Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 11/30/2021 | Report No: ESRSC02431

BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
India	SOUTH ASIA	P177876	
Project Name	West Bengal Accelerated Development of Minor Irrigation Project Phase II		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Water	Investment Project Financing	4/4/2022	6/21/2022
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Republic of India	DWRID, Government of West Bengal		

Proposed Development Objective

The Project development objective is to improve access to water resources and to enhance the management of water in order to augment the production of agricultural commodities in the project area in West Bengal.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	211.00

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 [including overview of Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to CPF]

To achieve the PDO, the project will provide investment project financing of USD 211 million, of which the proposed IBRD credit will contribute USD 148 million and the Borrower counterpart financing of USD 63 million. Overall, the project aims to harness approximately 160 million cubic meters (MCM) of water in 1,000 micro watersheds for minor irrigation activities. The project will also provide financing for existing minor irrigation schemes to support value additions and rehabilitations. In total, the project is expected to improve irrigation for up to 60,000 ha of farmland thus benefitting up to 150,000 farmers.

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The project is expected to consist of four components:

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Component 1 – Strengthening Community Based Institutions (USD 14 m by IBRD): This component will support the development of WUAs and other farmer organizations to strengthen the sustainable management, operation and maintenance of minor irrigation schemes and improved irrigated agricultural practices. This will be achieved by assisting with the formation of WUAs and their strengthening through various training and support activities. The Department of Water Resources Investigations and Development (DWRID) will recruit support organizations to assist with the formation of WUAs and during and after scheme construction, including the preparation, implementation, and monitoring of Scheme Development and Management Plans to spell out the proposed developments and responsibilities in each scheme.

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Component 2 – Minor Irrigation Services (USD 141 m, of which USD 78 m IBRD and USD 63m by Borrower): Investments under this component will improve access to water for agricultural irrigation and related activities to enhance livelihoods of farmers such as fisheries. The focus will be to develop rainwater harvesting (storage) structures in watersheds that are water resource constrained and currently cultivated under rainfed conditions. Investments will be tailored to the five geo-climatological and agro-ecological zones to maximize returns for the farmers:

(a) In Western districts, activities will prioritize micro watersheds (<20 Km2) as a hydrologic unit, based on the land use, cropping pattern and existing water storage capacity. Integrated watershed plans will be prepared for improving water security in those regions and make them nutrient sufficient. A typical watershed shall have plantation in upland and diverse range of water harvesting structures to store the water and hence improve the access to water for various uses. The size of storage structures will vary with the terrain of the watershed, and may range from very small ponds (100 m2) in elevated areas to storage structures as large as 40,000 m2 in low lying areas. These structures would have potential to serve command area of up to 10 ha, with some conjunctively used for fisheries.

(b) In Northern, hilly districts, the project will support spring shed management along with the landscape management and water harvesting structures. The project will prepare integrated spring shed development plan to support the communities with the objective of ensuring improved access to water.

(c) In coastal regions, the project will focus on water detention structures with a storage capacity of less than < 0.1 MCM. These structures will be designed to be used conjunctively for both fisheries and agriculture with potential command areas of up to 200 ha. Additionally, the component will support small ponds for fisheries.

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While project will focus the vast majority of its investments on rainwater harvesting, in highly drought prone western regions the construction of tube wells (with a total yield of below 2 MCM) is expected. Areas considered for borehole investments fall either in the periphery or outside the transboundary aquifer.

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The project will harness renewable energy sources such as solar and/or hydropower systems to facilitate the water distribution in the command area. This will help to reach remote areas, reduce operation costs and the project's carbon footprint. Support to solar based pumping and improved water management interventions will be for both new and old schemes. Water management interventions will include improved conveyance and application systems such as flexible piped water supply, sprinkler and drip irrigation systems.

