



# Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

## Appraisal Stage

### **(ESRS Appraisal Stage)**

Date Prepared/Updated: 06/28/2024 | Report No: ESRSA03582



I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Operation Data

Operation ID	Product	Operation Acronym	Approval Fiscal Year
P178774	Investment Project Financing (IPF)	PROVIR	2025
Operation Name	CAR Inclusive and Resilient Cities Project		
Country/Region Code	Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)	Region	Practice Area (Lead)
Central African Republic	Central African Republic	WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	Urban, Resilience and Land
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Central African Republic	Ministry of Urban Development, Land Reform and Housing	18-Jun-2024	30-Sept-2024
Estimated Decision Review Date	Total Project Cost		
17-May-2024	70,000,000.00		

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Proposed Development Objective

The project development objective is to improve access to climate resilience infrastructure and basic services in selected cities.

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

[Description imported from the PAD Data Sheet in the Portal providing information about the key aspects and components/sub-components of the project]

The project will primarily focus on the cities of Bangui and Berberati, which have been selected because of their population size, their vulnerability to climate change risks, and their lower security risks. However, the project's targeting is designed to be flexible, and open to the possibility of other cities being selected if circumstances change, particularly in terms of security, displacement, and natural disasters risks. The project will encourage labor-intensive public works in the construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure. Civil works' design will maximize labor-intensive



public works (LIPW) opportunities and will be included in the contracts of construction firms, which will be responsible for direct payment of LIPW beneficiaries. Emphasis will be placed on selecting LIPW beneficiaries in the vicinity of civil works and, within these target areas, on the inclusion of social groups facing marginalization or barriers to participation (e.g., women, youth, refugees, IDPs, returnees and host communities, people with disabilities) and ensure their access to daily wage labor opportunities. Component 1. Investments in Flood and Erosion Risks Reduction (US\$45 million): The component will finance physical infrastructure for risk reduction of climate events (e.g., flood and erosion) and related technical assessments including feasibility studies, detailed engineering designs, and safeguard assessments, and contracts with international engineering supervision firms. Activities in Bangui will include critical spot interventions for flood risk reduction. These include hydraulic/hydrological/geotechnical and technical analysis on flood and erosion hazards including climate projections such as future rainfall patterns, exposure of people and assets, as well as the vulnerabilities of exposed communities in at-risk neighborhoods of Bangui (i.e., exposed to natural hazards and vulnerable). Eligible investments may include urban flood control measures such as stormwater drainage, including related works for the construction and/or renovation of culverts, bridges, canal outlet, etc.; water retention basins; dredging; including whenever appropriate the use of Nature-based Solutions (NbS). Activities in Berberati will include structuring investments for flood and soil erosion management. Eligible investments may include primary road resurfacing, critical spots (culverts, bridges, canal outlet, etc.), stormwater drainage, water retention basins, dredging of primary drains, and NbS for headward gully erosion stabilization and slope stabilization (e.g., Krainer walls and slope planting). Other activities to be financed will include (a) integrated urban plans combining three dimensions – urban planning, drainage, and flood and erosion-risk management; and (b) related technical assistance. The integrated plan will help determine where and how development – including urban sprawl and forced displacement to the city – occurs under current and projected climate and urban growth dynamics. Activities in focus cities will include capacity strengthening training commensurate with each city's existing capacity and prospects. Component 2. Neighborhood Infrastructure and Basic Services (US\$20 million): Investments in each city have been packaged in two main categories – (i) roads and drainage, and (ii) building rehabilitation and public spaces. Activities in Bangui will include 4.6km of secondary road rehabilitation (resurfacing), 20.4km of tertiary roads rehabilitation and corresponding tertiary drainage, 3.4km of green drainage (bioswale), 34.8km of pedestrian pathways rehabilitation, 17 pedestrian footbridge construction, 1 crossroads rehabilitation, 1 health center building rehabilitation, 9 school buildings and courtyard rehabilitation (existing schools), 8 small market rehabilitation (e.g., warehouse, fence etc.), and 11 public spaces rehabilitation (e.g., green spaces, recreational and education spaces, taxi-moto public space, etc.). Activities in Berberati will include 4.4km of secondary road rehabilitation (resurfacing), 2 crossroads rehabilitation (including drainage), 2.3km of secondary drainage infrastructure construction, 9.7km of green drainage (bioswale) construction, 16.6 km of pedestrians pathways rehabilitation, 4 school buildings and courtyard rehabilitation (existing schools), 5 market small rehabilitation (e.g., warehouse, fence etc.), and 8 open spaces rehabilitation (e.g., green spaces, recreational and education spaces, taxi-moto public space, etc.). All activities were selected in a participatory manner during preparation. Component 3: Project Management (US\$5 million): This component will support activities including (i) the planning, implementation, and technical oversight of program activities, (ii) effective social and environmental risks management, and (iii) financial management and procurement. This will include the daily operation of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU). Component 4: Contingency Emergency Response (CERC) (US\$ 0 million) : This will allow for the rapid reallocation of project funds in the event of natural or man-made crisis and major disease outbreaks of public health importance during the implementation of the Project. The Project will benefit an estimated 1.6 million people . The beneficiaries will include populations affected by flooding and erosion risks and vulnerable groups including refugees, IDPs, returnees, women, youth. They will be provided with better access to basic services and climate resilient infrastructure. Direct beneficiaries from infrastructure investments under Component 1 are estimated at 800,000 and



direct beneficiaries from neighborhood investments under Component 2 are estimated at 177,400, with the following breakdown: 135,400 in Bangui (or 10 percent of the population), and 42,000 in Berberati (or 50 percent of the population).

