

**INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET (ISDS)
CONCEPT STAGE**

VIETNAM: FCPF REDD+ READINESS GRANT – ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Report No.: 108354

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 07/26/2016

I. BASIC INFORMATION

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) is a global partnership which assists developing countries in their efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, sustainably manage forests and conserve and enhance forest carbon stocks (REDD+). The FCPF has created a framework and processes to help countries get ready for future systems of financial incentives for REDD+. Using this framework, each participating country develops a REDD+ Readiness Proposal (R-PP), the key elements of which include the reference scenarios, adoption of a REDD+ strategy, monitoring systems and setting up of REDD+ national management arrangements, in ways that are inclusive of the key national stakeholders. Vietnam's R-PP was prepared and endorsed by the FCPF in 2010. A subset of the R-PP activities would be financed from the FCPF REDD+ Readiness Grant which was in the amount of USD3.8 million and the proposed Additional Funding (AF) in the amount of USD5.0 million.

Much of Vietnam's forest cover was lost in the last century, declining from an estimated 43% in 1943 to 20% in 1993. More recently Vietnam has made considerable efforts and investment to increase overall forest cover. According to official statistics, the actual forest area in Vietnam has increased to over 14 million ha in 2014 (about 41% of the land area) from 9.2 million ha in 1992. Although an aggregate increase in forest cover is reported, this conceals high levels of deforestation in certain parts of the country, as well as widespread deterioration in forest quality. In terms of what is driving deforestation and forest degradation, this is highlighted in the R-PP as primarily the conversion of forests for agricultural purposes, unsustainable (and sometimes illegal) logging activities, infrastructure development, and man-made forest fires. Root causes include issues such as demographic changes, inequality and poverty, public policies, as well as broader questions of governance and social change and development choices.

The R-PP identified the strategic options for addressing deforestation and forest degradation which include (i) Land use planning and zoning; (ii) Forest use right allocation process; (iii) Forest policy, legislative and administrative reform; (iv) Enforcement of planning and environmental requirements; (v) Promote alternatives to forest conversion and forest degradation; and (vi) Establishment of a transparent and equitable benefit sharing mechanism. Progress is being made in a number of these areas and the FCPF Grant will build on the existing works to especially further examine the drivers, land use planning and land tenure. The Grant will also support the policy review to identify gaps and needed policy reforms relating to State Forest Enterprises. Works on benefit sharing distribution mechanism had been initiated and the AF will enhance the mechanism by supporting the design and testing of a national feedback and grievance redress mechanism (a recourse system) for the REDD+ implementation.

The FCPF Readiness Preparation grant activity (referred to as "Project" in the ISDS) will finance some of this preparatory work; it will not finance any implementation of REDD+ activities on the ground (e.g., investments or pilot projects).

A. Basic Project Data

Country: Vietnam	Project ID : P124584
Project Name: Vietnam – FCPF Readiness Grant	
Task Team Leader: Lan Thi Thu Nguyen	

Estimated Appraisal Date: N/A	Estimated Board Date: N/A	
Managing Unit: GENDR	Lending Instrument: TF Grant	
Sector: Environment		
Theme: Climate Change and Forestry		
FCPF Amount (US\$): 5.0million		
Environmental Category: B		
Simplified Processing	Simple <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Repeater <input type="checkbox"/>
Is this a transferred project	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Work done under the Parent Grant

Under the parent grant of \$3.8 the table below provides information on resource use for implementation of readiness activities.

