a single department and require the involvement of and closer coordination with the autonomous departmental governments and the MMAyA/VRHR. For activities under the VRHR's responsibilities and that are eligible for Project funding, pre-feasibility studies (Technical Reports on Preconditions, ITCs) and detailed technical designs (Pre-investment Technical Design Studies, EDTs) will be prepared. In the case of activities that are not under the VRHR's responsibilities or are not eligible for financing under the Project, subproject profiles will be prepared to help stakeholders - municipal governments and community organizations such as OGCs - look for other funding sources.
- A bottom-up approach. The activities or subprojects will be identified and prioritized by the communities with the active participation of the municipal governments and the OGCs. The Project's target will be basins located in the departments of Oruro, La Paz, Cochabamba, Potosí, Chuquisaca, Santa Cruz and Tarija, which are mostly in the highlands and inter-Andean valleys. The geographic area comprises 197 municipal governments. Eligibility criteria for the selection of these basins include: (i) high aridity index, (ii) high levels of poverty, (iii) high population density, and (iv) potential areas of intervention under the different components of the Project. The Project will sequence the activities to focus initially on basins that present high levels of need and high levels of readiness for implementation, tackling 'low-hanging fruits' quickly to demonstrate early successes in the first phase of the Bolivia Climate Smart and Resilient Program and inform the design of the following phases. The Project will comprise of the following four components: Component 1. Water resources planning and pre-investment studies (US\$12.7 million). This component will fund studies with two objectives: (i) development of water management plans at the basin level that follow both IWRM and integrated basin water management (MHIC) approaches. This task will involve the identification and analysis of the main challenges the basins face from a territorial and sectoral perspective, and the development of a strategic vision based on the sustainable use of water resources; and (ii) development of pre-investment studies and detailed engineering designs for the subprojects, related to water conservation, irrigation, and risk management infrastructure, identified in each basin water management plan. Component 2. Climate resilient infrastructure investments (US\$146.0 million). This component will fund works and the supervision of investments related to water conservation, soil and land management, irrigation, and risk management to adapt to the impacts of and to build resilience against climate change exacerbated floods and droughts. The component will be divided into three sub-components, The typology of infrastructure to be implemented in each subcomponent is presented in Annex 3. • Subcomponent 2.1. Investments in integrated basins water management (MHIC). Investments will include activities to protect water sources, water planting and harvesting, soil improvement, protection of water recharge areas and recovery of forest areas. These investments aim to reduce the vulnerability of watersheds facing degradation and desertification, and to increase water availability and local storage capacity. The investments will also enhance soil and crop carbon stock. • Subcomponent 2.2: Community and household irrigation systems. The investments in household and community irrigation systems, which are classified as minor irrigation



systems by the VRHR, will include infrastructure for water capture (harvesting of surface runoff, groundwater extraction, use of spring water and other alternative water sources), the installation of water storage solutions, the conveyance of water to the field, and the equipment necessary for water distribution on the plots. • Subcomponent 2.3: Risk management infrastructure. This subcomponent will support infrastructure to protect land and communities against extreme hydrological events, including flooding, and to conserve, restore and manage soils degraded by erosion. Component 3: Capacity building for water governance and enhanced productivity (US\$10.7 million). This component will fund technical assistance (TA) and capacity building activities to enhance water governance at the national, macro, regional and basins level. The component will include the following activities: (i) the development of the School of Water Culture for Life; (ii) TA and training for UGCs, OGCs, municipal governments, and farmers. Component 4. Project management (US\$4.8 million). This component will fund activities to support Project administration and management, including procurement, financial, environmental, social, and technical management as well as audits and monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

The Project intervention is in the rural areas of 7 departments: La Paz, Oruro, Potosi, Cochabamba, Chuquisaca, Tarija, and Santa Cruz. It covers 197 municipalities and 37 Hydrographic Management Units. According to preliminary estimates, the Borrower expects that this Project will directly benefit approximately 40,350 families (approx. 201,750 inhabitants). According to the Social Assessment (SA) of the Project, the majority of the rural population involved in this project is of Quechua and Aymara origin, with a majority of the Quechua population in the Departments of Potosí, Cochabamba, and Chuquisaca, while the Aymara population is mainly located in the departments of La Paz and Oruro, as well as a minority of Afro-Bolivian population in the La Paz Department, and in Oruro, there is also a significant presence of Quechua and Uru Chipaya population, along with other vulnerable groups, including migrants. The SA also identified in the area of the Project the presence of minority indigenous peoples such as Uru Muratos, Afro-Bolivians, Guarani, Mosestén, Lecos, Tacanas, Yukis, Yuracaré, Weenhayek, Tapietes, and Chanés.

In the departments of La Paz, Oruro, Potosí, Cochabamba, and Chuquisaca is where the largest number of the national population aged 15 years and older self-identifies as indigenous: 2,568,204 people out of a total of 3,142,637 inhabitants in that age range self-identify as such. In the departments of La Paz, Oruro, Potosí, and Cochabamba, more than 70% of the population 15 years of age or older considers itself indigenous or native, and this percentage in the rural areas of these departments rises to more than 90% within this age range (INE, 2002). In these rural areas, most of the inhabitants are indigenous people living in conditions of severe poverty because of the low income from self-consumption agriculture and low productivity of rainfed agriculture. Many rural households live geographically dispersed, without basic water and electricity, health and education services, and connectivity problems. Because of poverty, the level of permanent and temporal migration (mainly male) from the rural area is very high, mainly to city capitals or closer urban centers.

In this rural area, agricultural activity is primarily rainfed and with one planting per year, except for small areas cultivated with irrigation with two harvests per year. The farmers' response to this chronic water shortage has been the traditional systems of planting and cultivation, which are still in place. The rural production systems maintain traditional knowledge and practices such as the management of “aynokas” (defined communal areas of arable land, in which each family has a certain number of plots), crop rotation according to altitudinal levels, management of many cultivable



species and varieties, traditional community forms of work organization (reciprocal work with “ayni”, “minka”, etc.), and organic fertilization through the integration of livestock, among others.

