



# Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

## Appraisal Stage

### **(ESRS Appraisal Stage)**

Date Prepared/Updated: 09/21/2023 | Report No: ESRSA02971



# The World Bank

Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West and Central Africa - Series of Projects Two (HISWACA - SOP 2) (P180085)

## I. BASIC INFORMATION

### A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Western and Central Africa	WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	P180085	
Project Name	Harmonizing And Improving Statistics In West And Central Africa - Series Of Projects Two (hiswaca - Sop 2)		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Poverty and Equity	Investment Project Financing	6/12/2023	9/28/2023
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Decision Review Date	Total Project Cost
Central African Republic, The Republic of Cameroon, The Republic of Congo, Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC), The Gabonese Republic, The Republic of Chad	Institut National de la Statistique (INS)   Rep. of Cameroon, Institut Centrafricain des Statistiques et des Etudes Economiques et Sociales (ICASEES)   CAR, Institut National de la Statistique, des Études Économiques et Démographiques (INSEED)   Rep. of Chad, Comm. National des Travaux d'Intérêt Public pour la Prom. de l'Entrep. et de l'Emploi (CN-TIPPEE), Ministère du Plan, de la statistique et de l'Intégration Régionale   Rep. of Congo	5/30/2023	290,000,000

### Proposed Development Objective

The Project Development Objective is to improve country statistical performance, regional harmonization, data access and use, and to enhance modernization of the statistical system in participating countries.



**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 Activities**

The key aspects of the PDO are the improvements of (a) the statistical performance of the National Statistical Systems (NSS) (b) data access and use (c) harmonization of statistics and (d) the modernization process of the NSSs and regional statistical systems. The focus area of the statistical performance component of the NSSs relates to their ability to generate data based on international standards, on time, and their wide availability and use.

The harmonization component of the PDO involves the harmonization of statistical methodologies, key data collection instruments, and tools in line with international standards and Western and Central Africa (AFW) realities, to produce comparable, accurate, and up-to-date statistics to inform both national development and regional integration agendas. This will enhance statistical cooperation in the region to produce comparable and quality statistics, meaning National Statistical Offices (NSOs) (a) are provided with common regional guidelines and tools and (b) have trained staff with adequate skills to implement them. Another requirement to produce these harmonized statistics is the availability of financial resources at country levels to undertake statistical activities needed to implement the regional guidelines provided. The data access and use components focus on making statistical products and reports widely available, and tailored to users' needs. The modernization component aims at building a stable and sustainable statistical system with adequate institutions and using innovative solutions and alternative data sources required for the production of quality statistics, along with modern equipment and buildings. One of the challenges is to ensure the representation of all groups, particularly forest people and pastoralists.

The activities for this project are grouped into four components:

Component 1: Harmonization and Production of Core Statistics using International Data Quality Standards: This component will support both the statistical harmonization process and the production of quality core statistics. First, it aims to support the statistical harmonization process at the continental and regional levels. The statistics harmonization encompasses procedures used predominantly in official statistics that aim at achieving, or at least improving, the comparability of different data produced. It principally aims to achieve standardized measurement processes and methods used to compile the statistics, especially through standardization of definitions, classifications, tools, and technical requirements. In this regard, this component will support statistical coordination between NSSs, ex-post harmonization, and the production of harmonized tools (definitions, classifications, methodologies, etc.) at the continental and sub-regional levels. Second, this component will support the production of quality core statistics based on population census and an integrated household surveys program using the previously harmonized tools, to meet the increasing demand for social, demographic, and economic data needed for the design and implementation of policies at national, regional, and continental levels. Activities under this component will improve Pillars 4 (data sources) and 5 (data infrastructure) of the Statistical Performance Index (SPI) where participating countries in the region are doing poorly in terms of statistical performance. Harmonization will help in the adoption of international



standards and the production of a core set of economic, social, and demographic statistics will make data available to meet users' demand for statistics. Activities implemented through this component will also be instrumental in ensuring the performance of the NSSs regarding the availability of indicators needed to monitor most of the SDGs (Pillar 3 of the SPI).

**Component 2: Statistical Modernization, Institutional Reform, Human Capital, Data Accessibility and Use:** The second component aims to support statistical modernization; institutional reforms; improvement to data access, dissemination, and use; and human resources development. In today's fast-changing world, NSOs need to transform and modernize to respond better to emerging and increasing demand for timely and accurate data, to meet the 21st-century development data requirements and challenges. NSOs must consider how to move to the next stages in the data revolution, including becoming more resilient, user-centric, and providing data in new ways, and using new methods to complement traditional statistics. Big Data has shown the potential to be used to complement official statistics in many areas to enable NSOs to be more resilient in executing their mandate of providing users with the necessary information. To harness this potential, NSOs must modernize their methods and their organization to keep pace with possibilities, especially in using advanced technologies and developing new, cost-effective methods to integrate data from a variety of sources. In this context, this component aims to support NSOs of participating countries to prepare themselves in moving toward what the 2021 World Development Report (WDR) called an Integrated National Data System. In addition, this component will support efforts to improve data access, dissemination, and use. Furthermore, it will invest in human capital, academic training in statistics, and on-the-job training of staff to help address the shortage of statisticians with expertise and skills in specialized areas faced by countries in both regions, such as in national accounts, agricultural statistics, household surveys, trade statistics, financial statistics, and price statistics. Finally, it supports one of the key principles of institutional reforms in the form of technical assistance (TA) to participating countries seeking to update their Statistics Act or regulations to include provisions for sustainable funding of statistical activities and to finance TA to improve data protection frameworks applicable to statistical activities in participating countries.

