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Project Information Document/ Integrated Safeguards Data Sheet (PID/ISDS)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 01-Aug-2017 | Report No: PIDISDSC21239



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country Bangladesh	Project ID P161996	Parent Project ID (if any)	Project Name Sustainable Forests & Livelihoods (SUFAL) Project (P161996)
Region SOUTH ASIA	Estimated Appraisal Date Jan 08, 2018	Estimated Board Date Mar 15, 2018	Practice Area (Lead) Environment & Natural Resources
Financing Instrument Investment Project Financing	Borrower(s) Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance	Implementing Agency Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD)	

Proposed Development Objective(s)

To improve collaborative forest management and increase access to alternative income generation activities for forest-dependent people in targeted sites.

Financing (in USD Million)

Financing Source	Amount
Borrower	20.00
International Development Association (IDA)	175.00
Total Project Cost	195.00

Environmental Assessment Category B-Partial Assessment	Concept Review Decision Track II-The review did authorize the preparation to continue
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Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. Bangladesh's impressive economic growth and efforts to reduce poverty depend on the sustainability of its natural resources. The GDP grew well above the average for developing countries in recent years, averaging 6.5 percent since 2010. However, with nearly 162 million¹ inhabitants on a landmass of 147,570 square kilometers, it is among the most densely populated countries in the world and increasingly, economic activities are competing for scarce land and other natural resources. About a quarter of the population lives below the poverty line, and the natural resources on which the poor disproportionately depend are increasingly stressed². The Seventh Five Year Plan (2016-2020) emphasizes pro-poor economic growth while recognizing that poverty, growth and environmental sustainability are inextricably linked in Bangladesh. The Plan aims to support growth and development that are both sustained and sustainable.

2. Bangladesh is also one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the world³. With two thirds of its landmass less than five meters above sea level, the country is very vulnerable to sea level rise, cyclones, storms and storm-induced tidal flooding. Climate change is predicted to raise average sea levels by around 30 cm by 2050, and could make an additional 14 percent of the country's area extremely vulnerable to floods by 2030⁴. Climate change is also likely to increase the poverty headcount rate and risk of chronic poverty in different warming scenarios⁵. According to a World Bank report,⁶ nearly 5.3 million poor will be vulnerable to the effects of climate change in 2050.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

3. Forest ecosystems have an important role in rural livelihoods and climate change adaptation. The share of land under forest cover is the second lowest in the region, with natural forest cover accounting for only half of that in the 1960's. It is estimated that at least 19 million people are dependent on forests for their livelihoods and the contribution of village forest income to total household income varies from 8.9 percent to 18.6 percent⁷. In addition, the ecosystem services provided by forests to maintain local climate and influence global fluxes of oxygen and carbon dioxide, stabilize top soil and maintain the groundwater table, are essential to sustain agricultural productivity. While it is well documented that mangrove forests are an important first line of defense against cyclones and storm surge, the likelihood of more droughts in the north western part of the country necessitates better catchment protection with forest and tree cover.

4. The past decades have witnessed a steady decline in forest cover. Despite introducing conservation policies, the trend of deforestation has continued with high rates of deforestation during the recent decade of 2006 to 2014⁸. The causes of deforestation and forest degradation in different forest types are complex and diverse. Primarily, they are linked to the clearing of forest land, for human settlements, agriculture, timber,

¹ UN Population Statistics

² Environment, Forestry and Biodiversity Conservation. Background paper for the Seventh Five Year Plan.

³ Maplecroft. 2014. *Climate Vulnerability Index 2014*

⁴ Bangladesh: Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper. IMF Country Report No. 13/63, March 2013

⁵ Turn Down the Heat: Confronting the New Climate Normal, World Bank 2014.

⁶ World Bank. 2014. River Salinity and Climate Change: Evidence from Coastal Bangladesh.

⁷ Environment, Forestry and Biodiversity Conservation. Background paper for the Seventh Five Year Plan.