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Component 3 - Agricultural Support Services (USD 35 m by IBRD): This component will have three sub-components, namely Agriculture, Horticulture, and Fisheries. Activities under this component will build on existing initiatives by the Government of West Bengal (GoWB), which will be scaled up to ensure that the improved availability of water

resulting from the supported irrigation services will lead to enhanced and diversified agricultural production, and thus improved rural livelihoods. This will be achieved through adoption of more efficient production technologies and water management practices and more effective delivery of key support services. The project will finance improvement of production and post-harvest technologies, field demonstrations of modern agricultural technologies and practices, and more effective farm advisory services and market access.

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Component 4 – Project Management (USD 21 million by IBRD): A State Project Management Unit and District Project Management Units will be supported to manage the implementation of all project activities. The State and District units will also (i) lead the project monitoring, evaluation, and learning activities; (ii) contract services of external agencies for specific M&E and impact studies, as needed; (iii) liaise with other agencies and government departments; and (iv) document the project and disseminate lessons to the wider development community.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1. Detailed project location(s) and salient physical characteristics relevant to the E&S assessment [geographic, environmental, social]

The project will be implemented in the state of West Bengal. As per 2011 national census, West Bengal is the fourth-most-populous state in India with a population of 91,347,736 (7.55% of India's population). The state's 2001–2011 decennial population growth rate was 13.93%, lower than the 1991–2001 growth rate of 17.8% and lower than the national rate of 17.64%. The gender ratio is 947 females per 1,000 males. As of 2011, West Bengal had a population density of 1,029 inhabitants per square kilometer making it the second-most densely populated state in India, after Bihar. Nearly 28% of the state's population lives in urban area. The literacy rate is 77.08%, higher than the national rate of 74.04%. Data from 2010 to 2014 showed the life expectancy in the state was 70.2 years, higher than the national value of 67.9. The proportion of people living below the poverty line in 2013 was 19.98%, a decline from 31.8% a decade ago. Scheduled castes and tribes form 28.6% and 5.8% of the population, respectively, in rural areas and 19.9% and 1.5%, respectively, in urban areas .

West Bengal has a total geographical area of 8,875,000 ha of which nearly 61% is net sown area where as 3.30% is currently fallow. Nearly 14% of the state's land is under forest. Less than 1% is under grazing / permanent pastures/tree crops and groves. Culturable wasteland is just 0.37% of the total land area.

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

Department of Water Resources Investigations and Development (DWRID), Government of West Bengal has already implemented WBADMI phase I following Bank's safeguards Operational Policies and has developed capacity to manage environmental and social issues. Similar implementation structure will be followed for phase II as well. However, the ESF is new to the the IA and the capacity of the IA has to be built to meet ESF requirements. Within DWRID, existing State Project Management Unit (SPMU) and District Project Management Units (DPMU) will be responsible for managing the project. The SPMU will be headed by a Secretary in the Government of West Bengal who will take the role of project director. At State level a social specialist and an environmental specialist in the SPMU are in place to ensure conformity with the project's social and environmental mitigation plans. At the district level, the DPMU will be led by District Project Director in the rank of Superintending Engineer of DWRID. The DPD is supported by Social and Environment Specialists who are already in place. The staff members are State and District level have long experience of managing E&S risks. Most of them have been retained after the closure of phase I and will continue to work in phase II of the project. The DWRID will draw on the expertise available in the existing

Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture and Fisheries, supplemented by technical assistance as needed in order to provide comprehensive support to beneficiaries. Possible skills gaps relating to fiduciary aspects, E&S aspects, organizational development, human resources development, farmer mobilization, GIS, remote sensing etc. will be addressed through targeted hiring of specialists. The project will emphasize the recruitment and training of locally recruited staff to build long-term skills and knowledge within DWRID. Human resources development and organization development of the implementing agencies is an important long-term agenda of the project. At the scheme level, the focal point for organization and implementation will be the WUA to which all command area farmers and other eligible users such as fishermen belong to. Each Non-government support organization team has staff with expertise in community mobilization. At the scheme level, the focal point for organization and implementation will be the WUA to which all command area farmers and other eligible users such as fishermen belong to. Each Non-government support organization team has staff with expertise in community mobilization. At the local level, new and existing WUAs will play a critical role in participatory design, planning, implementation monitoring and management of irrigation and related services. Farmer mobilization, WUA institution building, organization development and livelihood facilitation tasks will be outsourced to local non-government service providers. Non-government support organizations, to be recruited by the project as per selection criteria agreed with the Bank, will facilitate community mobilization, participation, and institutional strengthening of the community based institutions. Each SO team, consisting of staff with expertise in community mobilization, technical works, and agriculture, will be assigned a cluster of schemes in a district, and will be responsible for building capacities of WUAs. . In addition, experienced farmers and skilled WUAs will also be deployed to support farmer institution building. The project will leverage private sector partnerships to converge livelihood support at WUA level.

II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC) — Moderate

Environmental Risk Rating — Moderate

The project will focus on (i) minor irrigation infrastructure which are small in size and no significant adverse impact on environment is envisaged at this time . The impacts of construction and operation of minor irrigation structures, including material source, dust, noise, waste, OHS, impacts related to access roads, etc. are expected to be local, moderate and easily mitigatable; (ii) supporting services that enable the adoption of more efficient, productive and climate friendly technologies and practices for agriculture and fisheries. DWRID have experience of implementing phase-I of the project including managing the environmental safeguards. A negative list will be prepared as a part of the environmental and social screening that would facilitate in early identification of high and substantial risk sub-projects and activities that will not be financed under the project . The E&S screening will help in early identification of risks and selection of sub-projects and activities. The project's environmental exclusion and screening processes will ensure that no direct or indirect impact occurs on any individual or community, forest or on any natural habitat, protected or not, such as wetlands, elephant corridors, mangroves, or community forests or on physical cultural resources.

Social Risk Rating — Moderate

The project will focus on (I) creating and strengthening community-based institutions, and specifically water user associations (WUAs), (ii) support capital investments in minor irrigation services, (iii) support agricultural support services. The investments under component 2 will improve access to water for agricultural irrigation and related activities to enhance livelihoods of farmers such as fisheries. The social risk is rated moderate as project (i) does not envisage any private land acquisition, major civil works, significant labor/labor influx or SEA/SH risks; (ii) IA already has experience implementing phase 1 of the project and managing social issues; (iii) the institutional arrangement for social management measures are already in place; and (iv) the E&S screening is part of the technical screening, hence E&S risks are identified early in the project and helps in finalization of the sub project. The sub projects under phase I were all moderate or low risk where land was donated by the landowner and in return WUA would help the landowner with cash, waving (complete or part of) off the water charges, location of spout, or employment as pump operator. There will be adequate provision in the ESMP that any enhancement measure, if feasible, will be undertaken if subprojects are situated within a reasonable distance from local cultural resources valued by the communities. The project in phase I did not encounter the risk of social exclusion. The project essentially aims at mobilizing local communities dependent on agriculture for their livelihood to participate in the development of irrigation systems and subsequently operation and maintenance of the systems. The communities, however, are quite diverse in many ways – social (scheduled castes, others), economic (landless, small, marginal, and large farmers), ethnic (scheduled tribe, others), and occupational (farmers, fishermen, livestock owners). This diversity makes mobilization a challenging task, demanding multi-pronged support/interventions. Taking this into account, the ESA to be conducted as part of project preparation will identify key social development issues/principles which should underpin the project's strategy and implementation such as : (i) participation; (ii) inclusion and equity; (iii) decentralization; and (iv) human and institutional development.

