

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: AC3923

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 05/04/2011

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country: Argentina	Project ID: P106685
Project Name: Socio-Economic Inclusion In Rural Areas	
Task Team Leader: Renato Nardello	
Estimated Appraisal Date: April 5, 2011	Estimated Board Date: July 12, 2011
Managing Unit: LCSAR	Lending Instrument: Specific Investment Loan
Sector: General agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (100%)	
Theme: Rural services and infrastructure (30%);Rural markets (25%);Indigenous peoples (25%);Rural non-farm income generation (15%);Other rural development (5%)	
IBRD Amount (US\$m.):	52.50
IDA Amount (US\$m.):	0.00
GEF Amount (US\$m.):	0.00
PCF Amount (US\$m.):	0.00
Other financing amounts by source:	
Borrower	39.50
Local Communities	7.50
	47.00

B. Project Objectives [from section 2 of PCN]

The project development objective is to raise incomes and improve livelihoods among the rural poor of Argentina.

The project would contribute to the Government of Argentina's overall strategy for approach to helping this traditionally "invisible" population to participate more fully in the national economy and the wealth that it generates. More specifically, the project would:

Assist rural producers (both agricultural and non-agricultural) to improve their well being and to raise productivity, improve the quality of their products, market their products successfully and diversity their production;

Provide direct support to indigenous and other poor people to assist them in acquiring technology, gaining access to information, gaining access to natural resources, protecting and asserting their legal rights;

Strengthen rural organizations and assist them to develop their capacity for joint decision making, formulating and presenting demands, and working together to achieve common goals;

C. Project Description [from section 3 of PCN]

The proposed project would comprise three components. Component 1 would finance Institutional strengthening for the newly created Rural Development and Family Agriculture Subsection (SDRyAF) and for Provincial Administrative Units focused on family agriculture and rural development. Component 2 would directly support development activities among Indigenous Communities and other vulnerable rural groups across Argentina. Component 3 would support project administration including monitoring and evaluation (M&E) and project communications.

Component 1: Institutional Strengthening (estimated total US\$ 12 million)

This component would aim to strengthen the capacity of public institutions involved in promoting rural development. It would include three sets of activities as follows:

Subcomponent 1.1: Strengthening the capacity of the newly created Rural Development and Family Agriculture Subsection (SDRyAF). SDRyAF was established within the SAGPyA in October 2008 and the first Subsecretary was appointed shortly thereafter. The Subsection has responsibility for various existing Programs including PSA, PRODERNIA, PROINDER and PRODERNOA. SDRyAF will need to establish a management structure, select and build a management team, establish procedures, effective mechanisms for internal and external communication, especially with its current and prospective clients.

The component would support consultancies for development of management policies and procedures, workshops and other meetings and training sessions for its own staff and community leaders. It would also support acquisition of equipment for data processing, communication and mobility.

Subcomponent 1.2: Strengthening the capacity provincial governments to tackle problems of rural poverty. This subcomponent would provide support for workshops, training, and extensive consultation with current and future beneficiaries to build a consistent and effective strategy for tackling rural poverty problems. Specifically, this subcomponent would finance learning events, travel, participatory planning events, equipment, vehicles and other goods and services needed to firmly establish an institutional base in each Province with a substantial rural poor population. This subcomponent would also promote exchange of knowledge about best practice in various regions of the country and abroad. Training and technical assistance would also be provided to indigenous and other rural leaders and to NGOs involved in service provision to the target population of this project.

Subcomponent 1.3 Establish a Family Agriculture Observatory.

This subcomponent would support the collection and compiling of available data on rural poverty in Argentina. It would also support the design and implementation of instruments for the

collection of data among rural populations, using GPS and geo-referencing technology to the extent feasible.

