

# INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET CONCEPT STAGE

**Report No.:** ISDSC3218

**Date ISDS Prepared/Updated:** 26-Jul-2013

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## I. BASIC INFORMATION

### A. Basic Project Data

<b>Country:</b>	Rwanda	<b>Project ID:</b>	P131464
<b>Project Name:</b>	Landscape Approach to Forest Restoration and Conservation (LAFREC) (P131464)		
<b>Task Team Leader:</b>	Stephen Ling		
<b>Estimated Appraisal Date:</b>	09-Dec-2013	<b>Estimated Board Date:</b>	20-Mar-2014
<b>Managing Unit:</b>	AFTN2	<b>Lending Instrument:</b>	Specific Investment Loan
<b>GEF Focal Area:</b>	Multi-focal area		
<b>Sector(s):</b>	Forestry (80%), Flood protection (10%), Irrigation and drainage (10%)		
<b>Theme(s):</b>	Biodiversity (40%), Other environment and natural resources management (30%), Climate change (20%), Natural disaster management (10%)		
<b>Financing (In USD Million)</b>			
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	9.53	<b>Total Bank Financing:</b>	0.00
<b>Financing Gap:</b>	0.00		
<b>Financing Source</b>			<b>Amount</b>
BORROWER/RECIPIENT			0.00
Global Environment Facility (GEF)			5.49
Least Developed Countries TF for Climate Change Activities			4.05
Total			9.53
<b>Environmental Category:</b>	B - Partial Assessment		
<b>Is this a Repeater project?</b>	No		

### B. Project Objectives

To promote landscape management for enhanced environmental services and climate resilient

livelihoods, including via forest rehabilitation and sustainable land management investments in one target landscape.

### **C. Project Description**

Component 1- Nation-wide multi-sectoral landscape restoration planning and institutional development \$1,112,000 GEF

This component aims to establish a nation-wide, integrated institutional framework for effective landscape restoration and conservation. Main activities will be:

1. Establishment of a knowledge platform that will provide a base for (i) identifying landscape management priorities based on hotspots of degradation and associated impacts, and complementarity between enhance environmental and economic functions; (ii) monitoring indicators of landscape health and productivity; and (iii) sharing of information and lessons amongst diverse stakeholders.
2. Development of a nation-wide landscape restoration strategy and operational guidelines for its implementation.
3. Elaboration and implementation of a sustainable financing strategy, which will consider payment for environmental services, climate-related financing, as well as policy opportunities to release private financing.
4. Establishment of a national multi-stakeholder mechanism to ensure an integrated approach to landscape restoration and conservation.
5. Advocacy, awareness and (as appropriate) targeted technical training activities to equip stakeholders with the understanding and skills to engage effectively.

The scope of the activities financed by the GEF grant will depend in part on the success of the parallel preparation by IUCN of a related project focused specifically on developing participation platforms and sustainable financing mechanism, and to be financed by the German Environment Ministry.

Component 2 – Demonstration of land and forest restoration and conservation in a priority landscape \$4,120,000 GEF

This Component will support the application of the landscape approach to forest restoration and conservation for the improvement of ecosystem functions and services in the Gishwati forest area, and possibly adjacent parts of the Nile-Congo Crest. It aims to arrest and eventually reverse the ongoing land conversion in the area thru forest restoration (if feasible), and agro-forestry approaches in a manner that will maximize ecological connectivity and hydrological function in the landscape.

The main activities of this component are:

1. Landscape restoration and management plans developed through a participatory process informed by analytics, integrated with sectoral plans & programmes, and implemented through District Action Plans in selected priority sites.
2. Biological corridors identified and re-established to enhance connectivity and reduce fragmentation to enhance biological diversity.
3. Community based sustainable forest management systems established, integrating biodiversity consideration.
4. Adoption of new sustainable land management techniques including agro-forestry and in-field soil and water conservation.
5. Testing of methodologies for monitoring above- and below-ground carbon stocks, exploration of the potential for carbon finance.

