



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 01/26/2021 | Report No: ESRSC01826



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Bhutan	SOUTH ASIA	P175081	
Project Name	Strengthening Risk Information for Disaster Resilience in Bhutan		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Urban, Resilience and Land	Investment Project Financing		5/17/2021
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
The Kingdom of Bhutan	National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology, Department of Disaster Management, Ministry of Works and Human Settlements		

Proposed Development Objective

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	2.30

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]

D. Environmental and Social Overview



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

This TA project will mainly support drafting and formulating policies, capacity building and developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for integrating risk information into development planning and implementation in targeted sectors. The key activities are: (i) the development of a Multi-Hazard Risk Decision Support System based on a national level multi-hazard risk assessment and its implementation through capacity building, training and advocacy; (ii) strengthening hydromet and climate services delivery through the development and adoption of a National Hydrology and Meteorology Policy and support for the delivery of weather, water and climate services at local levels for agriculture and water users; and (iii) technical capacity building of the construction industry through capacity building and integration of risk information into infrastructure planning and development. Due to the nature of the project, no civil works are expected. Project will provide capacity building training to all relevant stakeholders. During different policy formulation, all relevant stakeholders including policy makers, contractors, construction workers, farmers, IP communities will be consulted. SOPs may be piloted in suitable locations with discussions with the stakeholders.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

Institutional mandates for disaster risk information are devolved across a number of agencies with different specializations. The project seeks to support RGOB in developing a workable institutional and policy framework that builds on existing capacities and aids in promoting cross-sectoral coordination. With this view, the following agencies will be responsible for the implementation of:

- Component A – Department of Disaster Management (DDM) through operationalization of the Disaster Risk Information Technical Working Group (TWG);
- Component B - National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM) through operationalization of the Hydromet and Agromet TWG; and
- Component C – Ministry of Works and Human Settlements (MoWHS)

The implementing agencies (IAs) have implemented several World Bank financed projects under the safeguard policies including the the Hydromet Services and Disaster Resilience Regional Project (P154477) and the performance of the IAs in implementing the safeguard policies are found satisfactory. However, the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) is relatively new to them. Therefore, the relevant staff of all four IAs will need to undergo ESF related capacity building training. This project itself is an opportunity to integrate capacity to address environmental and social risk management in future activities of the IAs. During project preparation, further capacity assessment will be carried out and appropriate institutional arrangement for E&S management including training plan will be discussed and agreed. The Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) will incorporate the requirements of capacity building and training as part of the Borrower’s commitment for the implementation of the project.

The DDM, NCHM and MoWHS will be responsible for the management of respective project components including procurement, safeguards, monitoring and evaluation, disbursement, and timely implementation of activities to meet the PDO. The DDM will be responsible for the overall coordination including financial reporting and auditing. The existing RGOB’s financial management arrangements will be used for the implementation of the project in compliance with the World Bank’s fiduciary requirements. Procurement under the project will be carried out in accordance with the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, July 2016, revised November 2017, August 2018 and November 2020 (“Procurement Regulations”).



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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Low

Environmental Risk Rating

Low

Based on the nature of the project and the context under which this project will be implemented overall environmental risk is expected to be low.

Project will not support any civil works . The project will support drafting National Disaster and Climate Risk Information Policy, and National Hydrology and Meteorology Policy; provide agro-met advisories services for high value crops delivered in targeted districts protecting livelihoods of farmers; enhance technical capacity of professionals and contractors in integrating risk information into infrastructure designs, construction and operation & maintenance; enhance institutional capacity of the Construction Development Authority and the Engineering Council of Bhutan in integrating risk information into the construction sector; and prepare Construction Quality Compliance Mechanism adopted by the Construction Development Authority. The project will also support developing web-based GIS decision support system and mobile application to better understand the disaster and climate risks.

However, this risk classification will be reviewed on a regular basis and be changed (if necessary). Any change to the classification will be disclosed on the Bank’s website.

Social Risk Rating

Low

The main social risks of the project include potential exclusion of intended project beneficiaries such as farmers who are end users of the hydro-met services (policies/app/ whether information’s etc) due to limitations in access to certain technologies and information the project will develop, and labor related risks such as exposure to COVID-19 as the proposed project will support the organization of stakeholder consultations and workshops to formulate the regulatory frameworks/plans as well as training of government officials and practitioners as part of the capacity building, and formulating different plans. To mitigate these risks the project will ensure equal access to the services and information through wide information dissemination and support to accessing services provided by the project to all beneficiaries, end users and stakeholders. These measures will be included with the ESCP as commitments. With regards to COIVD, The implementing agencies will follow the national protocols and safety measures for organizing workshops and trainings. The Bank team will carefully monitor the situation and propose mitigation measures (e.g., virtual training and workshops) in coordination with the government to reduce public health risks.

As the project will support dissemination of agromet advisories for high value crops delivered in targeted districts protecting livelihoods of farmers and obtaining feedback, it will provide an excellent opportunity to engage the farming communities in the project. Alerts and disaster information will be communicated to line agencies, disaster managers and communities in a timely manner so these communities can fully benefit from the services developed through the project.

Based on the scale and nature of the project, capacity of the Borrower, anticipated risks and impacts and the context under which this project will be implemented, the social risk rating has been assessed as Low.