A special issue in the SA was the evaluation of the risk that the project could have on reproducing gender gaps due to (i) a double workload that prevents more significant participation of women in the different components of the Project and subprojects, (ii) exclusion of women from subproject activities due to differentiation in gender-specific productive activities, and (iii) reduced access to education and training. As an Annex to the SA an Action Plan to mainstream the gender approach in the Project has been prepared that includes further details on gender gaps and measures to narrow these.

In terms of ecoregions, the project covers four ecoregions: i) Puna Norteña, ii) Prepuna, iii) Inter Andean Dry Forest, and iv) Tucumano-Boliviano Forest and on a smaller scale the v) Puna Sureña (wet) and the vi) Chaco Serrano. Within these ecoregions are 13 National Protected Areas, 12 Departamental Protected Areas, 7 Municipal Protected Areas, and three Ramsar sites Titicaca Lake Taczara basin Poopó - Uru Uru Lakes that represent Critical Natural Habitats. The first portfolio does not consider subprojects in any of these protected areas, however, for the second portfolio a specific study will be carried out to determine criteria under which the subprojects may be developed in protected areas. The project will intervene in those places where water is scarcer, and subprojects are expected to alleviate water distribution and/or water security. In addition, the draft ESMF includes measures to prevent and/or manage impacts during construction activities.

Water stress is directly limiting agriculture, the principal economic activity in rural Bolivia. Farmers in the highlands and in the Inter-Andean valleys rely on rainfed agriculture and utilize the short rainy season to produce crops, such as potatoes, maize, wheat, oat, beans, peas, and onions, primarily for personal use and secondly for local markets. Although irrigation, which allows for a second production cycle during the dry season, is a key method for coping with temporal rainfall variability, only 10 percent of cultivated land in Bolivia is under irrigation. There have been conflicts associated with access to water in the country, making this sector a socially sensitive one. The Government of Bolivia (GoB), recognizing the importance of irrigation for agricultural production, developed an ambitious plan, “Decade for Irrigation 2015-2025, Towards One Million Hectares”.

The project consists of two portfolios of subprojects. The first portfolio comprises pre-designed subprojects that fall under category 4 and thus do not require an Environmental Assessment or Environmental Social Management Plan (ESMP) due to their limited size and scope, as defined by Bolivian regulations. However, under the Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), they will require an environmental and social assessment and the respective environmental and social management plans that are identified as necessary. These subprojects, under the first portfolio, are situated outside protected areas, vulnerable habitats, or any protected zones such as RAMSAR sites. The size and scope of this first group of subprojects will determine the definition of the second group, thus allowing us to delimit the risks and impacts of the second group within, substantial, moderate to low risk. The first group of projects includes Integrated Water Basin Management (MHIC) and Family and Community Irrigation Systems. The second group includes a third type of subprojects which are focused on infrastructure for managing natural disaster risks, and subprojects could be implemented in subnational protected areas if the diagnosis committed in the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) recommends.



D.2 Overview of Borrower’s Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The project’s executing agency will be the Ministry of Environment and Water (MMAyA), through its Vice Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation (VRHyR). Two existing Project Implementation Units (PIUs) located within the MMAyA will be responsible for Project Implementation with specific functions: The Coordination Unit Project (UCP) of the Climate Resilience Pilot Program (PPCR-UCP, in Spanish) (components 1, 3, and part of Component 4), and the Coordination and Execution Unit of the Mi Riego Projects (UCEP-Mi Riego, in Spanish) (component 2, and part of Component 4), which depend on the VRyHR. The PPCR-UCP and Mi Riego- UCEP have a long experience in formulating and implementing MHIC and Irrigation projects, formulating plans, programs, and specific guides for preparing investment projects in MHIC and Irrigation that include environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA). During this past decade, they have executed programs and projects with different funding sources, such as CAF and IDB. PPCR-PIU implemented the project Bolivia Climate Resilience – Integrated Basin Management (P129640) in 2018 and 2020 with funding from the World Bank. Both PIUs have separate teams of environmental and social specialists. However, it will be their first time applying the Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). During project preparation, the roles, and responsibilities of the different levels of government related to the different subsectors (watersheds, irrigation, risks) were clarified and assessed, and the strengthening and staffing needs have been analyzed and addressed to ensure adequate implementation of the project, which informed the ESCP commitments.

II. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Moderate

At the concept stage, the Bank rated the environmental risk of the Project as Substantial due to limited information on the subprojects’ characteristics and locations, and the lack of an environmental counterpart on the client side. During due diligence, a technical, environmental, and social team was established within the VRHyR with specialists from the PPCR-UCP and the Mi Riego-UCEP to prepare the draft ESMF and a first group of subprojects with engineering was available. The draft ESMF focuses on investments in the three types of subprojects of Component 2, including integrated basin water management (MHIC), household and community irrigation systems, and risk management infrastructure. These subprojects will involve activities such as water source protection, water planting and harvesting, soil improvement, recovery of forested areas, infrastructure for water capture (harvesting surface runoff, capture of small spring water), installation of family storage solutions, and equipment necessary for water distribution on plots. Investments in community irrigation systems will focus on the rehabilitation of existing minor irrigation systems. The draft ESMF identifies and analyzes environmental and social risks and impacts for the first group of subprojects, establishes management measures, and develops an in situ verification checklist to be used for each subproject. For the second group, the ESMF sets eligibility and exclusion criteria and requires using the same in situ verification checklist to assess the risks and impacts during the definition of these subprojects. The risks and impacts related to the construction, operation, and maintenance have been identified in the draft ESMF. The risk related to the construction of the infrastructure include (i) water consumption and management; (ii) waste and hazardous waste generation and handling; (iii) pollution of water sources or soil, atmospheric emissions, and noise generation; (iv) archeological remains damage; (v) occupational health and safety risks; and (vi) temporary or permanent river channel alteration and erosion processes. The draft ESMF has considered the preparation of Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for both the first and second subproject portfolios. The potential environmental risks and impacts identified are expected to be predictable, temporary, reversible, of low