**Component 3: Construction, Upgrading, and Modernization of Physical Infrastructure:** The NSOs in the participating countries are the leading official statistical agencies within the NSS in data production, which means that the government will play a critical role to enable value creation in the data produced. They are a key factor in the productivity of any NSS institution and its performance. For example, power shortages and low internet bandwidth can severely limit productivity. Similarly, data statistical software for analysis and/or data science—such as Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), Stata, and so on—which are basic data manipulation tools (the process of organizing information to make it readable and understandable) and allow data sharing and accessibility of statistical production. In many countries, these tools are not readily available, and some staff use their own private resources for official business. This component aims to strengthen the capacity of NSOs and statistical schools with the equipment and tools needed to adequately fulfill their mandates. Under this component, the project will support the construction of a new building or rehabilitation of physical and ICT infrastructure for NSOs and schools of statistics. The needs assessment will be conducted country-by-country with the NSO. In Cameroon (Yaoundé), ISSEA will rehabilitate its existing buildings and will extend them to include a new IT lab and media center, the NSO will also conduct architectural studies for future regional statistics agencies in the country, and plans to renovate the existing Census Building (Bureau Central des Recensements et des Etudes de Population [BUCREP]) building; Central African Republic (Bangui) the NSO plans to construct a new building for its offices in its existing premises; in Chad (N'Djamena) the construction of a new building complex for the NSO headquarters and for the newly formed statistics



school will take place on a new site. All the above-mentioned construction and/or rehabilitation activities also include furnishing as part of the modernization activity.

Component 4: Project management, monitoring, and evaluation. This includes the cost of staff of the PIU and costs related to project monitoring and coordination (steering committee), operating costs, external auditing costs, and other expenses needed.

#### Relationship to Country Partnership Framework (CPF)

The project's support for statistical capacity building in developing countries is in line with the twin goals of the World Bank. The performance of statistical systems in participating countries is not yet sufficient to effectively support evidence-based development plans. The limited availability of high-quality statistics in Africa is one of the main obstacles to better monitoring poverty reduction strategies, economic progress, and development outcomes. Moreover, the production of harmonized statistics and their alignment with international standards and classifications is a prerequisite for producing the high-quality data necessary for evidence-based policymaking. This is a fundamental goal of the World Bank to help build statistical capacity in developing countries.

The project contributes to two key strategies recently launched in the Africa region. First, the project will support the World Bank Group's updated Regional Integration and Cooperation Assistance Strategy (RICAS 2021-2023) through data production and analytics. This strategy aims to help strengthen regional integration in Africa, reinforce its support for the continent's recovery from the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and realize its economic transformation. Second, the project will support the recently launched 2021-2025 regional strategy which aims at addressing the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing climate change, by producing data and analysis that contribute to enhancing trust between citizens and the state to create a new social contract, removing the bottlenecks that prevent businesses from creating more and better jobs, strengthening human capital and empowering women, and building climate resilience.

This project is also in line with the respective World Bank country strategies. In all participating countries, CPFs and Systematic Country Diagnostics (SCDs) have identified weaknesses in statistics as a barrier to effective monitoring of strategies of development and SDGs. The project will address quality data production and dissemination on a regular basis in each participating country and will also focus on specific issues highlighted in CPFs, Performance Learning Reviews (PLR), and SCDs.

## **D. Environmental and Social Overview**

### **D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings**

HISWACA-SOP2 includes three Central African countries: Chad, Cameroon, Central African Republic (CAR), and one sub-regional entity, Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC). In HISWACA-SOP1, which was recently Board approved includes three regional partners: Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); the African Union's Statistical Institute (AU-STATAFRIC); the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU); and seven countries in West Africa (Benin, The Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal).