## D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

*[Description of key features relevant to the operation's environmental and social risks and opportunities (e.g., whether the project is nationwide or regional in scope, urban/rural, in an FCV context, presence of Indigenous Peoples or other minorities, involves associated facilities, high-biodiversity settings, etc.) – Max. character limit 10,000]*

Central African Republic (CAR) is one of the most fragile countries in the world, due to repeated cycles of conflict and political instability. It is a land-locked country, bordered by Cameroon, Chad, Sudan, South Sudan, the DRC and the Republic of Congo. The country has a very dense hydrographic network with rivers and streams that flow all year round. With its varied vegetation, rich soil and subsoil containing many minerals (diamonds, gold, iron, etc.), the CAR has a great variety of natural resources that should enable it to establish sustainable development. There are 2 climatic seasons in the CAR: a rainy season which runs from May to October and a dry season which runs from November to April. The alternation of these 2 seasons has an impact on the health of the population. In the rainy season, ponds form and floods occur in the neighbourhoods, leading to a proliferation of mosquitoes and therefore a high prevalence of malaria. Rainfall is relatively high, with an average of over 1,500 mm of water per year. The dry season is characterized by dry, cool air and a rise in dust that causes the development of respiratory diseases.

The cities of Bangui and Berberati have been selected because of their population size and vulnerability to climate change risks. Heavy rainfall is also expected to result in riverbank erosion and/or overflows, landslides and waterlogging of agricultural fields leading to likely crop failures. The environmental risks associated with the urban investments to be funded under the project will be related to such climatic variations, worker and community health and safety, risks of erosion etc in addition to the construction related risks, detailed in sections below.

Cities serve as safe havens for security and economic opportunities and there has been a sharp increase of the urban growth between 2013 and 2019. About 86% of internal displacement is driven by conflicts, while the remaining 14% is due to floods, fire and droughts, creating additional pressure on already saturated urban services and infrastructure. There is a high level of poverty in almost all the cities including communes or secondary cities. Vulnerability to climate hazards, particularly rainfall and flooding is exacerbated by poverty and political insecurity. Social risks related to project works result from infrastructural works for flood and erosion risks reduction and neighborhood infrastructure works. Road works including primarily resurfacing of secondary and tertiary roads and pedestrian pathways on existing tracks. Works will also involve rehabilitation of crossroad, health center building rehabilitation, school buildings and courtyards, small markets rehabilitation and education and public spaces, secondary drainage infrastructure, and green drainage (bioswale). Poor road infrastructure and broad presence of non-state armed groups in most parts of the country makes reaching communities a major challenge for development work in the CAR. Moreso, there is the presence of IPs (Ba-Aka) in the remote areas of some prefectures (Nola, Berberati and Bangui) targeted by the project. However, all activities will be implemented only within the cities, away from the IP temporary settlements.

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



*[Description of Borrower’s capacity (i.e., prior performance under the Safeguard Policies or ESF, experience applying E&S policies of IFIs, Environmental and social unit/staff already in place) and willingness to manage risks and impacts and of provisions planned or required to have capabilities in place, along with the needs for enhanced support to the Borrower – Max. character limit 10,000]*

The Government of the CAR has considerable experience managing E&S risks and impacts with WB Projects implemented under the Safeguards Policies. However, there is limited experience implementing projects under the ESF and experience from other Bank financed projects highlight that the capacity to manage E&S risks and impacts still requires considerable improvement in areas of supervision, monitoring and reporting. During the preparation, Bank funded consultants under Hands-On Implementation Support (HEIS) have provided critical technical support to the new Project Implementation Unit (PIU) within the Ministère de l'Urbanisme, de la Réforme Foncière, de la Ville et de l'Habitat (MURFVH). The project also includes a specific capacity building component focused on PIU and Local Coordination Unit (LCU), in various areas, including Environmental and social standards and community engagement methods. The project will ensure that civil servants work closely with the technical consultants hired by the PIU to facilitate on-the-job learning. The MURFVH and LCU will be supported to lead the municipalities performance evaluation and oversight of subproject implementation. The LCU will include key staff for supervision and E&S and M&E purposes.

The PIU in Bangui has recruited one environmental specialist, one social specialist, one security specialist, and one GBV/SEA/SH specialist, and a smaller decentralized PIU offices has been established in Berberati and the process of hiring a social development assistant and an environmental assistant is currently underway. . Municipal authorities and local authorities of the target cities will play a leading role during implementation of investments and in citizen engagement, in close collaboration with the PIU and State services. In addition to the National Steering Committee, a National Technical Committee will be set up in Bangui to oversee the technical aspects, which will include among others, representatives from the Ministry of Environment and Water and forests. The PIU will be equipped with enough resources (manpower, financial, technical assistance, etc.) to manage E&S risks and impacts for multiple subprojects in a challenging contextual environment. Throughout the implementation of the project, the E&S PIU team will receive regular capacity building training in the form of clinics on specific issues.

The implementation agencies, Director General for Environment (DGE) local institutions and contractors are also not familiar with the new ESF and capacity will need to be strengthened. A comprehensive training plan will be prepared and shall be appropriately resourced.