Component 2: Participatory Subprojects in support of Indigenous People and other rural poor populations (estimated total US\$ 50 million)

This component would support the design and implementation of participatory subprojects at the community level. Subprojects would be developed by communities themselves based on the formation of village groups, groups of neighbors. Development agents would work with communities to identify their needs and demands and help them to formulate viable and sustainable subproject proposals.

Subprojects could be used to acquire equipment and other inputs aimed at increasing productivity both for subsistence (e.g. family vegetable gardens) and for commercial production. Subprojects could also provide assistance at the community and inter-community levels for quality control, bulking, storage and marketing of rural products. Subprojects could also be supported for training in specific skills demanded in rural areas such as tractor repair and maintenance, food processing, handicraft production and marketing, organic agriculture, livestock production, floriculture, tourism enterprises, beekeeping, fruit tree grafting, silkworm production and others. Subproject support could be provided for community infrastructure such as small-scale potable water systems, waste management systems, school houses, health posts, sports facilities, etc. Subprojects could also support basic education and training such as literacy training, basic accounting, training in professional and agricultural skills and other â portableâ benefits. Support would also be available for assistance to communities to assure their access to and control over natural resources (particularly land, water and forests) through technical and legal assistance. The different categories of support and the eligibility requirements for such support will be developed during project preparation.

This component would also serve as a source funding for small subprojects to improve quality of life such as housing improvements, develop small-scale piped water systems, develop and improved sanitary systems, Subprojects would also support the acquisition and management of appropriate technologies such as solar collectors, communications for isolated households, promotion and preparation for agro- and ecotourism,

Component 3: Project Management (estimated total US\$ 8 million)

Subcomponent 1.1 Project Management. This component would support organizational, administrative and consultative functions related to the project including: financial management and procurement. Project administration in general covers coordination and administration of all project functions including relations within the SDRyAF and other relevant agencies, supervision of staff, compliance with pertinent criteria and guidelines, overall financial control and serving as spokesperson for the project.

D. Project location (if known)

The project would be implemented in all regions and provinces in the country with the possible exception of a few southern provinces where the number and dispersion of rural poor may make

it difficult to justify setting up the project. Possible sites for project implementation are rural farmsteads, rural villages and hamlets, small transport hubs, agricultural processing facilities, areas with a high concentration of landless rural workers, season agricultural work sites, industrial sites, etc.

E. Borrower's Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies [from PCN]

The project would respond to a wide range of subproject proposals from a widespread and highly diverse rural population. The type of subprojects, their extent and numbers will only be known after implementation begins. Therefore, the safeguard issues to be considered will be outlined in an Environmental and Social Assessment Framework (ESAF) and the outlines of a management plan will be outlined in an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), both of which will be prepared by the borrower.

Environmental Issues:

The relatively small grants to be made by this project will not individually have the potential to provoke major environmental impacts. However, the cumulative impact of numerous small projects with similar impacts (e.g. many small dams in the same watershed) may be significant.

Based on this, an ESMF will be prepared that will outline procedures to be followed for each possible type of intervention. The first step in this process would be screening of subproject proposals for potential social and environmental impacts. A negative list will be prepared for subproject types that cannot receive project financing. Subproject proposals with the potential for adverse social or environmental impacts will be reviewed by pertinent specialists (staff or consultants) who will suggest modifications to the subproject design as needed to adequately mitigate such impacts.

Each subproject found to require mitigation would be placed on a "watch list" for environmental monitoring to assure that the recommended measures are taken. Project supervision would routinely include review of designed mitigation measures and response to any unforeseen environmental or social issue.

Social Issues

Subprojects will be developed, designed and implemented with the full participation of the proponent group. Based on its long experience with small farmers, the Subsecretariat for Rural Development and Family Agriculture (SRDFA) will apply its established methodology for identifying social groups and preparing viable proposals together with them. This methodology would be modified to incorporate groups such as farm laborers, seasonal workers, and others.