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magnitude, site-specific, and with a low probability of major adverse effects. For environmental risks related to the operation and maintenance of subprojects that could have impacts on natural or modified habitats or populations, the following are identified as relevant: (i) use of invasive species that are related to the impact on the ecosystem or natural habitat in reforestation activities; (ii) use of pesticides with high toxicity to the environment or population; (iii) introduction of exotic crops to the detriment of native crops; (iv) reduced water availability in downstream communities; (v) reduced ecological flow; and (vi) risks related to small reservoirs construction (atajados) or small dam construction/rehabilitation, which may include changes in surface hydrology and reservoir safety considerations. The draft ESMF has defined criteria for environmental and social eligibility, as well as a list of subproject exclusions. The VRHyR aims to finance only one subproject per municipality to reduce the risk of cumulative impacts. During each of the field visits for the in situ verification of the environmental and social conditions of each subproject, conducted by environmental and social specialists, inquiries will be made about other possible projects in the area that could have a cumulative effect or interference, as defined in the draft ESMF. Water resources planning and pre-investment studies are also required in the draft ESMF to comply with the ESS of the ESF. The final ESMF will be adopted and disclosed no later than 60 days after the Project's effective date.

A.2 Social Risk Rating

Substantial

Social Risk is considered Substantial. The social risk rating has been revisited with the information from the Social Assessment (SA) and will not be modified since the social management capacity at VRHyR still needs strengthening. Based on the information currently available from the SA, potential social risks of the Project identified include: (i) risk of elite capture and potential exclusion of vulnerable populations and groups whose interests could be under-represented from project benefits, such as indigenous women, elders, youth, persons with disabilities, and sexual and gender minorities, if targeted strategies to ensure their engagement are not incorporated in the preparation and implementation of the Project, particularly in an institutional context with limited level of coordination between the multiple entities expected to be involved, including the implementing agency VRHyR through Mi Riego (Component 2 and 4) and UC PPCR (Components 1, 3 and 4), and the decentralized offices of both entities, the different levels of water users organizations, subnational governments, and local intersectoral agencies; (ii) risk that the negative impacts of the subproject will fall disproportionately on individuals or groups that, given their particular circumstances, may be vulnerable or disadvantaged; (iii) potential loss of the indigenous agricultural knowledge of the mainly Quechua and Aymara population in the project area, as well as their knowledge of biodiversity management, mainly as a result of agricultural technical assistance and increased involvement in the market economy, if cultural pertinence measures were not properly taken into account; (iv) minor labor influx risks associated with the civil works, especially if codes of conduct are not followed, even though project efforts will focus on promoting local hiring of community workers; (v) potential increase or intensification of underlying local tensions (intra-or-inter-community) and even of conflicts if stakeholder engagement processes are not properly carried out in rural agricultural areas with water scarcity; (vi) potential increased social conflicts due to the potential reduced availability of water in downstream communities related to small reservoirs construction (atajados or small dams), (vii) use of areas with potential economic or social alternative uses, particularly agriculture, to build the community irrigation infrastructure works, creating an opportunity cost for the local population; (viii) increased expectations and demands of the local population for employment and income; (ix) risk of reproducing structural gaps of gender inequity, and (x) impact on women's traditional productive, reproductive and community roles. This last risk could be more pronounced due to the sensitive context associated with the high level of migration in the project area of young people over 18 years of age, which leaves a part of the productive agricultural work in the hands of vulnerable groups such as women, children, and the elderly.



B. Environment and Social Standards (ESS) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

ESS1 - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Relevant

This standard is relevant. Under Component 2, subcomponents 2.1 Investments in integrated basin water management (MHIC), 2.2 Community and household irrigation systems, and 2.3 Risk management infrastructure consider activities with potential environmental and social risks and impacts that require identification, assessment, and the establishment of management measures. A draft ESMF was prepared for this. The proposed project seeks to implement up to 332 subprojects under Component 2. The proposed irrigation scheme targets small and medium-sized family farming producers, and the client estimates that the project will impact 197 municipalities directly, which is expected to benefit approximately 40,350 families. The project has established two portfolios of subprojects. The first portfolio considers projects with technical designs available in which the exact scope and locations of the subprojects are known. The subprojects in the second portfolio are not yet known and will be developed by the local authorities and within the Project’s framework, a guideline on how to address them. Based on this, a draft ESMF has been tailored to address these two scenarios: for the first group of subprojects, it identifies and assesses environmental and social risks and impacts based on the activities of these subprojects, defines general mitigation measures to address these impacts, establishes the guidelines for the development of the Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for each of the subprojects and reviews the costs of implementing these measures. The draft ESMF also contains an in situ verification checklist to assess specific environmental and social impacts of each of the subprojects and to address them. The second portfolio sets eligibility and exclusion criteria for the subprojects and requires the use of the in situ verification checklist to identify, assess and manage specific impacts for each of the subprojects as well. The draft version of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be disclosed before appraisal and the final version of the ESMF will be ready 60 days after Project Effectiveness and will include the results of the application of the in situ verification checklist for the first group of subprojects. The final version of the ESMF will provide information about: (i) the potential direct, indirect and cumulative Environmental and Social (E&S risks and impacts from the proposed investments, based on the typology of activities (MHIC, irrigation, and risk/resilience) and the phase of the subprojects (construction and operation & maintenance), (ii) characterization of potential contextual E&S risks and issues which may be present in different beneficiary locations, including potential SEA/SH risks, risk of child labor, and potential intensification of social conflicts over the proposed water usage measures; (iii) identification of applicable national legislation, relevant World Bank Environmental and Social Standards (WB ESS), applicable international requirements, and gaps to achieve consistency with the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF); (iv) management and mitigation measures to potential E&S risks and impacts identified, both during construction and operation & maintenance; (v) identification of vulnerable groups, and specific measures to prevent adverse impacts on them and improve their inclusion opportunities; (vi) cultural pertinence measures and protocols to implement project activities with IP and AD populations; (vii) a protocol to ensure that project beneficiaries receive adequate information about the voluntary nature of any donation of land for the subprojects and prevent forms of coercion; (viii) detailed list of requirements for site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) and a comprehensive list of the required Plans; (ix) eligibility criteria and an exclusion list for MHIC, irrigation and risk/resilience projects considering the first and second groups of projects; (x) implementation arrangements, capacity building measures, and budget for E&S management; (xi) an in-situ E&S Screening Checklist for risk classification of site-specific project (subproject) activities under Component 2; (Production). The project anticipates the support of the construction, rehabilitation, and operation of small water