All three beneficiary countries, Central African Republic, the Republic of Cameroon and the Republic of Chad are contiguous countries of Central Africa. They constitute three of the six members of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa CEMAC (CEMAC countries which are not part of the project are Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and the Republic of Congo (RoC)). Central Africa has a diversity of climates which can be grouped into three main climatic zones : humid, dry sub-humid and arid. The wetland, with Congolese and Guinean shades, covers southern Cameroon and CAR. The average annual rainfall there is around 1,500 mm. The climate is hot and humid, with temperatures ranging between 22°C and 30°C. The dry subhumid zone, with Sudanian and Sahelian shades, covers northern Cameroon, southern Chad, central and northern CAR. The average annual rainfall is between 400 mm and 1500 mm. The climate is relatively mild in the high-altitude areas of the Great Lakes region and the mountainous regions. The arid zone, with semi-arid and hyper-arid shades, covers northern Chad. The average annual rainfall is less than 200 mm. Moving away from the equator, the tropical climate becomes drier, and temperatures can reach 45°C in the Lake Chad area. The census activity under HISWACA project will also covered climate change data.

Forests play a major role in the economies of Central African countries involved in the project, and in the livelihoods of local populations, including Indigenous peoples such as the Baka who are dependent on forests for their livelihoods and culture. On average, the forestry sector is estimated to contribute 5-13% to the GDP of these countries (FAO, 2002). Up to 50% of export earnings for CAR come from timber products (FAO, 2002). The export of medicinal plants represents a substantial contribution of foreign currencies to Cameroon, with annual receipts of the order of 2.9 million US dollars (FAO, 2002). These forest include several protected areas spread over the different countries mentioned. During the last tree decades, the Central Africa sub-region has recorded hydro-meteorological events including floods, droughts, tropical cyclones and strong winds, storm surges, extreme temperatures, forest fires, sand and dust storms, and landslides (DARA <https://daraint.org/>). Desertification, climatic and disaster hazards are projected to worsen, and risk undermining sub-regional food production through land degradation and declines in oceanic productivity, with negative repercussions for food security, human health and employment. For example, food supplies and prices are especially vulnerable to climate change in the region because of a lack of resilience to climatic events, food import dependence, and excessive government intervention. Most people live in rural agricultural and fishing communities without adequate protective infrastructure from adverse weather events. Census activities under the project will consider particularities of such different ecosystems.

In addition, the security situation in the participating Central African countries (CAR, Cameroon and Chad) is fluid and includes large movements of people and social tensions among some ethnic groups, internally displaced persons (IDPs), migrants, and refugees. Security incidents have increased across the region which may make census/survey enumeration challenging and unsafe for project workers, enumerators and respondents. There are various actors operating in the project area, including extremist groups, non-state armed groups, military forces, police, private security forces and UN peacekeepers. In Cameroon, terrorist attacks by Boko Haram in the Far North, the secessionist insurgency in anglophone regions, and the recent resurgence of inter-ethnic violence between Arab Shuwa and the Mousgoum communities have led to the internal displacement of more than 500,000 people and numerous deaths. If the security of personal data is not well managed in this project, the socially fragile context in the participating countries can exacerbate conflict risks and community and individual safety of vulnerable groups in the project area such as IDPs, refugees, ethnic minorities, sexual and gender minorities, HIV-AIDs affected persons, unwed pregnant girls/women, and, persons with disabilities.



As the project is national in scope for each of the participating countries, nomadic and semi-nomadic hunter-gatherer communities who would be considered as Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (IP/SSAHUTLCs) are present in the project area in CAR and Cameroon. They mostly live in rural areas, although some may live partly in towns/villages and partly in forests and the savannah. In both countries, they are represented by traditional, local, national, and sub-regional representational networks and organizations and will need to be consulted throughout the project lifecycle to ensure the project addresses possible risks and impacts IPs/SSAHUTLCs may face, which may include inter-ethnic conflict, breaches of data privacy that can result in personal and/or community safety risks that may exacerbate existing vulnerabilities, exclusion risks due to their seasonal activities, inaccessibility of project information (due to lack of electricity, access to information technology, and roads), among others.

## **D.2 Overview of Borrower's Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts**

The institutional capacity for all countries and regional institution to implement the program under the ESF is varied but overall considered weak given the expanded scope of the ESF. None of the PIUs/RIU that will be involved in this project has any previous experience implementing a project under the ESF. All, except CEMAC, have experience with the World Bank safeguards and operational policies. At the regional level, the CEMAC will coordinate some activities under component 1 and 2 related to census activities and reform. At national level, the responsibility for environmental and social risk management and compliance will remain with the project implementation unit, for designated activities under the four project components. Each implementation agency will require capacity building to adequately manage the various census activities which require harmonization of data across the various countries. Capacity building activities have been included for the RIU in the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP). These have been identified during preparation along with a timeline and budget and are proportional to the risk level and scale of the project financed activities.

At country level, National Statistic Offices (NSOs) will be the main implementing agencies (or Project Implementing Units - PIUs) of the project in each country. They will be responsible for the technical, fiduciary and environmental and social risk management, coordination, and results monitoring. Each PIU will have a core staff that includes a project management team that will coordinate project activities, manage reporting and auditing activities, and ensure compliance with fiduciary policies and procedures. A review of their technical staffing was carried out during preparation and recommendations regarding how to ensure they have adequate technical support for project implementation and capacity building on the ESF, monitoring and reporting has been organized for all PIUs in the participating countries and reflected in the ESCPs and ESMFs.

