



# Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

## Concept Stage

### **(ESRS Concept Stage)**

Date Prepared/Updated: 08/30/2023 | Report No: ESRSC03675

**I. BASIC INFORMATION****A. Basic Project Data**

|                                     |                              |                          |                            |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Country                             | Region                       | Project ID               | Parent Project ID (if any) |
| World                               | OTHER                        | P181271                  |                            |
| Project Name                        | Green Accountability         |                          |                            |
| Practice Area (Lead)                | Financing Instrument         | Estimated Appraisal Date | Estimated Board Date       |
| Social Sustainability and Inclusion | Investment Project Financing |                          | 11/22/2023                 |
| Borrower(s)                         | Implementing Agency(ies)     |                          |                            |

**Proposed Development Objective**

The Proposed Development Objective is to strengthen the capacity of civil society actors, including vulnerable communities, to participate and influence climate policy through social accountability.

| Financing (in USD Million) | Amount |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Total Project Cost         | 4.50   |

**B. Is the project 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 proposed project will aim to strengthen the ability of a diverse range of civil society actors, including vulnerable communities, to access needed climate policy and finance information, participate in and shape climate-related governance processes and play critical roles in influencing climate policy in approximately six countries. The Project will promote exchanges across beneficiary countries, create greater visibility on how countries are addressing social accountability for climate action through collective platforms, and demonstrate how countries investing in social accountability are meeting their climate and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in more inclusive and equitable ways. The project will support diverse constituencies' to constructively engage with key public authorities like Ministries of Finance, Planning, or Environment to address their priorities, resulting in a more coherent framework of social accountability.



## **D. Environmental and Social Overview**

### **D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings**

The project is made of three components:

#### **Component 1. Network Building, Targeted Knowledge Support, and Increased Support for Prioritizing Social Accountability in Climate Responses**

This component focuses on fostering an ecosystem for green accountability and a knowledge hub for green accountability that is global in scope. It will focus on assessing selected CSO's needs on green accountability and increasing their capacity to implement green accountability measures through the development of knowledge products, and fostering networks and partnerships through the carrying out of workshops and events to convene actors to co-create solutions for climate action.

#### **Component 2. Equipping Civil Society with Resources to Enable Fruitful Engagement with Public Authorities to Improve Climate Governance**

Activities under this component will focus on financing the provision of sub-grants to eligible Partner CSOs to carry out Sub-projects related to transparency, accountability, and participation in the climate sector. The main activity under this Component will be the provision of resources to a diverse range of CSOs selected based on specific criteria set forth in the Operational Manual. Sub grants will be provided in approximately six eligible target countries, and their amounts will range from US\$25,000-40,000 to approximately 5 CSOs in each target country, as well as a grant of US\$200,000-250,000 to one organization in each country.

#### **Component 3. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning with Capacity Building Support through Sub-grant Recipients and Knowledge Sharing with Global Partners**

WRI as the Recipient will hold primary responsibility for developing and implementing a Monitoring and Evaluation (MEL) framework, collecting and analyzing MEL data and working with Partner CSOs (when necessary) to collect data and report to the World Bank on implementation progress. The collected data, by the Recipient, will inform a knowledge product.

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

The World Resources Institute (WRI) is responsible for implementing the project. Community engagement, CSO mobilization and sustainability for climate issues are at the core of WRI's mission and activities. It has extensive research and knowledge experience in forestry, climate change, energy, food and urban sectors. It is well equipped with experts, who can comply with the Environmental and Social Framework of the World Bank.

The project will build on WRI's existing systems to the extent possible and use gap filling measures as needed. Those additional actions needed are outlined in the ESCP. They include: a) Preparing a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), which will elaborate on the project's stakeholder engagement process (in line with ESS10), as well as its targeted engagement approach with IP groups (in line with ESS7). B) Set up a project specific GRM. The GRM protocol will be outlined under the SEP. According to World Bank's initial due diligence, WRI has strong policies and procedures in place in terms of its gender, anti-harassment, prevention of child and forced labor and community health and safety.



The policies have been underlined primarily under 7 different documents: These are: Code of conduct, , Safeguarding policy; Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) Policy, Emergency Plans DRC and ROC; Travel Security Policy; Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse; Whistleblower Policy; and Modern-Day Slavery and Anti-Trafficking Policy. Further, the WRI has prepared an initial document, which outlines its existing procedures vis-à-vis the applicable ESSs. This document will be further developed and included in the project manual for all ESS standards that are applicable before activity initiation (reflected in the ESCP). A new Project Manager will be hired under the GPSA funds who will be responsible for overseeing E&S risk management.