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reservoirs (atajados) and small dams, which could involve safety and environmental risks. Although these are expected to be farm ponds and low embankment tanks with small storage capacity, the type and size of the reservoirs and their embankments/dams are expected to be further defined in the implementation stage (subproject design). Therefore, the draft ESMF focused just on the identification of potential impacts and risks foreseen at this stage. Further details on community health and safety are included in the ESS4 section. Given the available information on the specific socio-economic and cultural characteristics of the project beneficiaries, as contained in the VRHyR subproject portfolios, and the size and complexity of the project (332 subprojects), it is important to understand the social and economic context of the project. For this purpose, and given that the majority of the population will be IPs, the project's target population is considered as having an IP profile. The borrower has prepared a Social Assessment (SA) on the main social aspects of the project, based on the provisions of ESS7. This SA has been elaborated with secondary information available in the VRHyR (census, statistics, previous studies, plans, etc.), and its findings are in the ESMF. The SA has been useful in better identifying the social impacts and risks of the project and understanding how the vulnerability situation of certain sectors of the population may increase their risk exposure as a result of project activities, as well as measures to minimize its negative impacts, manage risks, and identify opportunities for proactive inclusion. The potential risk of intensification of local tensions or conflicts surrounding the use of water has also been analyzed, along with the potential loss of indigenous agricultural knowledge, and the other topics identified in the social risk rating section. The preliminary draft of the SA is ready and its findings have been used as input in the draft ESMF and SEP. The SA will be disclosed as an annex of the ESMF prior to the appraisal meeting. The SA has contributed to improved mechanisms for meaningful consultation with IPs, and other rural populations, and with an emphasis on the vulnerable groups among them, such as women, the elderly, youth, ADs, people with low levels of education, people with disabilities, among others located in the likely areas of the project. At the subproject level, E&S information will be contained in Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), checklists, and "Estudios Técnicos de Preinversión" (Pre-investment technical studies or EDTP for its Spanish acronym). Given the importance of having a comprehensive EDTP which contains all the required information to support subprojects with relevant E&S data throughout the project, the Bank commissioned an environmental and social consultancy to evaluate the consistency of existing and available EDTP during project preparation. The objective of this consultancy is to strengthen the quality of these instruments by providing guidance to update the ToR for designing subprojects in accomplishing sound environmental and social criteria. The World Bank will carry out a study in 2023 focusing on a review of the technical design, sedimentation assessment, and other issues related to prospects for the overall sustainability of "atajados" or small water reservoirs in Bolivia. For the Household irrigation systems, the Project Operational Manual (POM) and ESMF will include, among others: (i) standard designs of the necessary solutions and technical specifications as needed; (ii) the scope of Technical Assistance (TA) for these purposes; and (iii) the minimal contribution to be provided by beneficiaries. To outline all the above commitments as well as others detailed in this A-ESRS, the borrower has prepared an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) including all material actions and measures to be undertaken by the borrower during project implementation, along with timeframes for their completion and monitoring and evaluation arrangements.

ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

The proposed project will have multiple stakeholders with different levels of involvement and/or interests, particularly IPs, ADs, and other rural farmers. Key stakeholders will include direct beneficiaries such as: (i) local rural communities directly affected, (ii) the small and medium agriculture and livestock producers and their families (an estimated 40,350 families) who will benefit from access to improved irrigation systems and strengthening of their technical and productive capabilities in irrigation, crop management and business management; (iii) farmer user groups that have



been created and will be assisted in the management and administration of the improved irrigation systems (estimated total of 332 subprojects); (iv) producers trained and accredited as irrigation operators; (v) irrigation managers, technicians and users of the irrigation systems (irrigation committees or organizations) that will be involved in the project through the strengthening of their knowledge of irrigation good practices and management to improve operational efficiency of the irrigation systems and services (vi) 15 water governance mechanisms (expected to be set up); and (vii) other water users (non-irrigator) that might share the same common hydraulic system with the agriculture producers. Project's stakeholders include indigenous organizations, farmers' organizations, afro-descendant associations, indigenous women's organizations, farmers, local and departmental authorities, and agri-food entrepreneurs. They are expected to be directly and indirectly impacted by Project activities through the generation of job opportunities, irrigation works, technical assistance in improving agriculture production and related business plans, and maximization of the participation of women and other vulnerable sectors of the population. The SA has identified that IPs are the main group in the area of the Project and towards which stakeholder outreach efforts are directed. However, other social actors have been identified in the SA and involved in the ongoing consultation process as well, including, among others, the Northern La Paz/ Yungas municipalities where afro-bolivians organizations have been confirmed in the Project area, government agencies related to the Project, civil society organizations (universities, professional associations, NGOs, etc.), and the Federation of Municipality Associations. These stakeholders are in 7 departments covering Andean highlands and Inter-Andean valleys. While most of them are IPs, they reflect diverse socioeconomic characteristics and vulnerability situations, therefore they require differentiated approaches to engage, consult, and inform them in an inclusive, meaningful, and culturally appropriate manner, particularly on aspects regarding (i) the proposed subprojects design (type of irrigation system, infrastructure, equipment, conditions, and commitments; methods of knowledge sharing, training, management practices, and related commitment; proposed scaling up activities, commitment, and responsibilities); and (ii) expected benefits, E&S risks, and impacts, measures that will be taken to mitigate these, and opportunities for inclusion, among other aspects. Preliminarily, the SA has confirmed that these stakeholders include Quechua and Aymara indigenous peoples, other indigenous minority groups, afro-descendants, members of rural and/or indigenous communities, independent producers, producers' associations, other economic agents that rely on water use, and local authorities involved in economic development and the management of water resources. During the remaining preparation time, but particularly during implementation, efforts will be made to identify and engage members of vulnerable/disadvantaged groups in an inclusive and appropriate manner, such as indigenous women, people with disabilities, illiterate people, and/or people with low levels of education, the poorest, and migrants, among others that could potentially be affected adversely and/or excluded from the project potential benefits. VRHR has prepared, consulted on, and disclosed a draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). This process was relevant to map out the various project stakeholders, share project information, mitigate potential social risks and/or misconceptions about project impacts and benefits, and solicit feedback on the project, considering IPs as the main target population. VRHR has already engaged and consulted with the farmers for the conformation of the farmer users' groups for the proposed subprojects to be financed by the Project. The SEP outlines (i) who the potential key stakeholders are; (ii) how they are to be engaged; (iii) how often the engagement will occur throughout the project; (iv) how disclosure will take place throughout the project; (v) how feedback will be solicited, recorded, and monitored over the project; (vi) who will be charged/responsible with this engagement; (vii) timeline and cost. The VRHR, through its implementation units, conducted initial consultations with key stakeholders, particularly with farmers and farmer users' organizations, and detailed information on these is documented in the SEP. Furthermore, this information served as a basis for updating the stakeholder mapping and identifying appropriate disclosure and meaningful consultation activities, in a manner consistent with ESS7, which has been carried out prior to appraisal. The key concerns of the participants were