⁸ Reddy et al., 2016



fuelwood and housing materials. Unsustainable forest management practices, as well as natural disturbances play a significant role in determining the changed composition and degradation of forests. Also, the intensity and frequency of cyclones in the coastal region have increased in recent years, which give the mangrove forests less time and less chance to recover. It is estimated that forest cover has been declining by 2.1 percent annually in the last three decades alone⁹. At present there is only 13.20 percent of land in Bangladesh with tree cover with density of 30 percent and above, much lower than the 20 percent target for 2015¹⁰. Degradation stemming largely from intense human pressure remains the major problem. Rapid growth of mining and infrastructure is becoming a major cause of deforestation¹¹.

5. On the positive side, there has been an increase in tree cover on private homesteads and through the Social Forestry program. The vigorous public campaign for planting of trees¹² as well as clear tenure arrangements have contributed to the remarkable increase of trees on farm lands as well as on degraded government and forest lands. In addition to the government and individual efforts, many NGOs, such as BRAC, Proshika, Caritas-Bangladesh, and others have large scale programs motivating the public to plant more trees and have built a huge network of nurseries. With the continued moratorium on felling from natural forests, wood supply from private homesteads has been steadily growing -70 percent of timber, 90 percent of fuelwood, 50 percent of sawn logs and 90 percent of bamboo requirements come from homestead forests¹³.

6. However, public sector forestry institutions in the country have not been able to transform their approach to the changing needs of the sector. While the Bangladesh Forest Department's (BFD) social forestry program has been one of the best forest sector success stories for decades, the relative importance of extension services within the department is low, when compared to the protection and enforcement functions of the BFD. More recently, there has been a concern that the productivity of social forestry plantations, most of which are in their third rotation, is falling and the BFD's approach to beneficiary selection has raised concerns around the possibility of elite capture. The lack of sufficient and predictable funding for BFD hinders the research and promotion of better quality seedlings or matching of species to site conditions or better forecasting of demand for different markets for private and homestead plantations.

7. With respect to government owned Reserved Forests and Unclassed State forests (USF) and Protected Areas (Pas), the rise in degradation points to the need for better collaboration with communities. While externally financed projects have piloted different arrangement with communities including, co-management in protected areas, a comprehensive policy with options to empower and share benefits with communities in the management of all categories of forests does not exist. The recurring incidences encroachment and illegal extraction, given the BFD's staffing and budget constraint make it very challenging to keep the remaining forests and plantations standing. The fact that people are raising trees on their own lands or on degraded forest lands where tenure and benefit sharing arrangements are clear indicates that there is a need to establish clear benefits and responsibilities for communities and BFD to work collaboratively with the common goal of sustainable management of forests.

⁹ Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010 of FAO reports annual change in extent of forest in forest department lands is -0.18% during 1990-2005.

¹⁰ Environment, Forestry and Biodiversity Conservation. Background paper for the Seventh Five Year Plan.

¹¹ FAO, 2012. South Asian Forests and Forestry to 2020. Sub-regional Report of the Second Asia-Pacific Forestry Sector Outlook Study. Bangkok.

¹² Environment, Forestry and Biodiversity Conservation: Background Paper for Seventh Five Year Plan

¹³ Bangladesh Forest Department, December 2016: Technical study for Review of Forest Master Plan under the Climate Resilient Participatory Afforestation and Reforestation Project.



8. The Government of Bangladesh has a clear vision and commitment for the development of the sector. The Seventh Five Year Plan lays out clear goals to expand forest resources of the country for maintaining ecological balance and sustainable economic growth. The specific goals are to: (i) bring 20 percent of the country's land under tree cover with density ≥ 50 percent by the end of 2020; (ii) conserve and protect forest ecosystems for biodiversity and overall environmental stability; (iii) mitigate climate change impacts and increase adaptive capacity; (iv) watershed management and soil conservation and (v) improve socio-economic condition of forest dependent community. A number of projects financed by the World Bank including recently completed Climate Resilient Participatory Afforestation and Reforestation Project (CRPAR) (P127015) and APL on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection in Asia (SRCWP) (P121210) and other development partners in the past have helped in institutional capacity building, piloting of innovative models for communities to take up tree planting and participate in protected area management and, in coastal mangrove shelter belt plantations. The Government is committed to the development of the sector and has requested the proposed project as an immediate follow on to the successful Climate Resilient Participatory Afforestation and Reforestation Project financed by the Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund.

