

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: ISDSC8542

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 27-May-2014

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I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Dominican Republic	Project ID:	P147483
Project Name:	Caribbean Regional Communications Infrastructure Prog - Dominican Rep. (P147483)		
Task Team Leader:	Elena Gasol Ramos		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	19-May-2014	Estimated Board Date:	24-Jul-2014
Managing Unit:	TWICT	Lending Instrument:	Investment Project Financing
Sector(s):	Telecommunications (50%), Information technology (50%)		
Theme(s):	Regional integration (10%), Regulation and competition policy (30%), Infrastructure services for private sector development (60%)		
Financing (In USD Million)			
Total Project Cost:	30.00	Total Bank Financing:	30.00
Financing Gap:	0.00		
Financing Source			Amount
Borrower			0.00
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development			30.00
Total			30.00
Environmental Category:	B - Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		

B. Project Objectives

The project development objective (PDO) of the Dominican Republic CARCIP seeks to increase access to regional broadband networks and advance the development of ICT-enabled services in the Caribbean Region.

CARCIP's objective is expected to be achieved through: (a) targeted investments in ICT

infrastructure that fill the gaps at the national and municipal level, preferably in partnership with the private sector; (b) creating an open innovation ecosystem that fosters the development of ICT skills and ICT enabled services; and (c) strengthening institutional capacity/arrangements to ensure effective program implementation and outcomes.

C. Project Description

The program is being implemented in phases, based on country demand and readiness. Phase 1 of CARCIP includes four countries (Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines under sub-Phase APL 1A, joined by the Dominican Republic under sub-Phase SOP 1B), and initiated in FY13. Other eligible CARIFORUM countries may join in subsequent phases, and would be targeted for development in FY13-14. The components for SOP 1B will be as follows:

1. Component 1: Regional Connectivity Infrastructure (\$25 million). This component will support the reduction of connectivity gaps between rural and urban, and poor and developed areas in the Dominican Republic, through the deployment of a National Fiber Optic Network. This network will provide high-speed fiber optic connectivity to several municipalities in the country. The infrastructure will contribute to increase access to more affordable high-speed connectivity in the Dominican Republic. The fiber optic network will reach interconnection points with regional and global backbone networks, as part of CARCIP's regional strategy.

There are two subcomponents: (A) Enabling Environment (US\$1million); and (B) Broadband Backbone Network (US\$24million). Subcomponent 1A will provide technical support to ensure that the legal and regulatory framework is aligned with the project, as well as design the PPP bidding process to leverage the project funds with private sector investment. Subcomponent 1B will roll out the connectivity infrastructure according to the proposal awarded in the competitive bidding process.

2. Component 2: Open Innovation Hub (\$3.5 million). This component will provide targeted support for human capacity and business development, while facilitating the creation of a culture of use and adoption of ICTs throughout the general public. Funds under this component would also contribute to collaboration with the private sector for targeted skills development, building on top of INDOTEL's social programs (e.g. telecenters).

3. Component 3 (\$1.5 million): Implementation Support. This component will provide resources for the establishment and logistic support for a core PCU staff to administer and coordinate the project's implementation and conduct monitoring and evaluation. It will also support oversight arrangements and capacity building for key Policy and Regulatory institutions.

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

The physical components of terrestrial connectivity to be financed under the Program will likely include construction of ducts, poles and deployment of earthed and unearthed cables, to form networks at the national, governmental, and rural levels. The most cost-effective option identified for the land-based National Optical Fiber Backbone Infrastructure is the adaptation of existing capacity, such as in the country's national electricity transmission company, ETED (Empresa de Transmisión Eléctrica Dominicana). Use of the existing land network would also minimize environmental and social impacts by reducing the need for excavation and construction of new cable segments; however, emplacement of new buried cables would still be necessary where the existing infrastructure does not extend. Most of the cables would be located along existing rights-of-way and/or roadways, which again would serve to minimize environmental and social effects. There are existing cables across the island, reaching the western border of the Dominican Republic with Haiti

at several points. Expansion of the system to reach new areas may occur in future phases of the project. Trenching activities will require environmental management for runoff control, traffic safety, dust control, vegetation clearing, laydown areas and access points, and other standard environmental provisions. Additional construction or rehabilitation works may include communications centers or other buildings, landing stations, and towers.

Several existing submarine cables extend from Landing Stations on the north, east, and south coasts, near Puerto Plata, Punta Cana, and Santo Domingo respectively, and reach landing points which are already existing and in operation, therefore any civil works in coastal areas will be excluded. The cost of new submarine cables is considerable, therefore existing cable capacity will be utilized and no new submarine cables will be constructed

Given the nature of the planned investments (new construction and rehabilitation) small-scale land acquisition is anticipated in the project. OP/BP 4.12 (Involuntary Resettlement) is therefore triggered. The exact nature and extent of acquisition is unknown during project preparation since the specific project sites have not yet been determined. A Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will be prepared to guide the implementation of land acquisition during the lifetime of the project. During implementation, land acquisition will be assessed on a sub-project specific basis. When involuntary land acquisition and/or resettlement is confirmed, and specific program areas are known, Land Acquisition and Resettlement Plans will be prepared, according to the guidelines set out by the Involuntary Resettlement Framework, and submitted to the Bank for no objection prior to sub-project financing. Major impacts are not anticipated given that facilities are expected to follow existing rights of way, especially roads; however, irregularities in land titling or rights-of-way may require land acquisition and/or title regularization, particularly along rural roads

The Program is not expected to impact indigenous peoples in any negative way, however, since the actual lay out of the network will come only after the contract to build the infrastructure is determined, it is still to be determined whether OP/BP 4.10 is triggered.