Component 1 would support and guide the definition of the methodology for carrying out such negotiated landscape planning and restoration, while Component 2 would put it into practice. It is expected that environmental benefits generated from restoration of forests and productive landscapes in the Gishwati area will decrease the pressure on the remaining native forests while providing additional habitat for biodiversity, including Chimpanzees. During project preparation the possibility will be explored for extending national land-titling programs to the Gishwati area – i.e. providing secure land tenure in what remains formally government land, in return for communal agreements to implement necessary sustainability measures.

Component 3 – Community climate resilience \$3,850,000 GEF

This Component seeks to enhance community resilience through promoting diversified and climate-smart livelihoods, and implementing direct climate-risk management measures, potentially including slope stabilization measures, drainage improvements, rural infrastructure hardening, community awareness, early-warning and preparedness, and strengthening of government disaster response systems. Rwanda's NAPA identifies two sets of Districts for priority implementation of the climate adaptation activities: (a) districts prone to drought - Bugesera, Kirehe, Kayonza, Gatsibo, Rulindo and Nyamagabe; and (b) districts prone to floods - Nyabihu, Rubavu, Rutsiro and Ngororero. The flood-prone districts are all situated around the Gishwati landscape, and it is likely that this area will be the focus of the project, but needs and potential interventions in other areas will also be considered during preparation.

The main activities under this component will be:

1. Risk and vulnerability assessments conducted and updated within the Gishwati landscape (and potentially other areas).
2. Systems established to disseminate timely hazard warnings information.
3. Regional centers and networks trained and equipped to rapidly respond to extreme weather events.
4. Resilient rural infrastructure measures introduced through improved designs and/or retro-fitting, and potentially through slope-stabilization or run-off management works in areas of acute landslide and flood risk.
5. Climate resilient livelihoods promoted that complement and strengthen landscape restoration investments, including potentially value-addition for agricultural products that promote investments in sustainable land management, diversified sustainable livelihood options including nature-based tourism, improved water management practices, and alternative energy sources / increased fuelwood efficiency.

Component 4 – Project management & monitoring \$450,000 GEF

This component will finance project management and monitoring costs, within the funding limits established by GEF.

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

Rwanda is a small, landlocked and mountainous country. The westernmost fifth of the country lies within the Congo basin, whereas the remainder is part of the Nile basin. The Nile-Congo Crest divides these two catchments along a north-south line, and forms part of the Albertine Rift Montane Forest Ecoregion, which hosts 52% of all bird species and 39% of all mammal species on the African continent. Rwanda's two most important forest protected areas lie at either end of the crest – to the north the Volcanoes National Park, and Nyungwe National Park to the south. The ridge in between had been largely deforested, but includes two forest reserves – Gishwati and Mukura, which have

been designated Key Biodiversity Areas for supporting population of eastern chimpanzee and an endangered swamp warbler, respectively.

Rainfall and topography are most severe in western Rwanda. Risks of flash floods and landslides are highest where recent deforestation has occurred, such as within the Gishwati Forest reserve (see Annex III). Its forests were largely intact in 1978, and substantial forest cover still remained in 1986 despite a significant decrease. But by 2001, following the settlement in the area of refugees from the conflict in the mid 90s, only a small circular patch of native forest remained, and today the gazetted area is only 86 ha, with a further 578 ha under natural regeneration. The remainder of the landscape is composed of agricultural land, rangeland, tea plantations and pine plantations. Deforestation is believed to have exacerbated local flooding, with one event in 2007 alone causing more than a dozen deaths and leading to extensive crop and property damage. A study on the Economics of Climate Change in Rwanda estimated that the direct economic costs of the 2007 flood ranged from US\$4 m to US\$20 m in 2 districts alone. Landslides and erosion are estimated to cause the loss of a million tons of soil per year, reducing local agricultural productivity and causing heavy siltation of the Sebeya river, increasing water supply and hydropower maintenance costs.