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

B.1. General Assessment

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

ESS 1 is relevant for assessing, managing and monitoring environmental and social risks and impacts associated with the project towards ensuring that the operation is environmentally and socially sustainable. The benefits emanating from the project would be sustainable and efficient use of water resources, improved livelihoods of farmers. Physical investments, largely on minor irrigation structures, would ensure that infrastructure ensures resilient services for agricultural water use, including fisheries. By building adaptive governance systems and capacities, the project will entrust the communities in efficiently managing water resources and to deal with the uncertainties in future, including building climate resilience and adaptation.
Most activities proposed under the project, except for those proposed under Component 2, are likely to be environmentally neutral or may have negligible adverse environmental impacts. The minor irrigation structures to be constructed under Component 2 are expected to be small in size and proposed to have small command area (less than 10 hectare). Thus, the activities under Component 2 have the potential to create adverse environmental and social impacts in the local context.

While selecting different schemes for investments, screening criteria will be developed and used. The structures, whether surface or ground water, would be small in size and capacity, and it is not expected that the impact would be

significant as the state of West Bengal has a high average annual rainfall. For minor surface water irrigation schemes, it will be ensured through hydrological assessments that there is adequate flow in the streams and harvesting does not adversely affect water availability for downstream farmers. For minor ground water irrigation schemes, only those schemes will be financed which do not fall in Over Exploited / Dark category and the ground water quality is within permissible limits for irrigation and not affected by Arsenic or Fluoride.

The potential risks from investments in agriculture, horticulture and fisheries could be: (i) degradation of soil health from overuse of agrochemicals; (ii) health and safety impacts from improper usage and handling of pesticides; (iii) degradation in soil and water quality from nutrient loading due to excessive use of feed; (iv) uncontrolled use of antibiotics and hormones in fisheries. However, the project will not finance banned pesticides and fertilizers. Further the project will implement IPM and INM practices to mitigate the potential risks emanating from these activities.

Potential issues during construction phases may include: (i) occupational health and safety (OHS) risks to the workers; (ii) dust, noise and issues pertaining to transport/movement of vehicles and on-site storage of construction materials; (iii) temporary water quality impacts due to increased turbidity and discharges from work sites affecting water users and possibly aquatic life; (iv) inappropriate storage and/or disposal of debris/construction wastes, including asbestos containing materials; (v) health and safety risks to near-by communities and; (vi) limited impact on trees/vegetation/biodiversity in and around the minor irrigation structures;(vii) ground subsidence and/or landslide risks due to excavation, vibration or other improper work practices.

Potential risks during operation and maintenance may include: (i) impact on flow in the rivers and streams, even if small, as the streams on which these structures would be constructed are seasonal or small in size and flows; (ii) dewatering of aquifers leading to decrease in quantity and deterioration in quality of groundwater (including arsenic mobilization); (iii) inadequate operation and maintenance of minor irrigation infrastructures;

The adverse environmental impacts from the proposed project activities, while limited and localized in context, are likely to stem from poor design (due to inadequate hydrological assessments), improper execution of civil works (specifically increasing OHS risks for workers and threats to community safety/well-being).

Since not all sub-projects would be known during project preparation and that the interventions would be widespread across a large geographical area, an Environment and Social Assessment (ESA) will be carried out by the Department of Water Resources Investigations and Development (DWRID) based on a select/known sample of sub-projects in line with the E&S standards under ESF to identify, assess and plan the management of the environmental and social risks/impacts that are associated or likely to arise on account of project interventions. The assessment will specifically help in: (a) developing comprehensive understanding of potential risks and impacts, (b) identifying and appreciating the details of risks envisaged from project activities, (c) arriving at a set of recommendations/ suggestions to design management/mitigation measures for reducing risks and help strengthen environment performance for targeted project interventions. This over-all project level ESA will involve desk review of relevant documents/studies, site visits, primary data collection as well as extensive consultations with the key stakeholders.

The ESA will identify institutional capacity needs/gaps (including on staffing and skills) required to apply environmental and social standards (ESSs) for the proposed operation. The ESA will be proportionate to the potential

risks and impacts of the project, and will assess, in an integrated way, all relevant direct, indirect and cumulative environmental and social risks and impacts, including those specified in ESSs relevant to the project.