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

Public Disclosure



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:

ESS1 is relevant to the project and that this focuses primarily on establishing capacity and responsibilities for ensuring that requirements as stated under ESS10, ESS7, and ESS2 are implemented. The activities will include mainly formulation of draft plans/policies, providing advisory services to the farmers, enhance capacity building to the implementing agencies, professionals and contractors, and development of construction quality compliance mechanism. The potential E&S risks include exclusion, labor related OHS issues, including likely exposure to COVID-19 pandemic. All necessary measures to mitigate the risks of exclusion of intended project beneficiaries will be taken through broad stakeholder engagement and information disclosure. The IA will prepare an ESCP detailing material measures and actions for assessing and managing relevant E&S risks and impacts.

The project will support capacity building activities of the project and development of SoPs will include environmental and social preparation, and management guidance measures consistent with ESF requirements and existing good international practice related to environmental and social management. It is expected that project will lead to positive impacts on the end users.

All involved with the implementation of the project activities will strictly respect and follow the COVID 19 infection prevention guidelines. Virtual training and capacity building programs with alternative digital learning strategies will be organized. Where physical presence is needed, consultation events and training programs will be organized as per WHO standards, national circulars and evolving international best practices.

Areas where “Use of Borrower Framework” is being considered:

No.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Due to the nature of the project, all people of the country including the tourists are the stakeholders of the project. However, the key stakeholders are Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC), Ministry of Works and Human Settlement, National Environmental Commission, government officials, local disaster managers, local communities, the construction industry professionals, farmers etc. A detailed stakeholders mapping will be conducted during project preparation. In consultation with the Bank, the implementing agencies will prepare, consult upon, and implement an inclusive Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) proportional to the nature and scale of the project and associated risks and impacts. The SEP will include relevant measures for communications with the stakeholders and pay attention to the identification of vulnerable groups, particularly women, persons with disabilities and Indigenous Peoples (IPs), and will facilitate and monitor their participation in the process. The SEP will include a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that will be set up with related communications channels and tools.

The IA’s will maintain a documented record of stakeholder engagement, including a description of the stakeholders consulted and a summary of the feedback received.

Given the COVID-19 situation in the country, if smaller meetings are not permitted, the IAs will make all reasonable efforts to conduct meetings through online channels, such as WebEx, Zoom and Skype. Communications means will



be diversified and social media and online channels, chat groups will be used based on the type and category of stakeholders. Traditional channels of communications (TV, newspaper, radio, dedicated phone-lines, and mail) will also be adopted when stakeholders do not have access to online channels or do not use them frequently. Where direct engagement with project affected people or beneficiaries is necessary, IA will identify channels for direct communication with each affected household via a context specific combination of email messages, mail, online platforms, dedicated phone lines with knowledgeable operators. Each of the proposed channels of engagement will clearly specify how feedback and suggestions can be provided by stakeholders.

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

ESS2 is relevant. Direct workers will include IA staff and workers hired as consultants to deliver trainings , develop/formulate SOPs, draft national disaster and climate risk information policies, organize workshops and seminars etc.

IAs will prepare the project’s Labour Management Procedures (LMP) , including relevant requirements related to terms and conditions of employment, nondiscrimination and equal employment and wages, protecting the workforce, and grievances and appeals processes consistent with the requirements of ESS2 and labor law of RGoB, including occupational health and safety of staff, gender and GBV/SEA/SH issues. The IA will train and motivate the workers as per the Code of Conduct and any incidence of GBV/SEA/SH will be reported. A separate GRM will be provided for addressing the labor related disputes. The labor management procedures will be updated prior to project implementation, if additional labor protections are needed.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

ESS3 is not relevant for project activities.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

ESS4 is not relevant for project activities.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

No Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement is necessary for the implementation of the project.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources



Project activities are not expected to have any direct impacts on biodiversity, habitats and harvesting/production of natural resources.

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

There are few indigenous groups that meet the ESS7 criteria in Buthan with distinct religion, language, and culture. Since this is a national project, IPs are present in the overall project implementation area. It is not expected that any of the activities related to the project will have either direct or indirect negative impacts on IPs. All the activities financed by the project will respect the human rights, dignity, aspirations, identity, culture and livelihoods of IPs. Appropriate indigenous people related aspects will be integrated into project design and stakeholder engagement planning. IA will ensure TORs for consultant hiring for the project will include relevant requirements of the ESS7. During formation of the policies and capacity building training, IP communities and the end IP beneficiaries mainly farmers and construction workers will be engaged in a manner that is accessible, culturally appropriate, and inclusive.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

ESS8 is not relevant in the project.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

ESS9 is not relevant in the project.

B.3 Other Relevant Project Risks

No.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways No

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

N/A

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

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

Public Disclosure



Preparation and disclose of ESCP, SEP and LMP.

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

- 1) ESF training for relevant staffs;
- 2) Implementation of the SEP and update when needed;
- 3) Implementation the LMP;
- 4) Ensuring E&S considerations in the TORs for consultants.

IV. CONTACT POINTS

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: The Kingdom of Bhutan

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology

Implementing Agency: Department of Disaster Management

Implementing Agency: Ministry of Works and Human Settlements

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s): Arati Belle, Naho Shibuya

Practice Manager (ENR/Social) Christophe Crepin Recommended on 26-Jan-2021 at 12:30:55 GMT-05:00

Public Disclosure