## II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS

### A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Low

#### A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Low

The environmental and social risk rating of the the project is Low. This project does not include any activity that will require physical works, and none of the technical assistance and activities under the project are expected to have any adverse impacts. The grant's objective is to strengthen the capacity of civil society actors, including vulnerable communities, to participate and influence climate policy through social accountability. It will have positive impacts especially in terms of stakeholder engagement and inclusion of actors that are often left out of climate debates such as local level civil society representatives and leaders, which work directly with impacted communities. The only risk foreseen at this stage is the risk associated with the adequate and fair selection of local CSOs as sub-grantees to carry out the capacity building, knowledge-sharing and networking tasks. Strong communication channels will be important in face-to face and in online formats to advertise the application and selection process of sub-grantees with a clear explanation of how this project will operate, ideally available in multiple languages. Given that some of the activities may take place in indigenous territories, it will be important that the stakeholder engagement under this project takes into account the existing channels, customs and traditions of the relevant IP groups. The team will leverage WRI's experience in convening local level actors and existing networks, in addition to the Consortium partners – Huairou Commission and SouthSouthNorth (SSN) - both of which count as robust bottom-up stakeholder networks.

#### A.2 Social Risk Rating

Low

The social risk rating of the the project is Low. This project does not include any activity that will require physical works, and none of the technical assistance and activities under the project are expected to have any adverse impacts. The grant's objective is to strengthen the capacity of civil society actors, including vulnerable communities, to participate and influence climate policy through social accountability. It will have positive social impacts especially in terms of stakeholder engagement and inclusion of actors that are often left out of climate debates such as local level civil society representatives and leaders, which work directly with impacted communities. The only risk foreseen at this stage is the risk associated with the adequate and fair selection of local CSOs as sub-grantees to carry out the capacity building, knowledge-sharing and networking tasks. Strong communication channels will be important in face-to face and in online formats to advertise the application and selection process of sub-grantees with a clear explanation of how this project will operate, ideally available in multiple languages. Given that some of the activities may take place in indigenous territories, it will be important that the stakeholder engagement under this project takes into account the existing channels, customs and traditions of the relevant IP groups. The team will leverage WRI's experience in convening local level actors and existing networks, in addition to the Consortium partners – Huairou Commission and SouthSouthNorth (SSN) - both of which count as robust bottom-up stakeholder networks. WRI,



SouthSouthNorth, and Huairou Commission will lead stakeholder engagement with: • Government authorities NOT located in subgrantee countries • INGOs and national CSOs • Multilateral agencies • Grassroots organizations within the Huairou Commission network • Civil society organizations and networks outside of the sub grantee countries

## **B. RELEVANCE OF STANDARDS AND POLICIES AT CONCEPT STAGE**

### **B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards**

#### **ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts**

The standard is relevant. The project will promote improved governance and knowledge base in the climate action by fostering global green accountability. The activities will look to create a strong global platform for transparency, accountability and participation activities for climate finance and climate action. The activities will focus on building partnerships with eligible local Partner Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) of the participating country in carrying out activities acceptable to the Bank, related to transparency, accountability and participation in the climate sector. These partnerships will build on providing CSOs with the critical resources to act on their knowledge, expertise and network within local contexts to improve climate finance and actions. This will be undertaken through social accountability mechanisms, mobilization of accountability champions and spreading of key messages in relevant platforms and events for improved (financial) resource allocation, adaptation measures, and the monitoring of emission targets (including NDCs, GHG reductions, carbon offset markets). Activities stemming from partnership agreements will be designed collaboratively between WRI and Partner CSOs with guidance from the GPSA Secretariat. These activities can also have an attributable and 'catalytic' effect on World Bank or national climate projects.

The project will not have any kind of physical footprint. Any activity related to construction or redevelopment of infrastructure or purchase of any electronic equipment or any physical or technical activity or studies that can generate or address negative environmental risks and impact will not be financed. No environmental risk or potential impacts are expected on the biophysical environment, human health and safety, and / or valued environmental components from the project activities. Any sub-grant activities, knowledge dissemination will not support any action detrimental to the environment and human health. The climate sector knowledge, awareness training, guidelines for sub-grants, and capacity building will be aligned with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards.