Mitigation hierarchy will be adopted through development of management tools. An Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the project will be prepared by DWRID to address the identified issues and risks. The ESMF will include procedures for undertaking screening of sub-projects and developing site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) and tribal development plan (TDP). The ESMF will also include an exclusion/negative list of activities, a screening checklist, and activity-specific generic ESMPs that can be readily used for low-risk and minor civil works.

The identified risks and impacts will be reflected in relevant ESF instruments to be prepared including ESMF which will consist of an OHS framework and TDF, Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) and standalone Labour Management Procedure (LMP) and Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEP). The Word Bank Groups Environment, Health and Safety Guidelines will be applied while developing ESMF and other ESF instruments. A grievance redress mechanism will also be developed to provide guidance on the reception, recording, handling, and reporting of complaints that may be encountered during project implementation.

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

There is no proposition to use the Borrower's E&S Framework in this program/project. The project will apply the Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and associated Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) in addition to specific requirements of GoI/State Governments related to environment and social aspects.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

This is relevant, as the project has a range of stakeholders that includes both direct and indirect thus it will be pertinent to involve them and seek their inputs both during preparation and implementation of the project. Therefore, the project will prepare the SEP that will include multiple channels of communication and engagement with project stakeholders, including information campaigns, stakeholder meetings, review meetings, web disclosure, and feedback mechanisms throughout the life of the project. This will be done through print, audiovisual, telephone, and a website, as well as periodic surveys and consultations. Grievance Redressal Mechanisms will be established at the project level and will be advertised to elicited grievances from beneficiaries / affected persons, if any. The grievances will be redressed within stipulated timelines. The SEP will guide, the identification of and engagement with stakeholders, particularly in activities proposed under Component 2. The draft ESMF will be consulted with the relevant stakeholders and disclosed. The SEP will be implemented, and monitored by E&S specialist(s) in SPMU.

This project will build upon the GRM of phase I. The WBADMI phase I had three tier Grievance handling mechanism that included (i) scheme level (headed by Executive Committee of WUA); (ii) district level (headed by District Project Director); and (iii) state level (headed by Project Director). The aggrieved person also had the right to approach judiciary if need be. The same mechanism will be followed for phase II as well.

B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts

A brief description of the potential environmental and social risks and impacts relevant to the Project.

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

The project will have small civil works contracts . The project will employ both direct workers (PIU) and contacted workers. The borrower will employ staff to work on the project who will be governed by Government of India's policy The project will also engage consultants for work related to core functions of the project. The individual consultants if hired directly by the project will be governed by the policies of Government of India and in case of any firm, the consultants will be governed by the policy of the firm. The project will ensure that consultants have written terms and conditions of employment and that they have access to a grievance mechanism. The contractor will employ local construction labour given the size of contracts . Project however will prepare a Labour Management Procedure (LMP) proportional to the level of risk on ESS2. The LMP will also include Code of Conduct to be signed by all labourers though hired locally. The Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) issues will be addressed as part of ESMF. The ESMF will have a screening checklist to identify any OHS issue and measures to address such issues. The LMP will have provisions related to ensuring/checking on any allegations/incidents of forced/child labor by potential primary suppliers. Therefore this ESS is considered relevant.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

The principles and requirements laid down in ESS 3 are relevant to the project.

While the project will not finance activities that generate a significant negative impact on natural and physical environment, activities pertaining to development of minor irrigation infrastructure would consider resource efficiency and pollution management aspects during design/Detailed Project Report (DPR) preparation, construction and operational stages. The purpose will be to improve the quality of physical environment, enhance health/safety and reduce the environmental footprint linked to use and operation of these structures.