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

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

Substantial

#### A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

*[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating, in accordance with the ES Directive and the Technical Note on Screening and Risk Classification under the ESF – Max. character limit 4,000]*

The environmental risk rating of the project is considered as substantial. Project impacts are expected to be site-specific with well defined mitigation measures. The main environmental risks identified in the environmental assessments include: (i) Solid and liquid construction waste which could result in land and water pollution due to

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inappropriate handling transportation and disposal (soils; organic waste; construction materials, oils and chemicals etc) (ii) temporary nuisance related to air pollution, dust and noise from vehicles, machinery, concrete mixing, and other construction activities; iii) Felling of trees for site clearance which may affect the urban green cover; iv) occupational, health and safety, community safety and traffic risks related to infrastructure works (v) risk of sewage and marine waste discharges during works on culverts, bridges and canals (vi) indiscriminate opening of quarries, access roads or borrowpits could result in soil degradation and erosion. Other significant environmental risks associated with the project are also linked to the technical capacity of the PIU to comply with the ESF and the risk of not taking environmental and social specifications into account during contracting of works and poor management of contractual environmental obligations with the construction companies and suppliers.

## A.2 Social Risk Rating

Substantial

*[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating, in accordance with the ES Directive and the Technical Note on Screening and Risk Classification under the ESF – Max. character limit 4,000]*

The social risk rating is considered as substantial and are associated with small to moderate scale civil works in Bangui and Berberati required for trunk infrastructural works for flood and erosion risks reduction (sub-component 1.1), and Component 2 neighborhood infrastructure works. Involuntary resettlement involving physical and or economic displacement and disruption of community access to homes or social services is likely to result from sub-component 1.1 and component 2 works. In Berberati and Bangui works include primarily road resurfacing, construction on critical spots (culverts, bridges, canal outlet, etc.), drainage and water retention facilities, dredging, and NbS for headward gully erosion stabilization and slope stabilization . Key social risks include: i) Land acquisition risks: Temporary disruption of economic activities, loss of land and assets, and obstruction to access of properties during works; ii) SEA/SH Risks: The activities of component 1 and 2 including capacity building activities also might exacerbate the risks of SEA/SH against women and young girls ; iii)exclusion and marginalization of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups (e.g., on jobs)including women, and internally displaced persons, from participating in the consultation processes related to the selection and features of the infrastructure works in their communities or land use plans that could affect them. They may also be excluded from project benefits such as jobs including LIPW; iv) limited client capacities for effective stakeholder engagement, which is the key element for a successful citizen engagement process and in support of specific activities such as resettlement. The limited client capacity may also be reflected in the Borrower’s ability to monitor the implementation of ESF instruments and address related environmental and social risks; v)Insecurity risks: The project intends to implement certain activities in some communes previously affected by conflicts in Bangui. Also, insecurity looms over the rest of the country as location of non-state armed groups is not always certain, placing both project workers and beneficiary communities at risk; vii) labor influx related to project works will range from small to moderate scale depending on volume of works engaged in a city at a given time. The result would be potential impacts on the already weak health and social infrastructure and impacts community SEA/SH risks and the spread of HIV/AIDS or other communicable diseases. Although social risks and impacts are significant, the overall project’s social risks and impacts are mostly predictable, and reversible, and there are proven mitigations measures that will be used to preclude and manage these risks.

*[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating. This attribute is only for the internal version of the download document and not a part of the disclosable version – Max. character limit 8,000]*

## 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

*[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]*

ESS1 is relevant for the project. The activities funded under the project are expected to have significant Environmental and Social impacts. However, they are straightforward investments for civil works in urban settings, with site-specific impacts and well-established mitigation measures. There are no expected potential impacts on sensitive ecosystems or with irreversible consequences. The main potential environmental risks are related to construction works associated with the development of medium size community and climate resilient infrastructure. These include (i) soil pollution and erosion risks due to construction and sourcing of materials (ii) water pollution from eroded land, spills and leaks of oils/chemical from vehicles and equipment; iii) air pollution and noise due to vehicles, machinery, concrete mixing, and civil works iv) inaccurate siting of drainage and flood-control infrastructure, water supply and sanitation facilities could result in increased flooding and/ pollution; v) occupational health and safety risks of workers vi) community health and safety risks due to works in congested and crowded areas and provision of poor quality services including water supply due to lack of testing; vii) risks of traffic accidents due to movement of heavy machinery and vehicles, trench and repair works and (vii) inadequate storage of construction materials and poor management and disposal of waste, including burning and indiscriminate dumping of dredged materials and other types of waste. All studies, such as urban planning studies and contingency plans, funded under the project during implementation will also be subjected to ESF requirements. Social risks associated with the project activities include temporary disruption of economic activities, obstacles to access properties due to land taking related to the works. The risk of COVID-19 transmission and STD – HIV/Aids during face-to-face training and sensitization activities, community mobilization activities and possible labour influx due to civil works, community and project worker SEA/SH risks, and security risks on project workers and beneficiary communities. There is a risk of the project having negative impacts on vulnerable groups, especially in discrimination for jobs that will be created through works and in labor-intensive public works (LIPW). There are Indigenous People (IPs) present in the remote areas (where the construction will not take place) of prefectures that will be covered by the project. But the project will intervene only in the centers of cities where IPs do not have attachment with the land. Negative impacts on women, and youth and IDPs could occur given that they are highly represented in the cities. The project intends to implement certain activities in some communes affected by conflicts. Project sites might be situated in areas where non-state army groups outside government control may be present. Therefore, the risk of attacks on project workers, assets and beneficiaries must be assessed and evaluated via project security risk assessment and security management plan to determine the level of threats and mitigation measures. Other significant risks which may prevent sound implementation of environmental and social mitigation measures would arise due to poor technical and institutional capacity of the PIU and inadequate attention to inclusion of environmental and social specifications in procurement contracts for goods and supplies, and supervision and monitoring of contractual obligations with the construction companies and suppliers. Since the exact solutions, locations, and physical investments are to be identified based on prefeasibility studies, the project has proceeded with a framework approach. The Environmental and Social Management Framework and a Resettlement Policy Framework and a Stakeholder Engagement have been prepared and will be consulted and disclosed prior to Appraisal. The Environmental and Social Commitment Plan has been developed which includes the requirements and obligations of the Borrower with specified timelines. SEA/SH assessment and SEA/SH action plan, Security Risk Assessment and Security Management Plan and a Labour Management Plan, which will be prepared, consulted and disclosed no later than 2 months after the project effective