related to the timing of the project and water scarcity. They were concerned about the delay in starting the project, as it was announced several years ago and had not yet been implemented. They hope that the project will start at once, that they will have more water, and that they will be able to plant two seasons a year in the areas they use now and also expand the cultivation areas. The results of the consultation activities, and the feedback received from stakeholders until now, have been included in the draft SEP. The stakeholder engagement activities planned to be carried out after appraisal, and those anticipated during the project implementation are also described in the SEP. The successful design of improved irrigation systems in the participating regions will require a strong engagement with various institutional stakeholders that will be involved through sectorial authorities and agencies, including the following: Mi Riego, Vice Ministry of Water Supply and Basic Sanitation (VAPSB), National Irrigation Service (Servicio Nacional de Riego, SENARI), Departmental Irrigation Services (Servicios Departamentales de Riego, SEDERIs), National Hydrological and Meteorological Service (Servicio Nacional de Meteorología e Hidrología, SENAHMI), Audit Authority for Drinking Water and Sanitation (Autoridad de Fiscalización y Control Social de Agua Potable y Saneamiento, AAPS), intersectoral authorities, and subnational governmental authorities and/or agencies such as the Departmental Governments (07) and Municipal Governments (197). An important issue is to point out that on average women in rural areas of Bolivia are in a more vulnerable condition because they have fewer opportunities to participate in the public sphere and labor market, and have lower levels of education, income, information, and employment. A gender study conducted for related projects in past years showed that accessing economic opportunities may be an effective way to help women lift themselves out of poverty. A Project level Gender Tag Analysis was carried out during Project preparation to inform the development of a specific Gender Action Plan to mainstream a Gender Approach into the overall Project design and its components. This analysis has identified the following gender gaps sensible to the Project: (i) lack of women's organizations, (ii) political participation and decision-making, (iii) access to employment for women, (iv) productive and reproductive roles, double work burden, (v) access to land, (vi) access to productive resources and technology, (vii) differentiation in gender-specific productive activities, (viii) access to education – training, (ix) remuneration for women, and (x) gender violence. This gender gap analysis provides input for both Project Development Objective Indicators and Intermediate Result Indicators by Components. The final SEP version will include complementary indicators to monitor the adequate implementation of the procedures and mechanisms of citizen engagement with gender perspective through a gender gap monitoring checklist among others. The SEP furthermore outlines the process to be carried out at the subproject level, during project implementation, to identify and map out subproject-level stakeholders, and design and carry out meaningful engagement with different groups as part of subproject design and implementation, with differentiated strategies to reach the most vulnerable, especially women indigenous peoples. The SEP also includes a project's grievance redress mechanism (GRM), with procedures for SEA/SH grievances, and provisions to function in a culturally appropriate manner, consistent with the provisions of ESS7. Engagement planning and implementation will also put in place all necessary measures to facilitate the participation of diverse stakeholders, particularly those in need of special assistance, and to encourage women, youth, and indigenous peoples' active participation, among others. The draft SEP will be disclosed prior to appraisal with the objective of receiving and incorporating feedback about the overall project design and the project's E&S instruments.

ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

This standard is relevant. Project implementation will involve direct workers (PIU) and contracted workers. The project will be implemented by staff from the VRHyR and additional consultants could be hired (Components 1, 3, and 4). The need for other types of workers, such as community workers and/or primary suppliers of project workers will be identified once activities are determined in greater detail. It is likely that contractors will be required for civil works for the irrigation infrastructure and equipment. Potentially, community workers could be involved (Component 2). In the