On improving resource efficiency, the considerations will include: (i) increasing water efficiency for agriculture and aquaculture; (ii) pressurised systems for ensuring ground water resource sustainability; (iii) enhancing energy efficiency; (iv) minimizing green-house gas emissions; (v) encouraging use of biofertilizers and bio-pesticides, and; (vi) post harvest waste management. For pollution prevention and management, focus will be on: (i) debris/ construction waste management; (ii) run-off/silt control at work sites to prevent sedimentation and any possible contamination of water sources; (iii) management of hazardous wastes (such as Asbestos Containing Materials which will be ascertained as part of ESA) and; (iv) storage and management of construction materials to prevent ground/soil contamination.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

Community health and safety is likely to be an important concern in the construction stage when minor irrigation infrastructures are being undertaken, since this may expose the local population to adverse impacts resulting from civil works activities. The ESA will evaluate the risks and impacts of the project on health and safety of the communities during project life cycle, and propose management measures, as far as technically and logistically possible, in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy, universal access (for water supply and irrigation distribution),

natural hazards (geohazards and climate change) and emergency response measures which will be incorporated into the ESCP. Even though it is expected that large labour work force would be locally outsourced, it will also assess the extent to which migrant labour-related issues are likely to be encountered during project implementation. The ESA will assess exposure of communities to construction stage-related traffic/ construction vehicle movement accident risks and other health/safety issues. Since the irrigation structures will be very small in scale, dam safety will not be an issue. Further, all works and operations will be planned, designed and implemented to comply with the World Bank Group's Environment, Health and Safety guidelines. The SEA/SH risk is assessed to be low at this stage. The task team, however, will take into consideration evolving GBV/SEA/SH risks and the scope of the proposed construction works during preparation of ESF instruments.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

The project as of now do not envisage any private land taking. The borewells and surface water schemes will come up either on public land or donated land. Activities under Component 3 such as small processing centers will also be set up on community land or donated land. The ESMF will include a separate RPF that would spell out the screening and requirements for potential resettlement/voluntary land donation. The land required for the surface water schemes will be identified in consultation with the community that will be free of encroachment and other encumbrances. The project however will prepare ESMF to address any adverse impact identified during the implementation stage. The E&S screening which is internalized with technical screening will ensure that land identified will not have any adverse impact on individuals/communities.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Since the minor irrigation structures will be small in size, and not constructed in ecologically sensitive areas, the impacts on biodiversity and habitats, including 'protected areas', 'critical natural habitats', 'modified habitats' and/or 'species with critical biodiversity value' are likely to be negligible. There is a possibility of some impact on aquatic life due to the construction of the structures on streams (which are likely to be small and/or seasonal), which could impact the flow of water, especially during the lean season. However, any potential adverse impacts on biodiversity rich areas/living resources on account of such works will be determined through an environment screening process, which each proposed subproject will be subjected to. The ESMF will include an exclusion/negative list of activities that will eliminate the possibility of such activity being taken up in forest areas, protected areas, eco-sensitive zones or recognized areas of high biodiversity value. Provisions will also be made in the bidding document to ensure that no materials for construction activities are sourced from any critical habitats, protected areas, forest areas, eco-sensitive zones or any recognized areas of high biodiversity for works/activities supported under the Project.

Based on the location of project interventions (which is not known at this stage) and the findings from the ESA (which will be used for the preparation of an ESMF), relevant measures if required, to avoid impact on biodiversity will be taken-up in the project to fulfill requirements laid out in ESS 6. Such measures in the ESMPs will also include precautionary measures to prevent any possible impact on aquatic life (due to discharges from worksites and/or dumping of debris in water bodies).

Further, in case there is any requirement of tree felling for construction works under the project, requisite permission will be obtained from the Forest Department/Competent Authority prior to initiating civil works and provisions for

compensatory plantation in line with regulatory norms will be built into the sub-project Detailed Project Reports/estimates .
The ESS 6, therefore, is relevant to the project.