Table 1. FCPF Grant Components (disbursement and commitments of original grant by March 31, 2016)

Components	Budget (mil. USD)	Cum Disb and Commit by March 2016	% Disbursement and Commitment
Component 1: Analytical studies and development of capacities for the effective and efficient REDD+ implementation at national and provincial level.	876,000	847,000	97%
Component 2: Policies review, studies and development of user-friendly guidance materials on State Forest Company (SFC) reform for REDD+ service provision.	522,000	387,000	74%
Component 3: Stakeholder consultation and regional cooperation; and Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) in connection with the refinement of national and sub-national REDD+ strategy options.	1,249,000	1,111,000	89%
Component 4: Project management, and monitoring and evaluation.	1,024,000	868,000	85%
Contingency	128,000	92,000	72%
TOTAL	3,800,000	3,306,000	87%

Additional Finance for readiness

The activities identified in the project paper will continue to support readiness and build on ongoing readiness activities where gaps in implementation lie. The objectives of the current AF remains the same as those of the parent grant.

B. Project Objectives:

The objective of the proposed World Bank/FCPF REDD+ Readiness engagement in Vietnam is to support Vietnam to become ready for future REDD+ implementation by preparing the key elements, systems and policies needed in a socially and environmentally sound manner.

C. Project Description:

The activities under AF continues the support for REDD+ Readiness work. The additional work includes, communications, institutional strengthening through capacity building at national and provincial levels with the aim of engaging with geographically marginalized and difficult to access communes found in the Emissions Reductions (ER) program area. Furthermore, the AF would continue to focus on capacity support to national and sub-national REDD+ Readiness management arrangements with a special focus on the North Central region where the ER program locates; as well as operationalization of the Measurement, Reporting, Verification (MRV) system;. The new grant will further support activities to improve governance and the development of an enabling environment to allow Vietnam to access potentially significant REDD+ finance in the future. The AF for continued readiness activities is thus a critical component in a much larger program.

The AF allows the GoV to deepen the work performed to date and to allow the support to be expanded to provinces in the ER Program area that have not been supported by the current grant (the current grant supports three provinces, two of which overlap with the six provinces in the ER Program area), in addition to the support provided at the national level and the Central Project Management Unit (CPMU). The components of the new Grant Agreement are broadly aligned with the core activities of the current grant and include sub-components that will help the proposed ER program area through technical capacity building.

The FCPF additional grant will supports the following four components:

Component 1: Analytical studies and development of capacities for the effective and efficient REDD+ implementation at national and provincial level (US\$1,010,520)

This component will (i) support the Provincial REDD+ Action Plans (PRAPs) in the six Emission Reduction Program (ER-P) provinces. The information in the PRAP will be the basis for a comprehensive cost assessment of the different options and guide cost-effective and appropriate strategies to integrate the REDD+ into provincial planning approaches; (ii) provide technical assistance for sustainable forest management of existing natural forests and production forests; and (iii) support to sustainable forest management.

Sub-components:

- Capacity building at national, provincial and local level. This includes support for the Vietnam REDD+ Office (VRO) and National REDD+ Steering Committee (NRSC) at the national level, including: i) distribution and training delivery of the small-holder plantation manual developed under the Vietnam Forest Sector Development project (FSDP); ii) supports on capacity building for the extension of the use of revolving fund of the Vietnam Bank for Social Policies established under the recently concluded FSDP to all six provinces covered under the ER Program, i.e. training on small-holder plantation and technical advice to the Vietnam Bank of Social Policy (VBSP) to extend the revolving fund to Ha Tinh, Quang Binh and Quang Tri provinces, in addition to the existing FSDP provinces of Thanh Hoa, Nghe An and Thua Thien Hue that are already covered under the revolving fund as part of the FSDP¹;
- Establishment and support for provincial REDD+ Steering Committees;
- Follow-up support to facilitate knowledge and responsibilities for the implementation of Provincial REDD+ Action Plans in ER-Provinces with focus on Quang Binh, Thua Thien Hue

¹ For investment in the plantations there is the need for clarity on the reforestation areas to be included in the ER program area in conformity with the FCPF guidelines and methodological framework;

and Quang Tri, after approval and support for updating the NRAP policy and guidelines (based on experience developing PRAPs);

- Stakeholder meetings and workshops for the national REDD+ network, technical working groups (TWG) and sub-working groups (STWGs) to facilitate the design of the ERPD and coordination with ongoing REDD+ pilots in order to help reduce the overlaps among REDD+ projects;
- Improvement of forest reference and baseline data and technical capacity building for forest monitoring (i.e. MRV) at the provincial level (with focus on ER-P area) and PFMS small pilots; and
- Assessment and recommendations to demonstrate the ability to transfer legal title of emission reductions to the Carbon Fund. Provision of support to Recipient for strengthening capacity of negotiation for carbon credit price.