date. Site-specific instruments, including Environmental and Social Impact Assessments and Management Plans for 150 sites and Resettlement Action Plans for 2 cities will be prepared for the neighborhood infrastructure works in Bangui and Berberati. Capacity building and institutional strengthening has been supported by Bank funded E&S consultants, hired under the Hands-on Implementation Support program (HEIS). The project also has specific sub-components focused on capacity building in E&S management, flood and erosion management, emergency response etc. Supervision Consultants will need to include E&S expertise during supervision and monitoring of works. Negative impacts on vulnerable groups and women will be addressed through measures identified in the ESMF and also by integrating gender equality and non-discrimination approach into project design and activities. In addition, strategic targeting approaches should be developed through the SEP to ensure that there is no exclusion or marginalization of any vulnerable groups. In the context of all E&S documents, the project will ensure adequate and appropriate consultation with different vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, women and girls, in a safe and secure location in order to ensure that their concerns are noted and subsequently integrated into project design and considerations.

**ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure**

Relevant

*[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]*

ESS10 is relevant to the project. The Borrower has prepared a SEP that has been consulted upon and will be disclosed by the project appraisal. In consultation with the Bank, the Borrower will ensure that SEP activities are proportional to the nature and scale of the project and its associated risks and impacts and will implement and update the SEP throughout the project lifecycle. The project SEP establishes a systematic approach for stakeholder engagement to maintain a constructive relationship with stakeholders, consider their views, and promote and provide means for effective and inclusive engagement with stakeholders and beneficiaries throughout the project life cycle. The Borrower will ensure that appropriate project information is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, and culturally accessible manner, free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, and intimidation. Project stakeholders include sectorial ministries, government and local authorities in beneficiary communities, local and international civil society organisations (CSOs) operating in the project zones, associations involved with community structures, women and youth associations and their leaders, and local associations involved in diverse sectors (forestry, agriculture, livestock, etc). To ensure consistent stakeholder engagement throughout the project life, the Borrower would need to engage in meaningful consultations with all stakeholders while paying attention to the inclusion of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups such as people with disabilities and women heads of households. During the project identification and preparation missions, core preoccupations raised by stakeholders included; the capacity building of personnel of government technical and administrative services, the equipping of these services with office material, as well the consistency of salaries of their personnel to ensure they can provide appropriate support to project implementation; support from the UN peace keeping forces and national military for the elimination of improvised explosive devices in project zones; request for support in addressing destructions from flooding and waste management challenges; support in securing land titles for their lands; the recruitment of locals in project generated jobs and prevention of worker conflicts where locals are dissatisfied with local recruitments; measures to address community health and safety concerns related to future project works; consideration of vulnerable groups throughout the project; measures to address potential GBV (domestic violence, SEA/SH, etc) that could be aggravated by the project. In addition to revising project design to prevent or mitigate stakeholder concerns, ESF instruments will also take into account stakeholder concerns. For instance, SEP, ESMF, and RFP have considered community concerns in risk identification and selected risk management measures. The Borrower will carry out

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consultations continuously as issues, impacts, and opportunities evolve. Project design indicates that project activities will not be implemented in areas with IP presence. Thus, the project will not result in negative impacts on IP land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation; cause relocation of Indigenous Peoples from land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation; or include activities that have significant impacts on Indigenous Peoples that is material to the identity and cultural, ceremonial, or spiritual aspects of the affected Indigenous People's lives. Consequently, Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of IPs will not be required for this project. Throughout the project's life, the project will identify and consult with relevant stakeholders. Project consultations will focus on understanding project-related risks for project communities, including vulnerable groups and health, safety, and security concerns related to the project. Furthermore, the consultations will include disabled groups, disadvantaged groups, and minorities within the project's targeted communities and be carried out in an accessible and appropriate manner, with information provided in accessible formats. The project SEP includes a project-specific Grievance Redress Mechanism (GM), sensitive to SEA/SH, and the ethical treatment and resolution of such complaints that is proportionate to the potential risks and impacts of the project. The GM will also serve as a platform for continuous feedback from project-affected communities, other interested stakeholders, and implementing partners. The GM will be updated by project effectiveness to enhance relevance to project stakeholders.

**ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions**

Relevant

*[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]*

This standard is relevant. The proposed project will involve direct workers, community workers, contracted workers, and primary supply workers. CAR's Labor Law, n°09.004 in its various articles, determines that all workers have the right to healthy conditions and protection equipment, among other measures. ESS2 requires that clear information on the terms and conditions of employment, the principles regarding non-discrimination and equal opportunity, the establishment of workers' organizations, the rules regarding child labor and forced labor, and occupational health and safety measures, be known to the workers and always observed at project intervention sites. In addition, Workers/Labor camps are anticipated. Should the hiring of workers from outside the local area be required, worker accommodation and influx will need to be managed in line with ESS2 (and ESS4). Any labor influx would be limited in time and scale. Expected primary supplier workers could come from construction material supply service providers, etc. Given the risk of occupational health and safety of workers while undertaking civil works related to flood management within urban setting, an Occupational, Health and Safety Plan, in line with Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) will be included in subproject ESMPs. Due to the urban locations of project interventions, there is also risk of community health and safety resulting from movement of heavy vehicles, trench digging and indiscriminate storage of construction materials, poor disposal of waste. These issues have been identified with appropriate mitigation measures and included in the ESMF, including Occupational Health & Safety Plans following Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines (for construction activities). All training sessions and awareness raising activities at the partner and community level will be carried out by project workers and/or contract workers. Communication materials/kits needed by workers/trainers will be provided. All these categories of workers will be exposed to health and safety risks during face-to-face training and sensitization activities. For suppliers and project staff, there will be the risk of road accidents, and exposure to infectious diseases, Sexual Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS. The project will develop Labor Management Procedures (LMP) which will outline the Borrower's responsibilities for enforcing ESS2 requirements, applicable to the entire project. This includes good practices to avoid injury, illness, or impacts associated with exposure to hazards encountered in the workplace as well as discriminatory hiring and

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compensation practices. The LMP will also identify labor requirements, how different categories of workers will be managed in accordance with the requirements of national laws and ESS2, and labor risks associated with the project, and will determine the resources necessary to address labor issues, including risks of SEA/SH for female workers. The OHSP will include specific instruments, such as EHS checklists, Codes of Conduct, and relevant measures to manage SEA/SH risks that will be included in a specific SEA/SH Action Plan, and safety training materials. It will also include: (i) procedures for protection of workers in relation to infection control precautions and ensuring adequate supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) (particularly face masks, gowns, gloves, handwashing soap and sanitizer); (ii) procedures on incident investigation and reporting in line with the World Bank's Environmental and Social Incident Response Toolkit (ESIRT), and; (iii) recording and reporting of non-conformances, emergency preparedness and response procedures and continuous worker training/awareness. The LMP will include a worker grievance mechanism that includes procedures relevant to workers recruited for LIPW and government actors that may sometimes intervene in project activities. The LMP will be prepared, consulted upon and disclosed no later than two months after the project effective date.

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

Relevant

*[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]*

ESS3 is relevant for the project. Civil works, including earthworks and dredging can result in introduction of pollutants such as sediment, construction debris, and chemicals into nearby water bodies. There is also possibility of soil erosion, particularly in areas of poor soil stability. Alterations to drainage systems and waterways can disrupt natural water flow patterns if not designed with consideration to cumulative and longer term outcomes. Removal of trees and vegetation can diminish green spaces and urban biodiversity, while emission of fugitive dust and pollutants from land clearing, construction machinery and vehicles can contribute to air pollution, compromising both air quality and human health. Visual landscape of an area is altered by the construction of new structures or the modification of existing ones, potentially compromising aesthetic values and possible cultural heritage. Indiscriminate handling and disposal of construction debris, solid, liquid and hazardous chemicals can pose environmental, occupational, community health and safety risks. Indiscriminate quarrying for construction purposes can result in environmental degradation, including habitat destruction, loss of biodiversity soil erosion, water pollution, and disruption of natural landscapes. The project will explore opportunities for minimizing waste generation through recycling and reuse, and adopting energy-efficient and climate resilient designs and construction methods. The project will refer to WBG Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines for good practices in construction, dredging, materials extraction and pollution and waste management in addition to national laws and regulations. These and other mitigation measures have been identified in the ESMF, and will be assessed for site-specific requirements in the respective ESMPs. Dredging of culverts and drains can disturb aquatic ecosystems by releasing sediment and pollutants into waterways, and possibly disrupt natural sedimentation patterns. This could potentially impact water quality and/or exacerbate flooding risks downstream. The ESMF requires all dredged sediment and sludge to be treated as hazardous or non-hazardous waste depending on their characteristics. Sub-project specific ESMPs will need to include measures such as sediment control barriers and pollution discharge management and regular monitoring of water quality, while also requiring rigorous OHS protocols and personal protective equipment for workers.