Since no significant environmental and social impacts and risks are expected from the grant activities, the recipient is not expected to conduct further analyses than the one carried out in this ESRS, or prepare any free-standing instruments to manage the environmental and social impacts and risks. An appraisal stage ESRS is also not required. The ESCP will reflect all necessary actions and measures to address any project-related environmental and social risks, particularly related to ESS1, ESS2, ESS4, ESS7 and ESS10.

#### **Areas where "Use of Borrower Framework" is being considered:**

The standard is relevant. The project will promote improved governance and knowledge base in the climate action by fostering global green accountability. The activities seek to create a strong global platform for transparency,



accountability and participation activities for climate finance and climate action. The activities will focus on building partnerships with eligible local Partner Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) of the participating country in carrying out activities acceptable to the Bank, related to transparency, accountability and participation in the climate sector. These partnerships will build on providing CSOs with the critical resources to act on their knowledge, expertise and network within local contexts to improve climate finance and actions. This will be undertaken through social accountability mechanisms, mobilization of accountability champions and spreading of key messages in relevant platforms and events for improved (financial) resource allocation, adaptation measures, and the monitoring of emission targets (including NDCs, GHG reductions, carbon offset markets). Activities stemming from partnership agreements will be designed collaboratively between WRI and partner CSOs with guidance from the GPSA Secretariat. These activities can also have an attributable and 'catalytic' effect on World Bank or national climate projects.

The project will not have any kind of physical footprint. Any activity related to construction or redevelopment of infrastructure or purchase of any electronic equipment or any physical or technical activity or studies that can generate or address negative environmental risks and impact will not be financed. No environmental risk or potential impacts are expected on the biophysical environment, human health and safety, and / or valued environmental components from the project activities. Any sub-grant activities, knowledge dissemination will not support any action detrimental to the environment and human health. The climate sector knowledge, awareness training, guidelines for sub-grants, and capacity building will be aligned with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standards.

No separate ESIA, ESMF or ESMP documentation will be required for this low-risk project. The only Environmental and social risk management documents that will be required – in addition to existing ES policies and systems of WRI – will be ESCP and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, which will be prepared within 30 days after effectiveness.

The project will be informed by a rapid social analysis (RSA) that WRI has agreed to undertake as part of its own procedures. The main purpose of the rapid social analysis is to identify project and sector risks and impacts and propose recommendations. This analysis will also include gender and social inclusions considerations, based on insights from desk research and stakeholder consultations.

If further gaps between WRI's existing policies, and systems to manage ES risks and the ESF are detected down the line, the ESCP can be revised accordingly and those will be reflected with the project's Operational Manual and country specific action plans for the project. The ESCP will reflect all necessary actions and measures to address any project-related environmental and social risks, particularly covered under ESS1, ESS2, ESS4, ESS7 and ESS10.

WRI's Gender and Social Equity (GSE) Initiative aims to make gender and social equity a standard practice in environment and sustainable development initiatives, including in community health and safety matters. The three-person team is led by WRI's Senior Gender Advisor and works with programs and centers across the institute to ensure that their projects are responsive to gender and social issues. Relevant tasks and details will be included in the ESCP, Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the project's operations manual.

#### **ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure**



This is among the main standards applicable to the project that seeks to improve the governance, capacity and networking of selected CSOs to engage in climate discussions in selected countries. Although this is a low risk project, the WRI will prepare a stand-alone SEP will will elaborate in detail its stakeholder engagement process, informed by ESS10.

While the project is low risk, the project will have a Stakeholder Engagement Plan given the centrality of this standard to the project's objectives and implementation. Further details will be fleshed out in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as well as in the Project Operations Manual (to be created within 30 days of grant effectiveness).

A GRM will be established for the project, by providing all stakeholders with multiple points of contact (phone, email, address) through which they can direct questions, concerns, or grievances. The detailed GRM procedures will be explained in the SEP.

### **ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions**

The project will use WRI's own systems to the extent possible and fill any existing gap as part of ESCP implementation. WRI's employee handbook and its "Whistleblower Policy" states that it does not tolerate unlawful discrimination or harassment. WRI has Emergency Procedures which covers emergency response guidance, including evacuation and shelter-in-place/ lock-down procedures. It regulates how emergency communication should take place, as well as alerting WRI global office. Furthermore, WRI's Modern Day Slavery and Anti-Trafficking Policy covers issues of Forced Labor, Debt Bondage or Bonded Labor, Forced and Child Labor. No separate LMP will be required for this low-risk project. Actions linked to ESS2 will be stated in the ESCP as well as in the project's operations manual.