Component 2: Policies and technical support on SFC reform and Protection Forest Management Board and Special Use Forest Management Board for REDD+ service provision; private sector engagement and support for FLEGT (US\$910,000)

The component will continue to support capacity building activities that will promote the SFC reform process. In addition, it includes activities to promote private sector engagement, in particular in the North Central coast; as well as enhanced action on forest governance and Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT).

Sub-components:

- This sub-component will therefore support the SFC and FMB reform process by building the capacity of SFCs and FMBs to be able to better develop processes and policies to promote access to REDD+ and equitization of SFCs in the ER-Program. Capacity building activities would include: i) assessment of the SFCs and FMBs to include recommendations on how to improve their efficiency and effectiveness in delivering services such as the provision of forest extension and future REDD+ services to local households and communities; ii) capacity building on safeguards to SFCs and FMBs to ensure the integration of social and environmental issues in their respective plans and policies; ii) outreach to local communities with the aim of fostering understanding and collaboration between SFCs and local communities.
- Promotion of private sector engagement. This activity is to promote private sector engagement in the capacity building of SFCs and FMBs to prepare their management and business plans for REDD services and future carbon financing opportunities, Provision of technical support for Forest Certification; Capacity building activities on social and environmental safeguards; and

Forest Governance and FLEGT. This sub-component will provide support for further work on forest governance, FLEGT includes inter agency cooperation, workshops in the six ER-P area provinces and regional cooperation including mechanisms for discussion for exchange of intergovernmental information to assist regional cooperation on REDD+ and FLEGT to improve implementation of forest governance and control of timber imports between Vietnam and particularly with Lao PDR, and Cambodia. Provision of support to VNForest for negotiation on FLEGT and timber and timber product tracking.

Component 3: Development of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) national and sub-national REDD+ strategy options; stakeholder consultation and participation (US\$1,234,880)

The additional funding under the new grant will allow the SESA work to be expanded to the national level in the Phase II and further help to ensure broad stakeholder participation in all REDD+ processes, including the refinement and updating of the NRAP. The component supports further multi-stakeholder consultation process, communication activities and engaging with local communities. The SESA Phase II

will integrate social and environmental considerations (including the outcomes and findings from the Phase I of the SESA) into the national policy-making processes, leading to sustainable nation REDD+ strategy options. The SESA Phase II will be complemented by feedback from the regional Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which will guide potential investments in REDD+ activities at national level toward compliance with safeguards policies.

Sub-components:

- SESA and Development of an ESMF. This sub-component will support the completion of the ER-program area SESA and ESMF, once the PRAPs are finalized. The concrete activities to be implemented in the ER program area once they are known will help the consultants to develop the safeguards plans required for the ERDP, such as environment and social management plans, resettlement plans, ethnic minority plans and gender action plans. Further, it will support the analytic studies on land and resource tenure in the ER program area to include: i) the range of land and resource tenure rights (including legal and customary rights of use, access, management, ownership, exclusion, etc.), ii) categories of rights-holders present in the Accounting Area (including Indigenous Peoples and other relevant communities); the legal status of such rights, and any significant ambiguities or gaps in the applicable legal framework, including as pertains to the rights under customary law; iii) areas within the Accounting Area that are subject to significant conflicts or disputes related to contested or competing claims or rights, and if critical to the successful implementation of the ER Program, how such conflicts or disputes have been or are proposed to be addressed; and iv) any potential impacts of the ER Program on existing land and resource tenure in the Accounting Area.
- Multi-stakeholder consultations and participation. This entails workshops and participatory consultation activities at national, regional and local levels and communication at the national and local level in the ER Program Area. Furthermore, this sub-component will facilitate the establishment of civil society organizations and ethnic minority platforms/networks at targeted provinces in the ER Program Area.
- Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism. This sub-component will finance the assessment and finance consulting services to support the strengthening of the Feedback Grievance Redress Mechanisms (FGRM) for REDD+ in the six ER-P provinces and at the national level.