**ESS4 - Community Health and Safety**

Relevant

*[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]*

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ESS4 is relevant for the project. Most of the project funded investments will be undertaken in urban settings and thereby close to communities, resulting in potential health and safety risks for people. These risks include i) disruption of movement, access and inconveniences due to works on the culverts, drains, roads and neighbourhood infrastructure ii) noise pollution from works and machinery; and iii) air and water pollution from land clearing, earthworks and indiscriminate waste management. Given the nature of the project, road safety needs to be addressed throughout design, construction and operation stages. During construction, transportation of materials, use of construction vehicles pose traffic risks to communities/populations. During operation, road safety is expected to improve through the installation of safety devices on roads that pass through populated areas. The ESMF includes appropriate mitigation measures for such community risks and these will be included in the site-specific ESMPs and Contractor- ESMPs. The project might also lead to GBV and SEA/SH risks, and risks of transmission and sexually transmitted and communicable diseases. Accordingly, health and safety measures as reflected in the ESMF. Given the high levels of GBV in CAR, and the nature of the Project activities, particularly under component one and two, the project will need to carefully consider GBV risks, particularly SEA and SH. Communities (Host, IDPs and other vulnerable groups) will also be exposed to risks of SEA and SH associated with the anticipated influx of labor. To mitigate some of those risks, the project is planning to develop a SEA/SH risk assessment and Action Plan. The SEA/SH Risk Assessment of this project will be carried out and will inform a SEA/SH Action Plan detailing specific measures to be implemented as part of the project and prior to contractor deployment into project areas. The SEA/SH risk assessment and Action Plan will be prepared, consulted upon and disclosed no later than two months after the project effective date. Project SEA/SH assessed risks including those attributed to the labor influx will be mitigated through the implementation and monitoring of the SEA/SH Action accountability and response plan including:

a) Accountability and response plan, including:

- Dissemination, training and signing of the code of conduct for project staff and workers on rehabilitation sites, which include at least the following:
  - o Prohibited behavior
  - o List of sanctions
  - o Minimum standards to follow for the PMU
  - o Reporting obligations and complaint collection mechanism specifying roles and responsibilities in handling complaints.
- Establishment of the SEA/SH sensitive complaint management mechanism, which includes at least the following elements:
  - o Specific procedures for dealing with SEA/SH complaints, including timeframe and possible sanctions
  - o Procedures for reporting complaints related to SEA/SH, including avenues accessible to targeted communities (including vulnerable groups/IPs) and project staff
  - o Obligations regarding the guiding principles for the ethical and confidential handling of such complaints
- Coordination with the CAR GBV service map existing multi-sector support to GBV survivors in the geographical areas of the project
- Adoption of SEA/SH case referral SOPs including modalities for the safe and confidential referral of reported cases to the appropriate services.
- Provide a compliance monitoring mechanism planned standards and measures (including a monitoring and evaluation framework for GBV/SEA and SH action plan indicators).

b) Training and awareness plan including :

- Capacity building for project staff regarding SEA/SH risks, including Code of conduct and accessible SEA/SH complaint feedback mechanism
- Training of worker teams and supervisory staff on SEA/SH, including Codes of conduct
- Community consultations conducted throughout project implementation, with women's groups or female beneficiaries in safe and confidential conditions on the potential impact of the project and its activities and the associated risks, including mechanisms for feedback that can be accessed at the community level.
- Sensitization of the communities targeted by the project regarding the risks of SEA/SH, the risk mitigation measures (the Code of Conduct, the GM and the multi-sectoral services for survivors of GBV/SEA and SH). As the project will be implemented in some areas where armed groups continue to operate, with high security risks, the Borrower will prepare and disclose Security risk Assessment (SRA) and security Management Plan (SMP) (executive summaries) no later than two months after the project effective date. Risk. Though the project target urban zones, insecurity remains a major challenge in some preselected areas especially at the eastern part of the country that are under



discussion for project activities (Bambari – Birao). However, the project’s main focus cities are Bangui and Berbarati which are considered more secure by prior World Bank projects. The Borrower will adopt traditional security measures implemented by other Bank projects such as neighborhood watch led by neighborhood chiefs to conduct consultations and data collection such as prior community led monitoring to advise on safety of consultation participants before the start of any consultation activities. In the event of increased security risk levels of project beneficiaries, communities, or project workers during project implementation than assessed in SRA, the social risk rating will be changed to high instead of substantial (the current rating). Issues that could raise the security risk rating include increased activities/incursions of non-state armed groups in project zones, elections (local or national), increased tensions between different ethnic groups and civil unrest due to food and fuel shortages. . The team will follow these developments carefully when developing the security assessment and the security management plan and will flag whether the risk rating needs to be adjusted before the decision meeting. The Borrower will also be required to recruit a security specialist. These requirements (SRA, SMP, recruitment of security specialist) have been included in the ESCP.