Borrower's Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

SRDFA will incorporate the same team that has implemented small farmer assistance projects since 1993, including the PROINDER Small Farmer Assistance Project partly financed by the World Bank. This team has developed the capacity to screen subprojects for potential social and

environmental impacts and to assist beneficiaries to design environmentally and social sound subprojects.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists

Mr Daniel R. Gross (LCSDE)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	TBD
Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01)	X		
<p>Based on the assessment of potential impacts, a Category B designation is proposed for the project. Despite the positive or neutral impacts foreseen, some small-scale investments could potentially have adverse environmental impacts. This includes small-scale agriculture projects, small-scale irrigation, small-scale forestry projects, non-timber forest products, ecotourism and rural tourism activities, local water supply, construction projects involving building or upgrading of homes, schools, agricultural processing centers, etc., boring of wells, electrification, etc. The types of subprojects, their extent and numbers will only be known after implementation begins. Therefore, the safeguard issues to be considered will be outlined in an Environmental and Social Assessment Framework (ESAF) and the outlines of a management plan will be outlined in an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), both of which will be prepared by the borrower.</p> <p>Approval by the Bank of the ESAF and ESMF would be a condition for appraisal.</p>			
Natural Habitats (OP/BP 4.04)	X		
<p>The proposed project would support sustainable agriculture and other rural activities. It would promote better and more efficient use of better land and water resources in rural landscapes. It would also promote the protection of remnant natural vegetation within rural landscapes. Project activities would not be supported in protected areas and would not significantly modify or degrade natural habitats. The ESM and Operational Manual will include clear guidance regarding direct and indirect impacts on natural habitats.</p>			
Forests (OP/BP 4.36)	X		
<p>No commercial forest management activities would be supported under the proposed project. Small scale subprojects could support community woodlots, non-timber forest products, and possibly community management of forest resources. Tree farming on a small scale could be proposed, provided the provisions of OP4.36 are observed.</p>			
Pest Management (OP 4.09)			X
<p>Subprojects that might entail the use of pesticides or other chemical products would be subject to the Bank's Pest Management Policy (OP 4.09). The project would not support subprojects that propose to use products in WHO classes IA and IB and any other proposed or probable pesticide would be approved only in the context of an Integrated Pest Management Plan with appropriate precautions taken with regard to training, protective gear, storage and disposal of receptacles, etc. The Borrower will prepare and disseminate a manual for distribution to possible subproject proponents that incorporates these principles.</p>			
Physical Cultural Resources (OP/BP 4.11)		X	
N/A			
Indigenous Peoples (OP/BP 4.10)	X		
<p>The project will definitely support subprojects benefiting indigenous people in Argentina. The ESMF will include a detailed section on appropriate measures to ensure that indigenous</p>			

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	TBD
people can participate fully in project benefits and specific requirements regarding consultation and respect for indigenous social and cultural norms consistent with OP/BP 4.10.			
Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12)	X		
The Borrower has indicated that subprojects likely to cause involuntary resettlement would be included on a negative list.			
Safety of Dams (OP/BP 4.37)		X	
N/A			
Projects on International Waterways (OP/BP 7.50)		X	
N/A			
Projects in Disputed Areas (OP/BP 7.60)		X	
N/A			

Environmental Category: B - Partial Assessment

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

- A. Target date for the Quality Enhancement Review (QER), at which time the PAD-stage ISDS would be prepared: 03/02/2009
- B. For projects that will not require a QER, the target date for preparing the PAD-stage ISDS: N/A
- C. 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.
April, 2009

IV. APPROVALS

<i>Signed and submitted by:</i>		
Task Team Leader:	Ms Dorte Verner	02/12/2009
<i>Approved by:</i>		
Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Mr Reidar Kvam	12/10/2008
Comments:		
Sector Manager:	Ms Ethel Sennhauser	05/29/2009
Comments: ISDS resubmitted on 05/03/2011 because date of approval by SM was not indicated at the time of submission to Infoshop. (RN 05/03/2011)		

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.