Component 4: Project management and monitoring and evaluation (US\$1,644,600)

This component would facilitate efficient project implementation and the coordination of the various government agencies at central, provincial and district levels as well as undertaking project specific monitoring and ensure effective collaboration and cooperation with other partners such as the UN-REDD II Program and other relevant REDD+ projects to avoid overlap and enhance effectiveness of the support from different development partners. This component supports a general monitoring and evaluation of the FCPF grant and coordinates with the VRO on the NRAP.

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

The grant focuses on providing analytical work and technical assistance to the GoV for the development of technical and institutional capacities to participate in a future international REDD+ mechanism. It does not entail specific projects or investments on the ground.

E. Borrower's Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies:

The institutional arrangements for the implementation of the AF Grant remain the same. The FCPF grant will be managed by the Central Project Management Unit (CPMU) and oversight by Vietnam REDD+ Office (VRO), under the Ministry of Agriculture and rural Development (MARD). REDD+ related safeguard issues were identified and although capacity on safeguards has been improved, there remains

challenge related to somewhat limited capacity in Vietnam and elsewhere to assess and manage potential safeguard issues. MARD has some experience implementing the Bank's safeguard policies through the implementation of the Bank-financed Forest Sector Development Project. However, this is mainly limited to individual staff and consultants, and has not translated into institutional capacity to independently implement issues pertaining to the Bank's safeguard policies.

The FCPF grant supports capacity building efforts to enable the CPMU to finalize the SESA and participatory consultation and participation activities, and to develop the ESMF for future REDD+ investments. The grant also includes activities to build capacity concerning social and environmental safeguards among GoV entities at national and local levels, and other key stakeholders, including the resource base, civil society organizations and SFCs. During the FCPF grant, the CPMU continues to work closely with key members of the REDD+ Network, including civil society organizations, in the implementation of the grant, particularly for the SESA and consultation and participation program, and the development of the ESMF. This includes particularly the REDD+ Network Working Group on Safeguards established in 2011 and civil society organizations (CSOs).

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team:

Haddy J. Sey	Sr. Social Development Specialist	GCCFL
Roxanne Hakim	Sr. Social Development Specialist	GSU02
Son Van Nguyen	Sr. Environmental Specialist	GENDR

II. SAFEGUARDS POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

The following table provides information on Safeguards Policies triggered. As the FCPF REDD+ readiness preparation grant will not fund REDD+ projects or define policies, there are no direct impacts resulting from the grant and the table serves as background to potential future REDD+ investments financed by the World Bank and serves as guidance for the development of the ESMF. However, issues and risks concerning ethnic minorities are recognized and incorporated into the grant activities to ensure that analytical work, consultations, options assessments and recommendations for policy changes and future REDD+ investments recognize and address such issues and risks. This is in compliance with the FCPF Charter and the Board Paper on Safeguard Guidance for Readiness Activities under the FCPF.

Safeguards Policies Triggered:

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01)	X		
<p>Overall, the activities under the FCPF REDD+ Readiness Grant are expected to have significant positive impacts on forests, in that the main goal of the program is to reduce deforestation, while contributing to the well-being of forest-dependent communities who will be consulted during the course of the program, and climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Readiness Preparation national REDD program (RPN REDD Program) itself will not finance harvesting and conversion of forests, so there is no direct adverse impact associated with activities planned as part of the strategic options. The principal risk from RPN REDD Program would arise in the event that the strategies fail to achieve their objectives, thereby creating unexpected indirect adverse impacts on forest, land use, and landowner rights through the unintended creation of incentives to clear forests for other purposes. This could occur, for example, if future REDD payment or PFES schemes failed to provide sufficient monetary incentive to retain areas under forest cover. Similar indirect risks could occur, for example, if lack of land tenure security were to undermine commitment to maintain land under forest cover for long time periods. However, these indirect risks could be assessed as moderate, given the grant support for the effective and efficient REDD+ implementation at national and provincial level, and control measures imbedded in the technical support for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade. The FCPF REDD+Readiness Grant – Additional</p>			