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

Relevant

*[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]*

ESS5 is relevant to the Project. This project involves neighborhood infrastructure and basic services such as water supply and sanitation facilities, community roads, public spaces, dikes or elevated structure to create flood-safe areas, and health and education facilities, among others, etc., and climate-risk reduction investments and city-wide basic services which might include urban flood control measures such as dikes/polders, stormwater drainage, including related works for the construction and/or renovation of culverts, bridges, canal outlet, etc.); water retention basins; dredging; erosion control measures such as slope stabilization, including the use of Nature-based Solutions; and infrastructure for river and flow monitoring, such as gauging stations. All of these works may require either the widening of existing building site sections and/or will therefore require land acquisition. The main impacts will be quite extensive and will depend on the nature of the works on built structures in the cities, and encroachment on land in areas of investments. Indeed, some of the land currently used by small-scale farmers, vendors, small businesses and residents, etc., will be converted to road or investment land. The loss of these lands is likely to have a significant negative impact as most of the population depends on small-scale activities as their main source of income. In addition, some activities would involve land acquisition that would lead to the involuntary resettlement, loss or the disruption of income or livelihood activities for individuals or groups of people. However, the location of this expected land acquisition are not known at this time, as the project not yet effective. Therefore, a RPF for the project will be developed, consulted upon, approved and disclosed prior to Appraisal. An environmental and social screening will be conducted whenever the sites and type of investments are known as described in the ESMF, and Resettlement Action Plan (RAPs) will be prepared based on screening results and guideline of the RPF. With project construction activities currently centered in the cities Berbarati and Bangui, Resettlement Action Plans for the cities will be prepared for the neighborhood infrastructure works in Bangui and Berbarati following results of environmental and social screening of identified project sites. While the project has prepared and consulted upon an RPF, and will ensure disclosure by appraisal, RAPs shall be prepared, consulted upon, cleared by the Bank and publicly disclosed (before issuance of Request for Proposal for works contracts, or for any contract that involves works). The RPF prepared by the project indicates the categories of persons that could be potentially affected by the project, alternatives to involuntary resettlement considered by the project, the adopted consultation approach , institutional arrangements, and procedures to be applied for the preparation of RAPs. The RPF also includes provisions to address

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risks related to unavoidable adverse social and economic impacts from land acquisition and/or restrictions on land use by, among other things (i) providing timely compensation for loss of assets at replacement cost and assisting displaced persons in their efforts to improve, or at least restore, their livelihoods and living standards, in real terms, to pre-displacement levels or to levels prevailing before the beginning of project implementation, whichever is higher; and (ii) ensure that resettlement activities are planned and implemented with appropriate disclosure of information, meaningful consultation, and the informed participation of those affected. In addition, the RPF and/or RAPs will also include ESS5 requirements to mitigate potentially adverse downstream implications related to urban development plans and land use, the RPF stipulates that all terms of references, work plans or other documents defining the scope and outputs of urban development plans and land use will be drafted consistent with ESS 1-10 to advise decision making. Given Project preparation timelines, particular attention will be directed to ensuring adequate quality of RAPs, especially in terms of (i) designing Livelihood Restoration Plans, (ii) appropriate measures to support PAPs from vulnerable groups and those with disabilities, and (iii) carrying out a comprehensive census. Project Affected Persons (PAPs) will continue to be engaged throughout RAP processes and particularly during RAP implementation to address any issues that might have been missed in earlier studies. Additional measures may include thorough screening at project preparation, the project proponent’s commitment to monitoring, implementing agreed measures and institutional strengthening measures. All affected properties will be subjected to a transparent valuation process and will be promptly and adequately compensated. A Livelihood Restoration Plan will be developed as part of the RAP, implemented and monitored throughout the project cycle. A dedicated Grievance Redress Mechanism, if required, will be put in place and included in RAP to record and address grievances associated with land acquisition. It should be noted that depending on the nature, location and type of investment to be made there may be restrictions on access to certain areas used by the population. In this case, consultations will be carried out to obtain informed consents and define rules and clauses.

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

Relevant

*[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]*

ESS 6 is relevant to the project. While CAR is rich with natural resources and ecological sensitive ecosystem, given the urban context of the project, project activities are not expected to have significant negative risks and impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity. However, the ESMF provides measures to be taken prior to construction works, and requirements to be included in the ESMPs, in case there is any potential impacts on any sensitive ecosystems.

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

Not Currently Relevant

*[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]*

ESS7 is currently considered not relevant to the Project as there will be no impact to the Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities or their natural resource base within the suggested project interventions. Even if the Indigenous Communities in particular (Aka/ Bayaka) are present in a certain of remote areas (where the construction will not take place) of the prefectures targeted by this project, namely in the Mambere-Kadei (Berberati), Nola and in Bangui, the project will intervene only in the centers of cities where IPs do not have attachment to the land. However, if during the implementation, potential adverse effects on IPs are

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identified, those adverse effects are avoided, minimized, mitigated or compensated. If impacts on IPs are unavoidable, an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) will be prepared in accordance with the requirement of ESS-7 prior project negotiation. IPs' Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), will be required if the project will have a significant impact on the social norms/practices of the indigenous peoples concerned and specially once project specific sites and activities are determined. Practically, IPs' Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) will be required if the project will: (a) have adverse impacts on land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation; (b) cause relocation of IPs from land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation; or (c) have significant impacts on IPs' cultural heritage that is material to the identity and/or cultural, ceremonial, or spiritual aspects of the affected IPs' lives.

**ESS8 - Cultural Heritage**

Relevant

*[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]*

ESS8 is relevant given the development of infrastructure with associated civil work that can potentially impact material cultural heritage assets. Given the urban nature of the project, it can be expected that cultural heritage assets such as mosques, churches, or graveyards along the right of way of the sub-projects could be encountered. Also, cultural remains may be discovered during the excavations, urban civil works and earthworks or from materials quarries. Although such incidental discoveries is assessed as low, the ESMF includes measures to manage such chance finds of cultural or archaeological property, in compliance with the provisions of national regulations on the protection of historical and cultural property.

**ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries**

Not Currently Relevant

*[Explanation - Max. character limit 10,000]*

ESS9 is currently considered not relevant to the Project as it does not involve financial intermediaries

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**B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply**

**OP 7.50 Operations on International Waterways**

Yes

The riparian notification was issued on May 27, 2024 addressed to Cameroon, Gabon, Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo. No comments were received before the cutoff date of June 27, 2024.