The Program is expected to have positive social impacts by improving access to communications; the development of ICT enabled services, and improved government decentralized service delivery. Particularly, the program is expected to: (i) enable ICT to become a driver for sustainable economic growth; (ii) increase employment opportunities through the development of ICT-based services; (iii) enable the government to use ICT to provide decentralized services; (iv) improved access and quality of ICT services for the population, business, and government; (v) reduce isolation and enhance economic activities in rural areas; and (vi) create additional opportunities for women entrepreneurs to develop ICT-related careers.

E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

A PCU will be established in INDOTEL and will be in charge of the day-to-day management of the project technical and logistical aspects, including the work program and coordinating with the relevant ministries and departments, procurement, financial management and monitoring and evaluation. INDOTEL previously managed a co-financed 7-year telecommunications Project for a total amount of US\$33.3 million, US\$12.3 million financed with Bank proceeds and US\$20.0 provided as counterpart contribution. INDOTEL was awarded a US\$250,000 grant under the Spanish Trust Fund for LAC (SFLAC) for feasibility studies for the broadband backbone network for DR as part of the Preparation of the CARCIP Program.

To ensure the program has a strong local implementation oversight over borrowed resources, and to

ensure adequate coordination with the various groups and initiatives being implemented at the national level, a Project Coordinator will be recruited and located at INDOTEL. The Project Coordinator will be responsible for the effective and flexible coordination, management, and implementation of the project, liaise effectively with selected Dominican Republic focal points, and with all public and private stakeholders involved in the implementation of the project. The capacity of the PCU will be augmented under the project to accommodate the additional environmental and social management and supervision work to be undertaken. During the project preparation process, consideration was given to establishing an Environmental Unit within INDOTEL to manage the permitting and environmental management aspects, but the environmental and social management functions may also be accomplished by an at least part time environmental and social safeguards and additional specialists as needed, depending on the tasks being undertaken by INDOTEL. Environmental specialists at ETED may also support INDOTEL if electric lines are used. Liason with the federal environmental authority (the Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, MIMARENA) will be required to fulfill permitting requirements, to receive and implement additional permit conditions (including a Plan de Manejo y Adecuación Ambiental (PMAA), if required by MIMARENA), and to coordinate field supervision of project works with provincial MIMARENA offices. Coordination with municipal authorities will also be required to ensure local permitting and environmental management concerns are addressed.

Additional support will be provided through periodic supervision by World Bank specialists and by periodic reporting by the Project Coordinator on environmental and social management aspects.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

M. Yaa Pokua Afriyie Oppong (LCSSO)

Michael J. Darr (LCSEN)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/ BP 4.01	Yes	Deployment of terrestrial broadband telecommunications infrastructure will not have significant adverse environmental impacts due to the use of existing cable systems when possible, as well as the small footprint of the cable and its positioning along existing roadways where possible. New sections of cable will require environmental management of trenching activities. Construction or upgrading of towers could create impacts from road improvements and/or associated civil works. The project will connect to existing landing points on shore and will install no submarine cables or landing stations. The project is assigned to environmental category B, and an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) laying out the applicable policies and guidelines will be prepared and disclosed in the Dominican Republic. The

		ESMF will be based on the existing CARCIP regional ESMF but adapted to the context of the Dominican Republic and this project. The ESMF will also contain environmental management plans (EMPs) to identify, mitigate, manage and offset potential environmental impacts from the expected trenching activities and civil works.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	Most project activities are not expected to affect natural habitats, especially those involving cables along existing roadways and rehabilitation of towers and structures. However, since the exact scope of the network will only be decided through the network's bidding process a screening criterion to avoid negative impacts in Natural Habitats and avoid critical natural habitats will be included in the ESMF.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	This policy is not triggered given that project activities will not include forest management and that any impacts are likely to be of small scale due to the small foot print of the cable and its positioning along existing roadways where possible. In addition, Nevertheless, the ESMF will contain screening mechanisms to ensure that any potential small scale impacts on forests be mitigated through measures defined as part of the broader approach on environmental management.
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	Any incidental pesticide use for building maintenance may be managed by including it in the appropriate EMPs. This will include non-chemical measures for pest management and guidelines for proper selection, application, storage, handling, transport and disposal of pesticides.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	Yes	This policy is triggered given that some physical interventions would result in earthworks involving the chance finds of physical cultural resources. The ESMF will include specific screening provisions for evaluating potential impacts on cultural resources and provide specific guidance on the chance finds procedures within the EMP/contracting documents.

Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	TBD	Since the actual lay out of the network will come only after the contract to build the infrastructure is determined, it is still to be determined whether OP/BP 4.10 policy is triggered.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	Small-scale land acquisition is anticipated in the project, therefore OP/BP 4.12 (Involuntary Resettlement) is triggered and a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) has been prepared. Major impacts are not anticipated given that facilities are expected to follow existing rights of way, especially roads; however, irregularities in land titling or rights-of-way may require land acquisition and/or title regularization, particularly along rural roads. When involuntary land acquisition and/or resettlement is confirmed, Resettlement Plans will be prepared, prior to sub-project financing
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	This policy is not triggered as the project will neither support the construction or rehabilitation of dams nor will it support other investments which rely on services of existing dams.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	OP 7.50 is not triggered since the project will not build any submarine cables.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	This policy is not triggered as the project will not work in such areas as defined under the policy.

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS: 22-May-2014

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:

Draft versions of the ESMF and RFP will be prepared and disclosed prior to appraisal. Comments from consultation will be incorporated into the Final version.

IV. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader:	Name: Elena Gasol Ramos	
Approved By:		
Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Name: Glenn S. Morgan (RSA)	Date: 29-May-2014
Sector Manager:	Name: Randeep Sudan (SM)	Date: 29-May-2014

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.