At the regional level, CEMAC will recruit one environmental specialist and one social specialist. A security consultant on a as needed basis. To increase its capacity to address GBV risks in its regional activities, the CEMAC PIU will hire a GBV consultant. At the national level, each PIU will recruit one environmental and one social specialist to support managing project environmental and social impacts and risks. GBV risk assessments per participating country have been conducted during preparation, and GBV specialists will be hired for countries with substantial risk level (CAR, Cameroon, and Chad) to implement the SEA/SH prevention and response action plans. For CAR, Cameroon and Chad, security consultants will be recruited by the PIU. CEMAC will have security consultants on a 'as needed' basis. CAR





will hire a consultant to support activities related to Indigenous peoples activities and in Cameroon the social specialist will have experience on indigenous peoples. In Chad, a social specialist who has experience with working with traditional pastoralist communities will be hired. These staffing arrangements are reflected in each of the ESCPs.

## II. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

### A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Moderate

#### A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Moderate

The project environmental risk rating is maintained as Moderate at Appraisal stage. Key environmental concerns are related to the implementation of activities under Component 3 (Support physical and statistical modernization). Under this component the project will support the modernization of NSOs buildings and statistical schools by building or upgrading office complexes with modern facilities and providing needed office furniture and equipment for the entire statistical cycle from production through dissemination: in CAR (Bangui), Chad (N'Djamena), and Cameroon (four different regions outside of Yaoundé). Although potential risks and impacts might differ for each country as per scope of activities that will be undertaken, typical environmental risks and impacts during construction and/or rehabilitation activities include but not limited to noise and vibration, soil erosion, dust and air quality deterioration, solid waste (including asbestos, construction debris, and e-waste), hazardous materials and waste, land contamination, occupational health and safety (including injury and accidents during construction and installation of furniture and equipment), and community health and safety. Main sources of impacts during operations and maintenance are: labor management, national censuses and surveys, which entail risks of traffic-related accidents; and injuries to workers and local communities due to discarding old equipment; improper disposal of electronic waste and others; management of other wastes and wastewater from NSO buildings. Mitigation measures to minimize/eliminate such E&S risks during construction/rehabilitation activities should be identified in C-ESMP to be prepared for each site during implementation. Moreover, the design of the facilities and schools shall be in line with requirements of an international Life and Fire Safety (L&FS) standard, as well as universal access. Under Component 3, statistical infrastructure involves technological infrastructure and software needs (e.g., internet connectivity, computers, statistical software and packages, data archiving, storage, and retrieval facility) in most of the countries. Data archiving and storage might require substantial amount of electricity use and cooling. Such facilities should be designed in a way that energy efficiency and GHG reduction measures should be in place, and ozone depleting substances (ODS) are not used for cooling. Special attention should also be given to Life and Fire Safety of these buildings/units. The potential adverse risks and impacts on human populations and/or the environment are not likely to be significant; they are predictable and expected to be temporary and/or reversible, low in magnitude, and site-specific, without likelihood of impacts beyond the actual footprint of the project.

#### A.2 Social Risk Rating

Moderate

The social risk rating remains as Moderate at Appraisal stage. Key social concerns relate to: (i) ensuring that any statistical guidelines and frameworks established under the project include considerations of digital data protection and security both within the country and the region, including requisite ethical and data security protocols for the collection of physical specimens (sampling populations for HIV surveillance for example); (ii) there is adequate stakeholder engagement at the regional and national level with all stakeholders, including civil society and vulnerable groups (IDPs, refugees, returnees, persons with disabilities, women, the elderly) in a manner that is culturally





appropriate, accessible and transparent and sufficiently explains the benefits and impacts of the activities; (iii) any technical assistance that will take place in areas in which Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (IP/SSAHUTLCs) are present in, or have collective attachment to, the project area will be required to take into account their specific needs and interests and be conducted in a way that reflects their cultural and social norms and exclusion risks; (iv) some construction related impacts such as limited labor influx and social disruption due to construction and traffic and nuisances such as noise and dust; (vi) some SEA/SH risks during implementation depending on the scale and scope of the construction and census/surveys; and (v) security/fragility risks for activities that will be implemented in FCV contexts such as CAR and Chad; and risks to vulnerable groups such as pregnant women/girls, persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities in conflict prone areas internally displaced persons, refugees, returnees, sexual and gender minorities, and IP/SSAHUTLCs may be placed at risk (including exclusion from school, subject to prosecution under the law, conflict and violence, stigmatization due to cultural norms or exclusion from benefits) if data is collected or shared inappropriately. Moreover, IP/SSAHUTLCs and other communities practicing traditional livelihoods such as transhumance pastoralism (including those who may move cross-borders) may also be at risk from exclusion from the project in the census/survey activities due to seasonal migration and movement as a result of their seasonal livelihood activities, lack of access to electricity and information technology, low literacy rates, and census questions which may not recognize their identities, livelihoods, lands, among others.