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	TBD
<p>Funding will not involve changes the parent project's objectives, nature of the activities, and locations. Therefore, it is proposed that the project retain Environment Category B.</p> <p>The assessments and plans generated by the Readiness Preparation Activities and Emission Reduction Program Document (ERPD) will be informed by policy requirements of the relevant safeguard policies. The potential social and environmental impacts of the REDD+ national Strategy as well as ER program level activities are being assessed in detail through the Phase I SESA. The ER related activities such as capacity building and TA support to SFCs, FMBs, Provincial Action Plans, the revolving fund etc., are expected to have largely positive environmental and social impacts. Capacity building of SFCs and FMBs, who manage much of Vietnam's forest, will be an important effort to reduce deforestation and particularly forest degradation. The grant will not provide revolving fund, but help capacity building in effective use of the fund established under the Forest Sector Development Project (FSDP). FSDP provided opportunity for more than 43,000 households in the Central Vietnam for access to microfinance and technical support to establish over 76,500 hectares of forest, and this has brought strong social, environmental and economic benefits to local communities as assessed by the FSDP Implementation Completion Report.</p> <p>The original grant supported work on a national SESA, which was significantly delayed, as a result a two phased SESA approach was proposed. Phase I will focus on the ER program area, where the analytical aspects of SESA is being implemented, leading to the development of the regional Environmental and Social Framework (ESMF) for the ER-P area. The additional funding under the new grant will allow the SESA work to be expanded to the national level in the Phase II and further help to ensure broad stakeholder participation in all REDD+ processes, including the refinement and updating of the National REDD+ Action Program (NRAP). The component supports further multi-stakeholder consultation process, communication activities and engaging with local communities. The SESA Phase II will integrate social and environmental considerations (including the outcomes and findings from the Phase I of the SESA) into the national policy-making processes, leading to sustainable nation REDD+ strategy options. The SESA Phase II will be complemented by feedback from the regional ESMF, which will guide potential investments in REDD+ activities at national level toward compliance with safeguards policies.</p> <p>The SESA combines analytic and participatory approaches to integrate environmental and social consideration into the formulation of the REDD+ strategy and develop a framework, the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). The ESMF is (i) identifying the environmental and social risks and impacts of the country's national REDD+ strategy and programs, (ii) developing provisions to mitigate and manage such risks and impacts in compliance with national legislation and World Bank safeguards, and (iii) establishing the REDD+ Strategy E&S safeguard management provisions of future projects, policies and activities. The ESMF prepared for the ER program should be the instrument to address safeguard issues for the TA and capacity building activities supported.</p> <p>Component 3 will support the development and establishment of a comprehensive monitoring system for non-carbon impacts of REDD+, including safeguards as well as co-benefits. Activities will review existing monitoring institutions regarding safeguards and then build a robust safeguards information system.</p> <p><i>Phase I SESA and ESMF</i></p> <p>The original Readiness grant supported work on Phase I SESA and ESMF. However, the significant delay due to contracting difficulties prevents timely delivery of the SESA and ESMF. At this moment only a very preliminary zero draft of the SESA is available, and its main findings are not at the level of quality that can be included in the ISDS, a publicly disclosed document. The ISDS will be updated accordingly upon available of the final findings of the Phase I SESA.</p>			