The districts around Gishwati were identified as priority areas for disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation in Rwanda's NAPA. The project aims to use an integrated landscape management approach to both biodiversity and climate resilience functions in this important but vulnerable landscape.

### **E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies**

The Government of Rwanda has an Organic Law on Environmental Protection and Management (2005), which sets out the general legal framework for environmental protection and management in Rwanda. Ministry of Natural Resources (MINIRENA) covers lands, water, forests, minerals and environment. The Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA), under MINIRENA is tasked with coordination of environmental protection activities and promotion of the integration of environmental issues in development policies, projects, plans and programs. At the local level, Ministry of Local Government, Good Governance Community Development and Social Affairs (MINALOC) is responsible for managing resources, including natural resources at community level in the districts. MINALOC is guided by the the Rwandan National Environment Policy of 2003, which provides for the establishment of provincial, district and lower level environmental committees responsible for environmental protection.

Despite the existence of policies and laws such as the Organic Law on Environment Protection (2005), evidence on the ground still indicates overall capacity for implementation of environmental and social safeguards policies is still lowlimited. REMA is a strong agency, competent staff and a willingness to take firm and unpopular positions to prevent environmental impacts. However, their human resources available for safeguards related work are limited and Tthere are alsois significant shortcomings in the abilities of local and district level stakeholders to correctly monitor, mitigate and manage environmental performance of development projects.

Sufficient understanding of the mechanisms for implementing the environmental and safeguards instruments will need to be provided to the various stakeholders implementing LAFREC activities. During project implementation it will be important to support the teams to appreciate their role in providing supervision, monitoring and evaluation including environmental reporting on the projects activities. However, REMA and other project implementing agencies have gained recent experience of managing environmental and social impacts of similar activities, consistent with Bank safeguards

policies, through the LVEMP and LWH projects. This ongoing capacity development will be considered when designing further inputs under LAFREC.

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

Yasmin Tayyab (AFTCS)

Jane A. N. Kibbassa (AFTN3)

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

<b>Safeguard Policies</b>	<b>Triggered?</b>	<b>Explanation (Optional)</b>
Environmental Assessment OP/ BP 4.01	Yes	The project is envisioned to support investments in climate-smart livelihood activities and sustainable land management infrastructure for erosion and flood control. This may involve small-scale water-related infrastructure such as gabions, very small check dams and polders, but will not involve any large-scale infrastructure. The project will primarily involve sustainable land management, agroforestry, forestry and sustainable livelihoods investments that are expected to have overwhelmingly positive environmental and social impacts. However, common sense measures will be needed to avoid inadvertent negative impacts (e.g. introduction of invasive species) and to ensure any small-scale construction is properly managed. Potential trade-offs between forestry and other land uses, and issues related to resource access restriction will also need to be considered. The scope of watershed management and small infrastructure activities on the ground is not expected to exceed that under the baseline project, LVEMP II, which already an ESMF, prepared in line with the requirements of the National Organic Law (2005) and World Bank safeguards policies and can be adapted for screening of environmental impacts from activities proposed under this project. The LVEMP ESMF will be adjusted if at all necessary for application to LAFREC, consulted upon, and disclosed prior to appraisal, once specific sites and activities have been identified.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	Although the remnant areas of natural habitat in the likely target areas are small, they are biologically important. The project will be designed to restore natural habitat elements within the landscape, and is extremely unlikely to have a negative impact, but nevertheless, the