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

### **B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards**

#### **ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts**

Relevant

The potential E&S risks identified above have been further assessed during project preparation and actively mitigated throughout the project's lifecycle. The project is likely to generate low to moderate direct and indirect environmental and social risks for project workers and surrounding communities. During project implementation before start of any work each PIU will prepare a Construction ESMP (C-ESMP) and other plans such as Waste Management Plan (including hazardous and e-waste), Traffic Management Plan, Security Management Plan (SMP), occupational health and safety plan (OHS Plan) or Construction Health and Safety Plan (CHS plan), L&FS plan, Emergency Response, Plan, etc.), that includes operation and decommission phases.

In terms of direct social risks associated with the project, the PIUs/RIUs will need to ensure that data collected is maintained only for the intended use in line with good international, regional and ethical guidelines and standards for statistical practice and that confidentiality/data protection. These risks are addressed through the design of the project to ensure they are fully incorporated into the project (i.e. data collection practices, cybersecurity and privacy protocols and good practices), combined with ESF capacity training to identify, manage and monitor such risks.

As agreed at the Concept review, an umbrella- ESMF has been prepared, to cover all SOP2 countries and CEMAC, to address potential risks and impacts, and establish screening methodologies to guide the preparation of eventual country-specific ESF instruments, including mitigation measures. The U-ESMF will be finalized before Effective Date, and once cleared, will be disclosed on both clients' and Bank websites. Requirements for pollution management (ESS3) (including GHG estimation), and Community Health and Safety (ESS4), including security risks, have been further



assessed during project preparation and will be included in country-specific documents to be prepared as recommended by the approved U-ESMF. SEA/SH risk mitigation measures will be tailored according to risk level of each country and the RIU. Risk levels determined in the SEA/SH risk assessments have been included in the U-ESMF to guide the preparation of country-specific ESMPs. The U-ESMF also includes guidance regarding the reporting of emergency incidents, an exclusive list of ineligible activities, and incorporates required measures and assessments to mitigate risks and ensure project benefits to ensure Indigenous peoples as per ESS7.

As part of the Financial Agreement, the RIU and each PIU have also prepared an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) with the support of the Bank. The ESCPs include a timeline and a commitment to prepare and disclose any additional instruments as required. Capacity building and assessment activities have been included in the ESCPs of the RIU and national PIUs.

### **ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions**

Relevant

This standard is relevant. The project includes financing for direct and contracted workers including those hired for capacity building and technical assistance, enumerators for censuses and surveys, and workers for construction and rehabilitation activities. Some of the key labor risks associated with project activities include safety and security of workers especially insecure/fragile areas, sexual harassment of workers and members of local communities, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), communicable disease exposure, road safety, and others.

Direct workers include full and part time workers assigned to the RIUs and PIUs and consultants hired based on project needs, such as RIU/PIU staff, contracted workers, and civil servants who are subject to the employment terms in their contracts. An umbrella Labor Management Procedures Framework (U-LMPF) has been prepared for the project and disclosed prior to Appraisal and will be applicable to the entire Project. It contains sections relating to the labor laws of each of the countries/regional entity where the project will be implemented. It also includes principles for each Borrower to adopt a grievance mechanism (GM) for all categories of project workers and outline roles and responsibilities of contractors and PIUs in managing the requirements of ESS2, non-discrimination and equal opportunity, occupational, health and safety measures, prohibition of child and forced labor, a Code of Conduct (CoC), incorporation of the relevant labor requirements in the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with third parties, among others. The U-LMPF requires that each project worker, including enumerators, are provided with SEA/SH training to guide their conduct while working in local communities, with women, and vulnerable groups. The CoC also includes a list of prohibited behavior, a list of sanctions, minimum standards for the PIU to follow, as well as reporting requirements and complaints mechanism.

### **ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management**

Relevant

This standard is relevant. Physical infrastructure includes building facilities and related civil work in all countries (CAR, Chad and Cameroon). During construction and rehabilitation activities, generated non-hazardous solid waste includes excess fill materials from grading and excavation activities, scrap wood and metals, and concrete spills and construction debris. Hazardous solid waste includes contaminated soils, which could potentially be encountered on-site due to previous land use activities, or amounts of machinery maintenance materials, such as oily rags, used oil filters, and used oil, as well as spill cleanup materials from oil and fuel spills, wastewater, contaminated construction/demolition debris including asbestos. E&S risks and impacts should be identified and mitigated as per C-ESMP prepared for each work-site



before start of work. Construction ESMPs (C-ESMP) and other plans such as Waste Management Plan (including hazardous and e-waste), should be in line with local standards as well as GIIP and WBG General Environment, Health, and Safety Guidelines requirements. This guidance will be included in the U-ESMF to guide the preparation of country and site-specific ESMPs during preparation.