case of community workers, related risks and the measures to address them, have been assessed in the draft ESMF and draft LMP, as detailed in para 37 of ESS2. It is not expected that primary supplier workers will be involved in subprojects. The final version of the LMP will be for Project effectiveness. Based on the currently available information, it is estimated that the implementation of infrastructure and equipment activities might require, for each subproject, an as-yet-to-be-determined number of skilled workers as part of the contractor’s crew. Moreover, unskilled workers will also be required, and they are expected to be hired locally and remunerated by the contractor. Based on that information, no significant risks related to labor influx are expected. The client prepared a draft Labor Management Procedures (LMP), which will be consulted and disclosed prior to negotiations, and identifies the different types of workers and risks according to the activities they may perform under the project. The LMP lays out requirements to promote transparency in terms and conditions of employment, fair treatment, non-discrimination, and equal opportunity; minimum working age and measures to prevent the use of all forms of child labor and forced labor; and worker’s organizations. In addition, the LMP includes a GRM specifically for all project workers to ensure they have a mechanism in place for complaints and grievances. The minimum age for project workers will be 18 years old. While no use of child labor is foreseen as part of the Project, the LMP and ESMF will identify measures to prevent child labor practices among project workers and beneficiaries. The Borrower also includes gender-based violence (GBV) issues in the LMP and is committed to mapping available service providers at the beginning of the implementation stage that can be used as part of a referral pathway for any potential GBV case within the context of the project activities. Among other elements, to ensure the health and safety of workers during the construction and implementation phases of the project, at the beginning of the implementation stage, the LMP will also include a generic Occupational Health and Safety Plan (OHSP) as an annex for likely civil works activities under Component 2, in line with the WBG general guidelines. Some of the OHS hazards associated with the project activities identified may include among others: (i) operation of heavy machinery, (ii) slips, trips, and falls; (iii) hazardous material handling; (iv) exposure to hazardous substances; and (v) traffic safety. The OHSP will include generic measures addressing these and other types of typical OHS issues, as well as procedures for incident/accident investigation, reporting and recording, emergency preparedness and response procedures, and continuous training for workers. It also contains measures to address potential risks and impacts that may arise from the interaction between project workers and local communities. To ensure that the project promotes the safety of women, and to avoid beneficiaries from becoming targets of sexual harassment or assault, the LMP includes a code of conduct. Both the labor GRM and the overall project GRM will include specific grievance channels, to be managed by trained personnel, for potential complaints related to gender-based violence (GBV) or sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual harassment (SH). Security and safety measures for workers have been included in the LMP as well. Other health-related issues for workers have been included in the ESMF as described under ESS1. All project workers will need to abide by the Workers’ Code of Conduct in their relationships with the beneficiary community populations. Contractors and subcontractors are also expected to abide by the Code of Conduct, is going to be specified as a requirement in the bidding documents. Government civil servants are expected to work in connection with the project, whether full-time or part-time. They will remain subject to the terms and conditions of their existing public-sector employment agreement or arrangement unless there has been an effective legal transfer of their employment or engagement to the project. ESS2 will not apply to such government civil servants, except for the provisions of Protecting the Work Force’s Occupational Health and Safety and child and forced labor.

ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Relevant

This standard is relevant. The integrated basin management (MHIC) activities, household and community irrigation systems, and risk management infrastructure subprojects are associated with potential resource efficiencies and



pollution concerns like (i) risks related to water consumption and management during construction; (ii) risk of improper handling of waste, and hazardous waste during construction; (iii) risks of contamination of water sources or soil, atmospheric emissions, and noise during construction ; (iv) temporary or permanent river channel alteration and erosion processes; and (v) use of pesticides with high toxicity to the environment or population. For these risks, the draft ESMF has considered the preparation of Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), which will be implemented in both the first and second subproject portfolios. The draft ESMF addresses these issues and identifies the impacts that will be generated as part of the construction, operation, and maintenance activities. The draft ESMF also includes the subprojects exclusion list and guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of the subprojects in the pre-investment technical design studies (EDTP) and for the Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs). The use of pesticides and fertilizers in Bolivia is regulated by SENASAG (National Animal Health and Agricultural Service). However, it does not have sufficient human and economic resources to adequately supervise the smuggling and use of illegal and toxic agrochemicals. The environmental and health risks associated with the use of agrochemicals will assess during the ESMF preparation, and appropriate measures in line with principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) based on the types of crops likely to be planted following project interventions and the associated range of agrochemicals (legal and illegal) that may be sought out by communities. Such measures will include, for example, community awareness raising and technical assistance activities to educate and equip communities to farm using IPM approaches. Potential incentives to support environmentally friendly agricultural practices and the use of national or international certifications or labels are to be explored during project implementation under component 3. Construction waste will include mostly waste from excavated soil and debris. The project is not expected to be a large user or generator of hazardous materials (i.e. fuel oil). The draft ESMF analyzes these risks and establishes measures for its proper management, requiring the contractor to develop the following ESMPs related to this standard (also included in the ESCP): Waste Management Plan, Resource Efficiency Management Plan, Pollution Prevention Plan, and Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP).

ESS4 - Community Health and Safety

Relevant

This standard is relevant. Various activities proposed under Component 2 may expose communities to health and safety risks, especially for those located immediately or close to construction sites and activities. The specific risks and impacts to nearby communities of each subproject will be confirmed during project implementation, as part of the ESMPs to be developed for subprojects in the first and in the second group. Risks include the potential for accidents from increased traffic of project vehicles, machinery, and trucks. Some impacts resulting from civil works that may cause inconvenience to local communities may include air emissions and odors, noise, dust, vibration, hazardous materials, closure of roads, traffic disruptions, and others. The draft ESMF identifies and lays out generic measures to minimize community risks to these and other issues, while site-specific planning will confirm relevant issues and include more detailed management measures in the site-specific ESMPs. Additionally, measures to reduce road and pedestrian accidents around or nearby the construction/rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure and equipment are included in the draft ESMF. Site-specific ESMPs will include traffic management and training plans and measures for local communities to ensure pedestrian safety, as well as requirements for the adoption of signage and safety barriers in or near construction zones and safe storage arrangements for construction machinery and equipment, measures to avoid the spreading of COVID-19 and other potentially infectious diseases, and GBV and SEA/SH risk management procedures. Due consideration will be put to the specific needs of vulnerable groups such as the elderly, women, children, and persons with disabilities. The draft ESMF has reviewed the technical design of the subprojects in the first group and has confirmed that there will be no risk of significant adverse impacts to local communities and assets due to the potential failure of reservoir structures (atajados, with a typical volume between 500 and 3000 cubic meters)