		ESMF will consider and mitigate the potential for inadvertent impacts, and a Process Framework will likely be prepared to address any resource access restriction issue under OP 4.12 related to habitat restoration and management.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	The project envisages to carry out establish community sustainable forest management systems, forest restoration in Gishwati and agroforestry approaches to improve the ecosystem functions and services. These may entail planting of trees and possibly enhanced management of forests on state or communal lands. Large-scale commercial forestry operations are not included within the project.
Pest Management OP 4.09	Yes	It is unlikely that the project will support the purchase of pesticides. However, it is likely to promote agronomic practices that may influence patterns of pesticide use. Appropriate integrated pest management guidance will be provided as an integral component of the ESMF, taking into account what is already included in the LVEMP II ESMF.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/ BP 4.11	TBD	The project will not support activities that are expected to impact physical cultural resources. The infrastructure investments will be very small scale and most of the project area is only recently settled, and there are no indications of particular PCR concerns. But as some small-scale infrastructure may be involved, the chance finds procedures will be incorporated into the ESMF.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	There are no populations qualifying as Indigenous Peoples within the project target areas.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	Small-scale infrastructure developed under watershed or flood management activities may in rare cases involve limited land taking similar to the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project II (LVEMPII). Forest restoration, management and possible river bank protection activities may also potentially involve some restriction of resource access. The project will trigger OP 4.12 as protection and conservation activities may result in loss of land, livelihood, and restrict access to natural

		resources. It will apply and if necessary adapt the LVEMPII RPF to mitigate loss of assets, services and livelihood prior to appraisal. The need to develop an additional process framework will also be considered during preparation, but is anticipated to be likely.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	TBD	Small-scale water-harvesting, gully rehabilitation or flood protection infrastructure could potentially involve the construction of a small number of gabions, or very small-scale check dams (primarily for silt retention). This possibility will be assessed during preparation. No large dam construction will be involved, and the project is not dependent on any existing dams.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	TBD	The project may involve land and water management and/or floodwater attenuation investments that would have a small effect on flows within a tiny proportion of the Nile and Congo basins. The need for notification of downstream states will be assessed following the selection of activities.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	No project activities will be conducted in disputed areas.

### III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

**A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS: 25-Oct-2013**

**B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed.**

**The specific studies and their timing<sup>1</sup> should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS:**

Safeguards documents are expected to be mainly adopted (and if necessary in some specific elements adapted) from those already used for LVEMP – i.e. the ESMF and RPF – as the range of project activities involving investments in watershed management and small-scale infrastructure will not exceed those already permitted under LVEMP. The scope of LVEMP activities on the ground includes works and improved land management for watershed rehabilitation, restoration of riparian habitat buffers, associated livelihoods subprojects, and investments in sanitation infrastructure. The LVEMP ESMF notes that whilst the overall social and environmental impacts are likely to be overwhelmingly positive, there remains potential for small and localized impacts through intensification of agricultural activities (that may increase incentives for expansion of agriculture, use of agri-chemicals, etc), limiting community access to natural resources in rehabilitated areas, and land requirements and temporary pollution from civil works. The potential scope of activities under LAFREC is very similar, except that sanitation investments are not included, and therefore the scale of civil works will be smaller. The scope of the screening, environmental management and resettlement compensation measures in the LVEMP ESMF & RPF are therefore expected to cover the range of impacts under LAFREC, except that a PCR chance finds procedure is likely to be added as a precautionary measure, and institutional arrangements / budget, etc. will be updated for the new project.

<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.

Moreover, due to the additional focus on protection and restoration of forest reserves under LAFREC, it is anticipated that a Process Framework will also be required to address resource access restrictions. Given the small-scale nature of the project interventions, a safeguards category of B is considered appropriate, in line with that of the existing LVEMP project in Rwanda.

As the specific scope of the activities under LVEMP and the IUCN project are further defined, it will be determined whether the IUCN project should be considered associated and also covered by the LVEMP safeguards documents. Any required adaptation of the LVEMP ESMF and RPF, and development of a Process Framework, will be done in concert with the project design activities which will mainly take place during June-October 2013.

#### IV. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader:	Name: Stephen Ling	
<b><i>Approved By:</i></b>		
Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Name: Alexandra C. Bezeredi (RSA)	Date: 26-Jul-2013
Sector Manager:	Name: Jonathan S. Kamkwalala (SM)	Date: 04-Oct-2013