During operations and maintenance of facilities and buildings, activities envisioned may result in the generation of electronic waste (i.e., computers, servers) and other types of waste. To mitigate related impacts, each country will develop and implement a waste management system that addresses issues linked to waste minimization, generation, segregation, transport, disposal, and monitoring. Wastewater of all facilities shall be treated in line with the World Bank Group General Environment, Health, and Safety Guidelines. Under Component 3, statistical infrastructure involves technological infrastructure and software needs (e.g., internet connectivity, computers, statistical software and packages, data archiving, storage, and retrieval facility) in most of the countries. Data archiving and storage might require significant amount of electricity use and cooling. Such facilities should be designed in a way that energy efficiency should be in place, and ozone depleting substances (ODS) are not used for cooling. GHG emissions of such facilities should be further assessed during implementation stage following the guidance from U-ESMF.

#### **ESS4 Community Health and Safety**

Relevant

This standard is relevant. While the project includes some limited civil works and the installation of IT infrastructure, this will take place mostly in urban areas and on existing sites and/or government owned sites (except in Cameroon where two Regional Statistical Offices (RSOs) will be built in regional centers). As a result, risks to community health and safety associated with labor influx or due to construction including SEA/H are not expected to be significant. Measures to mitigate risks related to labor influx including SEA/SH are included in the umbrella ESMF and will need to be included in ESMPs as needed, such as worker and community sensitization on Codes of Conduct and expected behaviors. Constructed/rehabilitated buildings will be publicly accessible buildings. Due to use of significant amount of electricity for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and cooling of data storage facilities, fire risk is high in these buildings. Buildings should be designed according to local and Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) Life and Fire Safety Codes, and L&FS management plans for the buildings and Emergency Response Plans (to protect neighboring communities) should be in place, including regular drills, in all publicly accessible sites. Universal access of the buildings should also be ensured.

All national PIUs will address risks of SEA/SH against community members in project implementation areas related to the infrastructure and labor influx as well as other project activities like data collection, surveys, census etc. All national PIUs will develop SEA/SH prevention and response Action Plan and will hire GBV Specialists/Consultants to help the implementation of the measures including information campaigns for community members about the SEA/SH risks, content of codes of conduct signed by staff and workers (including enumerators), how to signal misconduct and abuse and what services are available for SEA/SH survivors. The project grievance mechanism will have safe and accessible (and confirmed as such during consultations with women) entry ways and procedures to manage complaints including referral protocols to local GBV service providers. The main measures for all PIUs (including CEMAC) include ensuring that: (i) all project related staff and workers (including surveys enumerators) sign code of conduct with clear prohibition and sanctions against SEA/SH after receiving training on SEA/SH; (ii) each project develops SEA/SH specific procedures within its grievance mechanism with multiple channels to submit complaints, confirmed as safe and accessible during consultations with women (including IP/SSAHUTLCs), and with procedures allowing for complaint verification and



management following a survivor centered approach; (iii) each grievance mechanism includes response protocol with referrals to local GBV service providers (identified through mapping of GBV service providers) offering medical, psychosocial and/or legal assistance; (iv) information campaigns on SEA/SH risks, content of code of conduct and ways to submit complaints will be organized by each project in the areas of its implementation in a language that is understood by the population.

Digital security has been considered in relation to both data protection and cyber-security, which could affect community and individual safety and engender conflict and/or harm if sensitive personal data is revealed, including data relating to health status, ethnicity, sexuality, citizenship, among others. The project incorporates measures to ensure data confidentiality. In particular, each of the three countries involved in the project has since 2018 adopted a Statistics Law that includes explicit provisions to protect data confidentiality, and penalties in the event that data confidentiality is not respected. In addition, the international protocols used for the census (UNFPA) and the DHS surveys (USAID/ICF) include built-in measures to protect data confidentiality, such as encryption at the point of data capture through tablets, the replacement of names with codes, and the deletion of sensitive fields before the data is processed.

To address security and conflict risks in FCV contexts (Chad, Cameroon and Central African Republic), the umbrella ESMF includes a security risk assessment to guide the preparation of Security Management Plans (SMP) during implementation. This will consist of a short assessment of the security situation in each participating country, including: standard convoy security for any travel in orange or red zones, security tier management that will guide decision making for implementation of any activities in these zones, escalation plan that will include guidance for how to communicate security related information and decision making. When possible, the SMPs should be consistent with the other SMPs for other Bank financed projects in the same areas and reflect standard security risk mitigation measures including use of local NGOs, ICT and local enumerators in areas where there are concerns related to ethnicity, language and general access.

#### **ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement**

Not Currently Relevant

The standard is not deemed relevant at this stage as physical works will be located on existing sites and/or government-owned sites. Evidence of legal title for each subproject site has been required as part of the general E&S screening and included in the Umbrella-ESMF. Any potential sites that requires land acquisition or involuntary resettlement will be ineligible for project financing. Documentation will be reviewed by the Bank team prior to providing the no objection to the start of any rehabilitation or construction works. Copies of the documentation will be annexed to the letter authorizing the start of works.

