

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: ISDSC452

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 01-Feb-2012

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Project ID:	P129182
Project Name:	Lao PDR - Mainstreaming Disaster and Climate Risk Management into Investment Decisions (P129182)		
Task Team Leader:	Sombath Southivong		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	00-undefined-0000	Estimated Board Date:	28-Nov-2011
Managing Unit:	EASTS	Lending Instrument:	Technical Assistance Loan
Sector:	Irrigation and drainage (50%), General transportation sector (50%)		
Theme:	Climate change (100%)		
Financing (In USD Million)			
Financing Source			Amount
Borrower			0.05
Japan Policy and Human Resources Development Fund			2.72
Total			2.77
Environmental Category:	B - Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		

B. Project Objectives

The proposed program aims to strengthen the institutional authority and implementation capacity of the Government of Lao PDR at national and sub-national levels to mainstreaming disaster risk management and climate change adaptation into public infrastructure investments, thereby potentially decreasing the vulnerability of the population and national economy to climate change and natural hazards. The development objectives are expected to be achieved by :

- (i) integrating climate and disaster risk management into strategic national and sectoral planning and development policies;
- (ii) improving the consideration of disaster and climate resilience in the implementation of public infrastructure;
- (iii) enhancing the human and institutional capacity through training at national, provincial, district, and community level in the design and implementation of resilient infrastructure; and
- (iv) implementing strategic structural and non-structural measures to enhance resilience in key growth sectors in two high-risk provinces.

C. Project Description

The project has six components as follows:

Component 1: Risk Assessment

This component will focus on the identification of risks and integration of risk scenarios in the development planning and policies.

Component 2: Mainstreaming Disaster and Climate Risk Management into Investments

This component will provide assistance to Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) , transport, urban planning, and irrigation at all levels to develop guidelines and strategies to mainstream disaster risk management and climate change adaptation into the planning cycle and budgeting processes.

Component 3: Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building

Activities under this component will focus on building capacity of the technical staff members at both central and provincial levels in the areas of undertaking risk assessments, interpretation and application of data, and updating the data through on the job training and workshops.

Component 4: Pilot Sub-Projects in two disaster-prone provinces

The purpose of the pilot would be to demonstrate the disaster-resilient construction practices developed under Component 2 in two disaster-prone provinces. The assessment of damages and losses due to the recent disasters indicates that Vientiane, Xayabouly and Xiengkhoung provinces are candidate provinces, although the final selection of pilot provinces, as well as exact locations and types of investments, will be determined during implementation. It is anticipated that this component will finance small scale civil works under the road and irrigation sectors such as repairing drainage canals or urban drainage system, slope stabilization, elevation of road embankment, rehabilitation of culverts or weak spots on roads, strengthening of irrigation structures in high risk area, and .repairing irrigation channels damaged by the natural disasters (i.e. Typhoon Haima and Nock Ten).

Component 5: Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation of project activities and results indicators will be financed under this component.

Component 6: Project Management

A professional project management team--serving as the secretariat to a steering committee in overseeing the project implementation--will be established with sufficient qualifications and experience.

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

The proposed program aims to strengthen the institutional authority and implementation capacity of the Government of Lao PDR (GoL) at the national and sub-national levels to mainstream disaster risk management and climate change adaptation into public infrastructure investments, thereby potentially decreasing the vulnerability of the population and national economy to climate change and natural hazards. The project will finance some minor civil works under the pilot activities of the Component 4 which will focus on repairing or strengthening existing roads and irrigation schemes damaged by the previous natural disasters (Typhoon Haima and Knock-Ten). It is anticipated that the piloted activities will not result in any major adverse environmental and social impacts. The pilot activities are likely to enhance positive environmental impacts through taking into consideration of climate variability and extreme events into the engineering designs in order to mitigate the disaster and other associated environmental risks such as landslides and poor water quality due to high sedimentation settlement.

E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

The Department of Roads (DoR) under the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) and the Department of Irrigation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) will implement the small scale civil works under the Component 4. MPWT has been implementing the Environmental and Social Operational Manual (ESOM) under the Lao Road Sector Project (LRSP) and has some experience in Bank safeguard policies. MAF have implemented Environmental and Social Safeguard Management Framework (ESMF) for small scale civil works under the KDP Additional Financing. With minor adjustment, the existing safeguard instruments under the KDP Additional Financing will be applicable to ensure that investments financed under the project would be implemented in compliance with Bank's safeguard policies. Under LRSP project, MPWT established two divisions which are in charge of environmental and social safeguards: (i) Technical and Environmental Division (TED) under DoR, and (ii) Environmental and Social Division (ESD) under Public Works and Transport Institute. The on-going LRSP is strengthening their capacity. The capacity of provincial staff of MAF will still have to be developed so they are able to implement environmental safeguard instruments properly.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Satoshi Ishihara (EASTS)

Bunlong Leng (EASTS)

Thalavanh Vongsonephet (EACLF)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	TBD	Explanation
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	X			The component 4 will finance small scale civil works such as slope stabilization and road embankment. Only minimal and temporary environmental impacts are anticipated from such the civil works which will be manageable through the good engineering management techniques such as ECOP. Other components (1, 2, 3, 5 and 6) are related to technical studies and capacity building at national and sub-national levels in order to mainstream disaster risks management and climate change adaptation into public infrastructure investments.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04		X		Civil works under this project will be limited to within the existing road and irrigation alignments. No impacts on Natural Habitats are anticipated.
Forests OP/BP 4.36		X		The Project will not cause any direct or indirect impact on Forests.
Pest Management OP 4.09		X		No pesticides will be financed or used under this project
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11		X		The PCR policy is not applied since the civil works supported under the project will be within the existing alignments and no impact on existing physical and cultural resources is anticipated. However the TT will ensure that a "PCR chance find" clause will be incorporated in the EMF guidelines prepared by the project. .
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	X			The Lao PDR is ethnically heterogeneous country where a large number of ethnic minorities live. The grant may be implemented in areas where ethnic minorities live. Therefore, the Ethnic Group Policy Framework (EGPF) prepared for the existing World Bank's financed projects has been modified with necessary revisions and will be applied. The Ethnic Minority Development Plans will be developed if and where ethnic minorities live in project areas.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	X			Works under this project will be small in scale and will largely be limited within the existing road or irrigation alignments. The pilot activities under this project will not likely cause any physical relocation of villagers and loss of their assets. However, since specific investments will only be identified during implementation, Compensation and Resettlement Policy Framework has been prepared based on the existing frameworks developed under Bank financed projects, in order to ensure all investments supported under the project would be implemented in line with OP 4.12.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37		X		The project will not involve or link to any dam as defined under the policy
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		X		There are no known project components involving international waterways as defined under the policy

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	TBD	Explanation
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		X		None of the project activities will be located within disputed areas as defined under the policy.

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS: 04-Jan-2012

B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing¹ should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS:

The resettlement and Ethnic Group policy frameworks , and ECOP will be prepared and completed by January, 2012.

IV. APPROVALS

<i>Signed and submitted by:</i>		
Task Team Leader:	Name: Sombath Southivong	Date: 26-Jan-2012
<i>Approved By:</i>		
Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Name: John R. Butler (RSA)	Date: 01-Feb-2012
Comments:		
Sector Manager:	Name: Julia M. Fraser (SM)	Date: 30-Jan-2012
Comments:		

¹ Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.