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

In the ethnographic map of India, West Bengal occupies an important place for it is inhabited by substantial number of tribal communities. The tribal communities, in varying concentrations, are found almost in all the districts of the state. Each tribe has a cultural identity of its own. The distinctiveness of each tribe is manifested in its language, social organization, rituals and festivals, and also in their dress pattern, adornments, and art and craft. Tribes in general live in a close relationship with nature and depend on it for their survival. Following the Indian Constitutional provision (Article 342), in West Bengal as many as 40 groups have been categorized. Of these, 3 are declared as Primitive Tribal Groups. The tribal population in the state stands at 4.5 million. This constitutes 5.5 percent of the total population of the state and 8 percent of the total tribal population of the country. State wide distribution reveals that tribal dominate as many as 10 districts (out of a total of 23). In fact, in 6 districts, tribal population exceeds 10 percent of the total district population. They live predominantly in the rural areas and their social, cultural, economic, political, and historical characteristics induce not only vulnerability, but also often renders them 'excluded' from development interventions. Therefore ESS7 is relevant to the project and the project will prepare Tribal Development Framework as part of the ESMF. TDF will help prepare sub project specific TDP if required.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

Given the size of civil works, any impact on physical cultural property is not envisaged as was the case in phase I

However, given the vast geographical area over which several sub-projects would be located under Component 2, there is a possibility of cultural heritage related concerns coming-up in case of certain sub-projects under the proposed operation. The proposed sub-projects will be screened for potential cultural heritage impacts. Consultations with communities will also be utilized to screen any sensitive issues related to cultural resources. Any such identified cultural heritage impacts and/or chance finds will be dealt with in line with national legal requirements and Bank's requirements set forth under ESS 8 of ESF. The impact of project activities on physical cultural resources will be avoided by finding an alternative site for the infrastructure.

The ESA would, in any event, evaluate any direct or indirect impact of project activities on cultural assets and determine the presence of any other such resources that may not be listed with national or state governments (Archeological Survey of India) but could be of local significance. Depending on the determination of the nature and scale of the risks and possible adverse impacts, mitigation measures or a plan will be prepared as part of the ESMP and will be reflected in the ESCP, as appropriate. Procedures for handling chance finds will be prepared as part of the ESMF and will be included in the ESMPs and the Bidding Documents to handle any such situation that may come-up during project implementation.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

Use of Financial Intermediaries is not envisaged in the project.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways	Yes
OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas	No

III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered? No

Financing Partners

No financing partner have been identified yet.

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

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

A stand-alone ESMF will be prepared with guidance for instruments commensurate with issues identified to be handled in subsequent stages would be prepared. Using this ESMF, instruments for supporting environmental and social management aspects should be prepared and available to match the timelines for implementation.

Actions to be completed prior to Appraisal:
At this stage, it is envisaged that the following E&S instruments will have to be available in acceptable form by appraisal in order to allow for an informed decision:
a) Environmental and Social Management Framework including TDF and OHS framework.
b) Labor Management Procedures including provisions to manage labor influx and SEA/SH issues.
c) Detailed Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be prepared for continuous engagement with stakeholders for preparation and implementation of project.
d) Environmental and Social Commitment Plan

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

The following issues would need to be addressed in the ESCP:
(a) responsibilities for reporting on progress in implementation of the ESF requirements
(b) E&S Screening, ESMP, including any standard specific plans required, , as well as TDP, if needed
(c) Processes and timelines for obtaining of requisite statutory clearances, if not obtained by Appraisal;
(d) the implementation and updating of SEP;
(e) implementation of E&S staffing and capacity building program on ESF; and
(f) provisions for managing unanticipated risks and impacts

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS 03-Mar-2022

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: Republic of India

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: DWRID, Government of West Bengal

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Anju Gaur
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Kevin A Tomlinson Recommended on 22-Nov-2021 at 13:27:23 GMT-05:00
Safeguards Advisor ESSA	Pablo Cardinale (SAESSA) Cleared on 30-Nov-2021 at 12:57:26 GMT-05:00