#### **ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources**

Not Currently Relevant

This standard is not relevant at this stage. There is no anticipated impact to biodiversity under this project. However, the U-ESMF will provide guidance and mitigation measures to mitigate potential harm to biodiversity. In addition the U-ESMF will provide a list of excluded activities for the project to maintain the risk level on biodiversity very low or insignificant.



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

Relevant

This standard is relevant. Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (IP/SSAHUTLC) are present in two countries: CAR (i.e., Aka, Litho), and Cameroon (i.e., Baka, Bagyéli and Bedzang peoples). Social assessments by each PIU will be conducted during implementation to assess the presence of IP/SSAHUTLC as per ESS7. Given the nature of Project activities, direct adverse social, economic, environmental, and cultural impacts are not expected to occur in the specific areas where IP/SSAHUTLCs are present or have a collective attachment. The Stakeholder Engagement Framework outlines the approach and methods to effectively engage with IP/SSAHUTLCs, and their representative organizations (such as Indigenous Peoples' Organizations or IPOs) to ensure their inclusion in census/survey activities, and consider their seasonal livelihood activities. Initial consultations with these groups were conducted during project preparation. Further consultations with IPOs at local and national levels as well as with NGOs and Civil Society Organizations who support or work in IP communities), as well as with Indigenous communities will need to be undertaken as part the Stakeholder Engagement Plans to be prepared by CAR and Cameroon. This will continue throughout the project lifecycle, and reported as part of quarterly reports to determine if they have any specific concerns especially related to data collection, including biological specimens, access to information, and conflict/security, which should inform project design and risk mitigation measures in the umbrella ESMF. A summary of these initial consultations are included in the SEF and the summaries of future consultations shall be included in the SEPs for the two countries for which ESS7 is relevant, in an annex. The umbrella ESMF for these two countries also includes a basic social assessment that includes, among other things, where and which IP/SSAHUTLCs are expected to be present, risks and barriers to participation (for example due to livelihood activities), languages spoken, and summarize the concerns raised in consultations with IPOs and NGOs who work/support them to ensure IP/SSAHUTLCs not excluded from project (especially in census activities due to the nature of their livelihood activities), are meaningfully included, and to reduce project risks. The SEA/SH measures will be adapted to the needs of the IP/SSAHUTLCs after specific consultations with IP/SSAHUTLCs women (in separate small groups conducted by a woman).

### **ESS8 Cultural Heritage**

Relevant

This standard is relevant. While physical works will take place in urban centers, and in some cases on existing sites, and there is no proposed use of cultural heritage in any form, Chance Finds procedure are included as part of the umbrella ESMF. A chance finds clause will also be added to contracts, requiring contractors to stop construction as per procedures if cultural heritage is encountered during construction.

### **ESS9 Financial Intermediaries**

Not Currently Relevant

This standard is not considered relevant because this project does not involve financial intermediaries.

### **ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure**

Relevant

Successful project implementation will require regular inputs from different stakeholder groups, including those directly and indirectly affected. Stakeholder mapping will be conducted as part of the client specific Stakeholder Engagement Plans, to be prepared during project implementation. Key stakeholders currently assessed include: relevant government departments and ministries; national statistics offices; academics (universities who may work on issues related to statistics and use of data); development partners; NGOs and CSOs at both the national and regional



level addressing issues related to data protection and security, use of statistics; NGOs and intergovernmental organizations as well as organizations representing IPs/SSAHUTLCs and other vulnerable groups (IDPs, refugees, women/girls, those with HIV/AIDS, persons with disabilities, sexual and gender minorities). For FCV countries, stakeholders will also include bilateral organizations, other MDBs and NGOs and international organizations that are working in the same sub-regions and are involved in security risk management.

Prior to appraisal, a Stakeholder Engagement Framework (SEF) has been prepared with chapters for each country/RIU, to guide the preparation of country/RIU specific Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEPs) and Grievance Mechanisms (GMs). The SEF outlines a process and approach to stakeholder consultations and disclosure for SOP2 countries/RIU. The scope and level of detail of this SEF reflects the nature and scale of the potential risks and impacts of the project and the level of concerns of the stakeholders who may be affected by or are interested in the project. The SEF outlines the characteristics and interests of the relevant stakeholder groups and timing and methods of engagement throughout the life of the Program. Each Borrower has undertaken initial consultations during project preparation and will continue to undertake meaningful engagement with stakeholders in order to ensure the disclosure of timely, relevant, understandable, and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, and included in the SEF. The SEF includes a chapter on the proposed approach to engage organizations representing IP/SSAHUTLCs (Indigenous Peoples Organizations) as well as their official representatives to determine if they have any specific concerns related to data collection and security.

The SEF also considers how the Project will address the safety of project workers and stakeholders during consultations in some situations with communicable disease exposure in line with national regulations policies as well as WHO on COVID-19 restriction guidelines, at the time of consultations.