**OP 7.60 Operations in Disputed Areas**

No

**B.3 Other Salient Features**

**Use of Borrower Framework**

No

*[Explanation including areas where "Use of Borrower Framework" is being considered - Max. character limit 10,000]*

When conducting Environmental and Social Impact Assessments, the project must comply with the provisions of Law No. 07-018 on the Environmental Code of the Central African Republic, in particular section 7 on "Environmental Impact Assessments" and its implementing regulations.





**Use of Common Approach**

No

*[Explanation including list of possible financing partners – Max. character limit 4,000]*

there are no financing Partners

**B.4 Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts**

*[Description provided will not be disclosed but will flow as a one time flow to the Appraisal Stage PID and PAD – Max. character limit 10,000]*

The main environmental risks are related to construction works associated with the development of medium size community and climate resilient infrastructure in urban areas. These include: (i) occupational health and safety risks of workers; (ii) air, soil and water pollution; (iii) soil erosion and indiscriminate quarrying for source materials; (iv) inadequate measures during transportation, storage, use and disposal of construction materials resulting in poor management of solid, liquid and hazardous wastes; and v) community health and safety risks due to traffic detours, movement of heavy machinery and vehicles and digging of trenches and improper disposal of waste.

Social risks are associated with small-sized civil works of subcomponents 1.3 and 2.2 that will support small scale community and municipality infrastructures and embedded with extensive consultation and community-level decision making built into the design. They might require land acquisition and cause involuntary resettlement and temporary disruption of economic activities, obstacles to access properties due to land taking related to the works. A RPF will be prepared, consulted on and disclosed before appraisal according to ESS5 requirements to mitigate this risk, as the scope of resettlement and land acquisition (community and climate-risk infrastructures) is unknown at this stage, and given the unknown number of persons that will be directly or indirectly impacted physically and economically by the planned works. The activities of component 1 and 2 also might increase and exacerbate the risks of SEA/SH against women and young girls. To mitigate these risks, procedures such as a SEA/SH risk assessment and the development of a SEA/SH Action Plan to support the mitigation of assessed SEA/SH risks will be required and should include a response and accountability and response plan. There is also a risk of lack of access, exclusion and marginalization of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups (e.g., on jobs), particularly in remote areas and areas affected by conflict, and "disadvantaged or vulnerable" peoples, including women, in participating in the consultation processes related to the selection and features of the infrastructure works in their communities or land use plans that could affect them. Strategic targeting approaches should be presented in the SEP to ensure that there is no exclusion or marginalization of any vulnerable groups. There may be limited client capacities for effective stakeholder engagement, which is the key element for a successful citizen engagement process and in support of specific activities such as resettlement.

While the E&S instruments will comprehensively describe potential impacts and mitigation measures, there is also the risk of poor implementation of E&S measures due to poor technical capacity and/or inadequate attention and commitment of the Borrower (PIU, LCUs, municipalities and other implementing agencies). In addition, there is also the risk of E&S specifications not being accurately included in the procurement process, and the poor supervision and monitoring of contractual E&S obligations of the construction companies and suppliers.

Security risks: The project intends to implement certain activities in some communes affected by conflicts. Project sites might be situated in areas where non-state army groups outside government control may be present. Therefore, the risk

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of attacks on project workers, assets and beneficiaries must be assessed and evaluated via project security risk assessment and security management plan to determine the level of threats and mitigation measures.

**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?**

*[Description of expectations in terms of documents to be prepared to assess and manage the project’s environmental and social risks and by when (i.e., prior to Effectiveness, or during implementation), highlighted features of ESA documents, other project documents where environmental and social measures are to be included, and the related due diligence process planned to be carried out by the World Bank, including sources of information for the due diligence - Max. character limit 10,000]*

Documents and actions prepared and completed prior to Appraisal:

1. Preparation, consultation and disclosure of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) including a Grievance Mechanism GM;
2. Preparation and disclosure of Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP).
3. Preparation, consultation and disclosure of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) including templates for Occupational, Health and Safety (OHS); Traffic Management and Emergency response and Waste Management plans and GBV risk assessment;
4. Preparation, consultation and disclosure of the Resettlement Policy Framework (RF).
5. Completion of hiring of one environmental specialist, one social specialist, one security specialist, and one GBV/SEA/SH specialist at the PIU.
6. Completion of hiring of a social development assistant and an environmental assistant in decentralized PIU office in Berberati

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

1. Preparation, consultation and disclosure of site-specific E&S instruments such as ESIA and ESMPs as per ESMF screening and requirement and any site-specific plans such as Occupational, Health and Safety Management, waste management, emergency response, etc
2. Institutional Capacity Enhancement Plan;
3. Labour Management Plan prepared, consulted and disclosed no later than 2 months after the project effective date.
4. Inclusion of Senior Environmental Specialist, Senior Social Specialist, GBV specialist in the Supervision firm
5. SEA/SH assessment and development of a detailed SEA/SH Action Plan based on the SEA/SH risk rating no later than 2 months after the project effective date.
6. Security risk assessment (SRA) and security management plan (SMP) to be developed no later than 2 months after the project effective date.

**III. CONTACT POINT**

**World Bank**

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**V. APPROVAL**

Task Team Leader(s):	Laurent Corroyer, Emilie Sandrine Celine Jourdan
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