### **ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management**

The ESS3 is not currently relevant considering the project activity and components description.

### **ESS4 Community Health and Safety**

This standard is relevant as the capacity-building activities will take place at the community level. As part of this project, WRI will assess community health and safety risks and put in place policies and processes to protect the rights, welfare, and wellbeing of all human subjects in its work. They will be based on standards put forth by the Office of Human Research Protections in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services but will be tailored to WRI's work. A Human Subjects Protection Manager is expected to be hired by WRI by September, 2023 that will be responsible of ensuring community and worker health and safety.

According to its "Safeguarding Policy", in order to provide the community health and safety of vulnerable populations and children under the age of 18 years, WRI takes all concerns of potential abuse and exploitation seriously as stated in its Human Resources Policy explaining in the WRI Employee Handbook.



#### **ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement**

This standard is not relevant. The project will not include any physical works that may lead to land acquisition, restrictions on land use and involuntary resettlement.

#### **ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources**

The standard is not directly relevant in that the project does not have any physical foot print. The T.A activities provided are also not expected to have any adverse impact. As mentioned earlier, this grant is expected to strengthen the capacity of civil society actors, including vulnerable communities, to participate and influence climate policy through social accountability. The indirect positive impacts relevant to this standard may include; reduction in deforestation and better forest and natural resources management.

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

The countries to be included in this project are not yet known. There is not enough information at this stage to state whether the activities will take place in territories where IPs reside. In the possibility that they do, WRI has no specific policy targeting IPs. However, it has extensive practical experience and approaches engaging with Indigenous and local communities. WRI in the past has implemented projects that aim to raise awareness of the value of community lands and elevate the voices of the people who call them home, including IPs. While no separate IPP will be required for this low risk project, the stakeholder engagement plan will include specific measures outlining their targeted engagement involving indigenous peoples. While IPPF or an IPP will not be required, this project will have a Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the IPP-specific procedures will be added in the SEP.

#### **ESS8 Cultural Heritage**

The standard is not relevant at this stage of the project.

#### **ESS9 Financial Intermediaries**

The standard is not relevant as there is no engagement of private sector at this stage of the project.

### **C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply**

#### **OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways**

#### **OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas**





### III. World Bank Environmental and Social Due Diligence

#### A. Use of Common Approach

No

##### Financing Partners

No other financing partners will support the project.

#### B. Proposed Measures, Actions and Timing (Borrower's commitments)

##### Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

Preparation of ESCP. Since no adverse environmental and social impacts and risks are expected from the grant activities, the recipient is not expected to conduct further analyses than the one carried out in this ESRS, or prepare any free-standing instruments to manage the environmental and social impacts and risks. An appraisal stage ESRS is also not required. The ESCP will reflect all necessary actions and measures to address any project-related environmental and social risks, particularly related to ESS1, ESS2, ESS4, ESS7 and ESS10.

##### Possible issues to be addressed in the Borrower Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP):

Preparation and adoption of a SEP within 30 days of project effectiveness, and thereafter implementation throughout the Project.

Half Yearly Monitoring Report Submission to reflect the implementation of Environmental and Social Standards

The responsibilities to address E&S risks and monitoring will be assigned to WRI staff with sufficient training and qualification.

The project will screen and determine if project activities will involve indigenous peoples once the selection of countries are finalized.

The project will be implemented in the participatory fashion designed to promote and enhance the quality of multi-stakeholder dialogue between relevant government and civil society actors.

The project will ensure advance disclosure of accessible information for stakeholders in the design of specific project activities.

A GRM will be established for the project, by providing all partners, sub grantees and beneficiaries (for instance, communities with which sub grantees may engage) with multiple points of contact (phone, email, address) through which they can direct questions, concerns, or grievances.

### IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank



Task Team Leader: Ann-Sofie Jespersen

Title:

Senior Social Development Specialist

Email: ajespersen1@worldbank.org

#### **V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

The World Bank  
1818 H Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20433  
Telephone: (202) 473-1000  
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

#### **VI. APPROVAL**

Task Team Leader(s): Ann-Sofie Jespersen, Mariana T. Felicio

Practice Manager (ENR/Social) Maria Gonzalez de Asis Recommended on 09-Aug-2023 at 09:10:16 EDT