RIUs and PIUs will also establish a functional and accessible project-level GM during project implementation, before the start of implementation of project activities and maintained during the life of the project. When possible, this will be the same one that has already been established for other projects under implementation to avoid a proliferation of GMs and the need for any improvements or adjustments will be identified during a review of the performance of these GMs during preparation. The GM will include SEA/SH specific procedures for submission of complaints, for verification and management following a survivor centered approach and a response protocol with referrals to local GBV service providers offering medical, psychosocial and/or legal assistance. Based on the experience of similar projects, possible grievances that may be expected under this project include concerns related to access to or privacy of information; concerns or questions about HIV testing and implications of results, disclosures about marital status, sexual orientation, health status, ethnicity, or pregnancy; confidentiality of sensitive data; construction related (labor influx, traffic, road safety, waste management, etc.); security, conflict and safety concerns; SEA/SH and general harassment, among others. The GMs shall provide multiple avenues of access to a fair, transparent, confidential, and timely decision-making process, as well as recording, monitoring and reporting processes, and shall be proportional to the risks and impacts of this project.

During project preparation, each Borrower has undertaken initial consultations in their country with key stakeholders, including representatives of organizations representing IPs. Findings of these consultations are incorporated into the project design and recorded in the SEF.





## B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply

**OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways** No

**OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas** No

## B.3 Other Salient Features

**Use of Borrower Framework** No

The use of Borrower Framework is not considered.

**Use of Common Approach** No

None are being considered at this time.

## C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities

### C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required during implementation?

Prior to effectiveness, each PIU and the RIU will finalize draft ESF instruments and will disclose and adopt the Umbrella-Environmental and Social Management Framework (U-ESMF) for the Project, the Umbrella-Labor Management Procedure Framework (U-LMPF) and the Stakeholder Engagement Framework (SEF), all consistent with the relevant ESS.

During project implementation, each country and CEMAC will :

- Prepare, disclose, consult upon, and adopt the ESMP consistent with the U-ESMF, prior to the start of Project activities, and thereafter implement the ESMP throughout Project implementation.
- Adopt and implement a SEA/SH Prevention and Response Action Plan as part of the ESMP, to assess and manage the risks of SEA and SH.
- Prepare, disclose, consult upon, and adopt the LMP in line with the U-LMPF prior to hiring Project workers and thereafter implement the LMP throughout Project implementation.
- Prepare, disclose, consult upon, and adopt a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Project, consistent with ESS10 and the Stakeholder Engagement Framework, which shall include measures to, inter alia, provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable, and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, and intimidation.
- Prepare, disclose, consult upon, and adopt the Security Management Plan (SMP), consistent with the U-ESMF, prior to the start of Project activities, and thereafter implement the SMP throughout Project implementation.
- Establish the grievance mechanism, including a GM to facilitate the resolution of SEA/SH complaints and incidents prior to the start of the Project activities, and thereafter maintain and operate the mechanism throughout Project implementation.
- Introduce and monitor the inclusion of contractual E&S clauses in contracts and tender documents of service providers, their subcontractors, and suppliers.





- the Bank/Association to do a due diligence for any retro financing request, to assess eligibility of activities and ensure these activities have been implemented consistent with ESSs.

While E&S risks and impacts are generally considered to be Moderate, it is important to note that the security situation in the participating Central African countries (Cameroon, Chad and CAR) is somewhat volatile and there are large movements of people (both internal and refugees), active conflict in certain parts of Central African countries, and complex social tensions (i.e. among some ethnic groups, internally displaced persons (IDPs), migrants, and refugees) that will pose additional risks for the project. In particular, travel in orange and red zones will bring added complexity to the enumeration process for the household surveys in particular. Surveyors, drivers and others involved in the enumeration process face threats related to carjacking and kidnappings by armed groups and local people in these areas are very reluctant to provide information (especially to outsiders) due to concerns relating to the ethnic dimensions of the conflicts in these areas and the active military operations that may pose additional risks to local communities. The public release of data may also exacerbate conflict risks and community and individual safety, particularly of vulnerable groups in the project area such as IDPs, refugees, ethnic minorities, sexual and gender minorities, HIV-AIDs affected persons, unwed pregnant girls/women, and persons with disabilities.

There are also possible important exclusion risks related to Indigenous peoples not being recognized as such by their governments and may not have census questions that reflect their identities, lands, livelihoods, etc., which could lead to potential reputational risks for the World Bank. In addition, there are pastoralist communities in Chad who identify as Indigenous peoples and participate in regional and international forums on Indigenous rights, but the Bank has not yet considered them as such as per the criteria under OP4.10 or ESS7. This is also a reputational risk for the Bank.

### III. CONTACT POINTS

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## The World Bank

Harmonizing and Improving Statistics in West and Central Africa - Series of Projects Two (HISWACA - SOP 2)  
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