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because they are small scale subprojects for one or three families. A study to identify safety measures for the construction, rehabilitation, use, and maintenance of small dams and atajados has been required in the ESCP and will be included in the final version of the ESMF to be ready 60 days after Project Effectiveness and prior to the bidding of any works. Any potential necessary dam safety measure for the reservoirs to be designed and/or rehabilitated under Component 2 will need to be in compliance with ESS4 (e.g., dam safety measures for new reservoirs designed by qualified engineers in accordance with GIIP will be adopted and implemented). One of the lessons learned from previous projects in the region is the need for proper signing and fencing of all the small reservoirs to avoid the potential risk of people accidentally falling in and drowning. This should be part of the subprojects' design. The SEA/SH risk is not expected to be significant, particularly considering the low number of skilled outside workers expected, the intended use of local workers (semi-skilled and unskilled) as much as feasible, the implementation of a code of conduct and measures to promote their adherence, awareness raising activities expected for all workers regarding GBV and SEA/SH, and elaboration and implementation of provisions to attend cases of SEA/SH complaints are included in the SEP. Currently, there is insufficient updated site-specific information on the nexus between the possibility of conflict and the use of scarce water resources in the areas where the subprojects will be developed; however, there is a risk of reduced water availability in downstream communities, consequently, the final ESMF is considering the preparation of a Water Management Guide for users. Due diligence on this issue will continue and the relevant information will be reflected in the final version of the ESMF. The ESCP requires the contractor to develop the following ESMPs related to this standard: Measures for traffic and road safety, Biosecurity Protocols, and Environmental and Social Assessments for the safety of the reservoirs.

ESS5 - Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Relevant

This standard is not relevant. Based on the information available in the VRHyR subproject portfolios, no risk of involuntary resettlement (including physical and/or economic displacement) or involuntary restriction on land and/or water use has been identified as part of the project so far. A Protocol for voluntary land donations has been drafted during preparation to address situations where land is needed for water sources protection purposes and complimentary project works. Donation of land is expected to happen on a voluntary basis by the participating communities and farmers; as such, this topic will be treated under ESS1. The draft ESMF includes a protocol to ensure that people receive adequate information about the voluntary nature of their donation and to prevent any form of coercion. The Protocol for voluntary land donations includes details, procedures, and agreements outlined as an Annex to the ESMF in order to facilitate stakeholder understanding in line with ESS5 footnote 10 and the recommendations of the Guidance Note for ESS5. The due diligence on this topic has been carried out during preparation and the relevant information is reflected in the present A-ESRS.

ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Relevant

This standard is relevant. The integrated basin management (MHIC), household irrigation systems, and risk management infrastructure subprojects are associated with potential environmental risks and impacts related to natural or modified habitats or populations such as (i) the use of invasive species that are related to the impact on the ecosystem or natural habitat in reforestation activities;(ii) use of pesticides with high toxicity to the environment or population; (iii) introduction of exotic crops to the detriment of native crops; and (iv) reduced ecological flow. These potential risks are addressed in the draft ESMF and measures to avoid them have been outlined a set of studies will be part of the final ESMF to be ready 60 days after Project Effectiveness and prior to the bidding of the works. The draft

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ESMF also includes a subprojects exclusion list and guidelines for the Environmental Assessment of the subprojects in the pre-investment technical design studies (EDTP) and for the Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP). The intervention zones, because they are areas with a high rate of aridity, are naturally sensitive to water scarcity. These areas are also threatened by the effects of climate change and may experience frequent dry years and/or unexpected flooding. Therefore, the integrated management plans need to evaluate the available water resources in a climate change scenario and develop adequate measures for water use, both for the production systems and for the conservation of natural habitats and ecological flow. This aspect has been addressed in the draft ESMF. On the contrary, an adequate water resource evaluation could strengthen natural habitats with climate change analysis and a basin management plan. In the draft ESMF, modified, natural, and critical habitats have been described in order to be clear in what type of habitats the subprojects will be implemented. At this time, we know that the subprojects in the first group of subprojects will not be implemented in Protected Areas and this will be an exclusion list criteria. The possible impact on natural habitats may be related to effects on biodiversity since they are sensitive natural habitats whose biodiversity in many of them is also sensitive and may be endemic. For example, it is known that there are endemisms mainly of amphibian species in small basins and might need a Critical Habitat Assessment (CHA). The draft ESMF includes maps to see intersections of potential subproject sites and protected areas, Ramsar sites, and other environmentally sensitive areas. A Biodiversity Management Plan will be included as an appendix to the final ESMF. The introduction of irrigation systems may spur changes in the productive matrix that leads to the introduction of foreign species, while also discontinuing the production of traditional crops. The Andean zone presents great agrobiodiversity in tubers, roots, and high Andean grains that are suffering a decrease in their production due to the change of the productive matrix to cattle and forage with grasses such as alfalfa, which also requires a large amount of water for its development. These aspects have been evaluated while preparing the draft ESMF and protective measures have been outlined, which will be further developed in the final version of the ESMF.

ESS7 - Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

Relevant

This standard is relevant. Based on the currently available information, a key aspect of this Project is that the majority of the target population in the selected municipalities are indigenous peoples (IP), as defined by ESS7. As such, the elements of an IP plan have been included in the overall project design and in a cross-cutting manner in the different E&S risk management instruments, such as the ESMF, SEP, and LMP, without the need to prepare a stand-alone IP plan. However, the VRHyR shared more precise socioeconomic and cultural data on the beneficiaries in the subproject portfolios that meet the four criteria for defining IPs stipulated in ESS7, to guide the Project’s approach toward IPs in a culturally-pertinent manner. Likewise, VRHyR determined the extent to which indigenous communal lands or territories may overlap with the project implementation area (a detailed map has been developed). To analyze these data, the client included in the ESMF a Social Assessment (SA), following the provisions of ESS7, with baseline data regarding IPs in each region from a sample of households and communities targeted under the Project, to understand how water infrastructure, including irrigation and basin management subprojects, are implemented and managed. This assessment provides additional information to characterize the implementation area of the project and its subprojects and informs if Project or subproject activities include the possibility of adverse impacts on IP communities, families, and/or individuals. The basic documentation at the subproject level will consist of pre-investment technical design studies (EDTP) and Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), and inputs for both will come from the knowledge and experience of the Borrower with local stakeholders, along with information from secondary sources (census data, previous studies, and projects, etc.). The draft SA has been prepared, and has been disclosed by appraisal and the final version will be disclosed as part of the ESMF before negotiations. The SA also analyzes the