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	TBD
<p><i>Public consultation</i></p> <p>REDD+ activities are based on the requirements of free, prior, and informed consultation; therefore it is essential that this be implemented as a priority. Public consultation is seen as an important input to the final design of the ER program, the FCPF, in conjunction with District and Provincial authorities, has selected a number of communes and the concerns of the local communities including ethnic minorities at village and commune level will be taken into consideration through further participatory meetings, small focus groups and further documented. To take account of the wider six province program, additional consultations and meetings will be held in upland Districts of TT Hue, Thanh Hoa, Ha Tinh and Nghe An.</p> <p>CSO NGOs participated at the national level through the Vietnam REDD Office (VRO), and through membership of various sub technical working groups (STWG) particularly the safeguards, REDD+ local implementation STWGs. The Safeguards and REDD+ Local Implementation STWGs meet periodically. In those meetings, the CSOs, Indigenous People are encouraged to participate and share the lesson learnt and contribute to the REDD+ readiness process.</p> <p>During the SESA process specific consultation and participation events in the six provinces were held with the vulnerable groups and forest-dependent communities (especially ethnic minorities) to ensure that they receive culturally appropriate benefits from future REDD+ activities, while ensuring that the NRAP does not adversely affect these communities. In addition, consultations were also conducted with the local authorities, line ministries, CSOs, and NGOs.</p>			
Natural Habitats (OP/BP 4.04)	X		
<p>The Readiness Preparation national REDD+ Strategy as well as activities proposed in the ER program area are expected to have significant positive environmental impacts to natural habitats due to a reduction in forest loss. This policy is triggered given that the NRAP will likely work both within existing protected areas as well as other forest habitats of varying significance. If the REDD program is successful, the impacts on critical forest habitats are expected to be positive, nevertheless SESA evaluates the possible risks associated with strategic options on forest habitats within protected areas as well as other sensitive forest habitats. The ESMF includes provisions to assess possible impacts prior to any actions being undertaken on the ground. Critical issues related to natural habitats and potential impacts from the activities financed under the FCPF will be assessed during SESA implementation and under the ESMF, which also involve the consultation mechanism with relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>This policy helps ensure that the REDD+ Strategy and intervention in the ER program area take into account biodiversity conservation as well as the conservation of critical natural habitats. During the implementation phase, monitoring activities will be established to ensure that critical natural habitats are not adversely affected.</p>			
Forests (OP/BP 4.36)	X		
<p>The Readiness Preparation National REDD+ Strategy as well as activities proposed in the ER program will not finance harvesting or conversion of forests and are expected to have significant positive impacts on the health and quality of forests as the overall objective is to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. This policy is triggered due to the potential changes in the management, protection, or utilization of natural forests or plantations that could arise from REDD+ and activities may indirectly affect the rights and welfare of people and their level of dependence upon or interaction with forests.</p> <p>The NRAP itself built largely on the experience of the PFES program for which should be evaluated in order to ensure lessons are incorporated early in the design and key social and environmental risks and potential impacts associated with REDD are considered in the ESMF.</p>			