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particular social, cultural, and productive features in each of the regions, and provides information to guide the adoption of culturally appropriate and meaningful consultation practices in the ongoing stakeholder engagement process with IPs and their national, regional, and local organizations, as well as recommendations to ensure that IPs and other vulnerable groups benefit in culturally appropriate ways from the Project and to prevent the involuntary exclusion from vulnerable sectors of the population from project benefits. The consultations carried out so far by the VRHyR and its implementing units took place with different stakeholders, including government agencies, local communities, and farmer’s organizations, among others. Such consultations will continue, with a focus on consultations with IPs and their representative organizations. The Borrower will need to proactively engage with the relevant IPs to ensure their ownership and participation in project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. The Borrower also consults with them as to the cultural appropriateness of planned subproject activities and will seek to identify and address any economic or social constraints (including those relating to gender) that may limit their opportunities to benefit from or participate in, the Project. A summary of the results of these consultations, and the findings of related projects, such as the PAR III covers a similar overall range of sites and stakeholders for project implementation, have been included in the draft SEP to be disclosed prior to the appraisal. The SEP also includes a clear and culturally adequate process of structuring subprojects, plans, and designs, and the use of adequate communication and language with the beneficiary groups and organizations. Additional details about the stakeholder engagement process with IPs and other vulnerable groups are included in the ESS10 section. At the subproject level, pre-investment technical design studies (EDTP) and provisions for the Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) will be developed by the Borrower, during the Project implementation stage, and informed by the consultations with IPs. The ESMF includes key procedures and activities to ensure culturally adequate measures are adopted during project implementation, based on the findings and recommendations from the SA, which include the use of indigenous languages, as needed, as well as protocols intended to prevent adverse effects on the traditional culture of IPs, establishing the procedures to carry out stakeholder engagement activities at the subproject level that respect the functional social structures and deliberation forms of IPs, respecting their timeframes, and organizing them in places that are convenient for them, to ensure that such stakeholder engagement activities are meaningful. The consultation processes to be undertaken at the subproject level during implementation will be particularly useful to analyze specific conditions of IPs and other vulnerable groups, based on their territorial organization. There is a risk that the agricultural technical assistance planned as part of the project could potentially induce the replacement of local agricultural knowledge of the mainly indigenous beneficiaries with unwelcome new approaches and technologies, particularly if cultural pertinence measures were not properly adhered to during project execution, and could also see themselves adversely impacted by the Project and/or its subprojects if the activities and priorities are not consistent with their traditional water management or biodiversity management practices. The ESMF identifies this risk and includes prevention and mitigation measures. Based on the currently available information, no activities that would require obtaining Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) from participating IPs have been identified. However, if there were to be situations when FPIC is necessary, the SEP includes the procedures to guide the process of obtaining FPIC in a manner aligned with ESS7. The application of FPIC will need to be systematically assessed at the subproject level during project implementation as well. If FPIC were to be needed at the subproject level, indigenous peoples will need to be consulted in good faith, following the provisions of ESS7, with sufficient and timely information concerning the benefits and disadvantages of the Project, and concerning the anticipated activities before they occur. In such cases, consent will need to be secured, which refers to the collective support of affected IPs for the project activities that affect them, reached through a culturally appropriate process, and based on their own decision-making systems. Since FPIC does not require unanimity, it may be achieved even



when some individuals or groups within or among affected IPs explicitly disagree, and it will need to be documented in a sociocultural appropriate manner.

ESS8 - Cultural Heritage

Relevant

This standard is relevant. According to the available information, some of the potential project areas, mainly in the Andean highlands and Inter-Andean valleys, may include tangible and intangible cultural resources. During Project negotiation, a study was agreed upon with the objective to understand, gather and build knowledge among communities considering their traditional knowledge and how communities implement and manage water infrastructure, including irrigation and watershed management. The draft ESMF includes provisions for subproject-level screening and assessment of any known sites of cultural or historic importance which may be impacted locally, as well as identification of any sites of cultural/social importance for local communities (the ESMF’s exclusion list includes a specific provision to avoid any potential damage to cultural heritage). The draft ESMF, and all future site-specific ESMPs as needed, will furthermore include, inter alia: (i) Chance Finds Procedures for the construction areas, and construction contracts will include clauses requiring civil contractors to take proper protective measures in case cultural heritage sites are discovered, including to stop construction activities if cultural property sites are encountered during construction; (ii) a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) for civil works outlining mitigation measures to be considered to avoid or reduce impacts on community cultural heritage sites directly affected by the project; and (iii) any needed mitigation measures to avoid or restore community cultural sites. All site-specific ESMP measures will be reflected in corresponding bid documents and construction contracts. The Chance Finds Procedure of the ESMF sets out how chance finds associated with the project will be managed and includes a requirement to (i) notify relevant authorities of found objects or sites by cultural heritage experts; (ii) fence-off the area of finds or sites to avoid further disturbance; (iii) conduct an assessment of found objects or sites by cultural heritage experts; (iv) identify and implement actions consistent with the requirements of this ESS and national law; and (v) train project personnel and project workers on the chance finds procedure. Project activities are not expected to have significant impacts on IPs’ intangible cultural heritage. However, the ESMF’s SA analyzes the risk of cultural loss that could be potentially associated with the replacement of traditional indigenous knowledge about agricultural practices provided by non-indigenous technical assistance expected as part of the project. Additional information on potential impacts on cultural heritage will be also gathered as part of the consultations with IPs at the subproject level during Project implementation, particularly those to be carried out for the future site-specific ESMPs, which will include a more detailed analysis of the local conditions and productive alternatives related to the proposed activities.

ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries

Not Currently Relevant

This project will not include the use of financial intermediaries.

B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Operations on International Waterways

Yes

OP 7.60 Operations in Disputed Areas

No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework

No

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None

Use of Common Approach

No

Not relevant.

C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities

C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required by implementation?

III. CONTACT POINT

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