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	TBD
Pest Management (OP 4.09)	X		
This policy is triggered as the Readiness Preparation REDD+ Strategy as well as activities proposed in the ER program might indirectly lead to agricultural intensification on degraded lands, and/or reforestation and forest management programs that require pest management. The REDD+ Strategy and SESA addresses critical issues related to pest management. The ESMF includes pest management procedures and guidance, as appropriate.			
Physical Cultural Resources (OP/BP 4.11)	X		
This policy is triggered as the Readiness REDD+ Strategy as well as activities proposed in the ER program could indirectly affect areas containing sites with physical cultural resources (e.g. monuments, historical buildings, archaeological or paleontological sites, holy sites, etc.). The SESA (and ESMF) assesses if ground implementation of REDD+ strategy as well as ER program activities is likely to include these sites and ensure the appropriate measures are adopted in order to protect them, including guidance on development and implementation of a Physical Cultural Management Plan.			
Indigenous Peoples (OP/BP 4.10)	X		
The Readiness Preparation national REDD+ strategy as well as activities proposed in the ER program are likely to benefit Indigenous People and occur predominately on the customary lands of Indigenous People. The application of this policy will ensure that consultations regarding REDD+ Strategy Options as well as activities proposed in the ER program are culturally appropriate and inclusive, and provides evidence of broad community support for REDD+ activities on their lands. The nature and extent of impacts on Indigenous Peoples are determined through a social assessment (SA) as part of the SESA. The ESMF is containing an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF). Given that Indigenous Peoples form the overwhelming majority of people in the project area, guidance for incorporating the elements of an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) into plans for specific areas will be included in the IPPF and incorporated into overall project design.			
Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12)	X		
With the activities proposed in the ER program are under development, potential impacts, including the type and extent of potential land acquisition, economic or physical displacement or access restrictions to resources, remains unknown. This policy is triggered to ensure landowners, and land users and forest dependent communities and/or individuals are properly consulted and not coerced or forced to accept or commit to REDD+ activities or other forest management/reforestation activities involuntarily, and that best practice approaches as informed by OP 4.12 are adopted. The SESA is identifying and assessing the potential for any involuntary land acquisition issues or restriction of access to natural resources to occur, and management processes will be embedded into the ESMF. The ESMF will include, as required, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and/or Process Framework, all of which are part of the SESA, in order to ensure avoidance, minimization, and/or appropriate compensation for adversely affected persons or populations in downstream implementation. The sub-component under Component 3 of the Readiness Preparation Grant will fund assessment of existing grievance mechanisms at the national and decentralized levels, assess the capacity of institutions and customary mechanisms that would handle grievances, and support their strengthening specifically for REDD+.			
Safety of Dams (OP/BP 4.37)		X	
The REDD+ strategies and activities will not involve the construction of new dams, nor will they be affected by any existing dams.			

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	TBD
Projects on International Waterways (OP/BP 7.50)		X	
The REDD+ strategies and activities will not affect any international waterways.			
Projects in Disputed Areas (OP/BP 7.60)		X	
The REDD+ strategies and activities will not be located in any disputed areas.			

III. SAFEGUARDS PREPARATION PLAN

A. Target date for review meeting of REDD Country's mid-term progress report, at which time the ISDS may be updated as needed: 04/30/2018

B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing² should be specified in the initial ISDS and/or updated ISDS:

The main safeguard instrument to be applied is the SESA. The SESA includes as part of the SESA process the preparation of an ESMF for the ER program area as well as a national ESMF. The ESMF(s) especially for the national one may evolve and be updated over time when the NRAP is revised and new REDD + strategy options and projects or activities (including investments), or policies/regulations are identified during implementation of REDD+.

The SESA process requires that the selection of REDD+ strategy options should take into account the country's institutional and capacity constraints for managing environmental and social risks, and the potential environmental and social impacts associated with these strategy options. Any identified gaps to manage these risks and potential impacts in relation to relevant World Bank's safeguard policies should be identified along with the strategy options to feed into the preparation of the ESMF. The ESMF should provide a framework to manage and mitigate the potential environmental and social impacts related to specific projects and activities (including investments and carbon finance transactions), in the context of the future implementation of REDD+.

The ESMF will be structured to contain subject-specific frameworks addressing the relevant requirements of the applicable environmental and social safeguard policies including, but not necessarily limited to, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF); Process Framework (PF); and Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF).

There are no requirements for completing safeguard related studies prior to Bank approval of the REDD+ Readiness grant. The SESA and the development of the ESMF will be considered as part of the first steps of the grant implementation after signature of the legal agreement.

The Phase I SESA and ESMF are expected to be finalized by end December 2016. The Phase II SESA and ESMF will be completed by April 30, 2018.

² 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.

IV. APPROVALS

<i>Signed and submitted by:</i>		
Task Team Leader:	Name: Lan Thi Thu Nguyen	
<i>Approved by:</i>		
Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Name: Peter Leonard	<i>Just July</i>
Comments:		<i>7/28/16</i>
Practice Manager:	Name: Iain Shuker	
Comments:		