Relationship to CPF

9. The proposed project is aligned with the objectives of the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) (FY2016-2020). The proposed project directly addresses social inclusion, and climate and environmental management focus areas of the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) and indirectly contribute to growth and competitiveness. The proposed project will support CPF Objective 2.4: Enhanced rural income opportunities for the poor through participatory approach to afforestation and reforestation, which will complement efforts to improve the livelihoods of the poor; and CPF Objective 3.1: Increased resilience of population to natural disasters in urban and coastal areas through investing in coastal afforestation to expand the coastal green shelter belt.

10. The proposed project is aligned with the WBG Forest Sector Strategy (2002) and helps advance the objectives of the WBG Forest Action Plan (FAP) (2016-2020). The World Bank Group's FAP aims to boost the potential of forests to lift people out of poverty and generate lasting social, economic, and environmental returns in client countries. The proposed investment directly supports the FAP focus area 1: Sustainable Forestry, which aims to support investments in sustainable forestry with a particular focus on optimizing the potential of natural forests to provide cash and non-cash income and to generate jobs and economic opportunities for forest-dependent people.

11. The proposed project will benefit from the complementary interventions financed by other World Bank projects. The proposed project will coordinate closely with the proposed Sustainable Enterprises Project and the proposed Sustainable Coastal and Marine Fisheries project to optimize resource management and enhance livelihood benefits to communities that are targeted in these projects. The proposed project will benefit from the common facilities and services provided by the Sustainable Enterprises project to support resilient businesses where these activities target forest dependent communities. The project will avoid duplication of activities in locations where it overlaps with other projects.



C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Note to Task Teams: The PDO has been pre-populated from the datasheet for the first time for your convenience. Please keep it up to date whenever it is changed in the datasheet.

The project development objective is, *“To improve collaborative forest management and increase access to alternative income generation activities for forest-dependent people at targeted sites.”*

Key Results (From PCN)

- i. Forest and protected area at targeted sites managed according to site specific management plans (ha) [guidance for site specific management plans will be developed during preparation]
- ii. Area of coastal belt at targeted sites under afforestation according to defined criteria (ha)
- iii. Share of targeted forest-dependent people with access to alternative income generating activities (disaggregated by gender)
- iv. Share of targeted forest-dependent people with rating ‘Satisfied’ or above on project interventions (%) (disaggregated by sex) (focus: access to forests and forest management, livelihoods aspects) (citizen and gender indicator)

The corporate results indicator on landscape management will be captured at the intermediate level together with relevant Forest Action Plan indicators.

D. Concept Description

13. The proposed project builds on the following narrative: (i) forests in the Bangladesh are essential for ecosystem services including climate resilience in the coast, and as a safety for the poor who depend on them for a number of products; and, (ii) effective institutions, including strong public sector institutions, that provide space for communities and the Forest Department to collaborate and complement each other’s roles are essential to achieve these forest sector goals. In addition, the recently closed CRPAR and the Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection in Asia (SRCW) projects inform the design of the proposed intervention, as does the Government of Bangladesh’s request. These projects have demonstrated that collaboration between forest dependent communities and the Forest Department can result in positive outcomes for conservation and for communities’ livelihoods and incomes. This collaborative approach will be scaled up under the proposed project, as a cross-cutting theme for forest restoration and afforestation and PA management. The proposed operation is designed to be implemented over a period of five years. The project will be implemented in selected areas of all major forest ecosystems in the country. However, as the Government of Bangladesh has other investment proposals for the Sundarbans, that area is most likely to not be part of the project area. Selection of project sites will be carried out during preparation.

14. The proposed project will have four components, with Component 1 financing enabling activities that will benefit the other three Components. The estimated value of IDA financing against each component is indicative and subject to change during preparation as more information becomes available.

- (i) Institutional Development, Information Systems and Training (USD 17million)



- (ii) Collaborative Forest and Protected Area Management (USD 120 million)
- (iii) Alternative Income Generating Activities (AIGAs) and Extension Services (USD 25 million)
- (iv) Project Management, Monitoring and Learning (USD13 million)

15. **Component 1: Institutional Development, Information Systems and Training (US\$ 17 million):** A comprehensive review of the state of the forest sector and public sector forestry institutions was carried out under the CRPAR project in 2016 as background to the Forestry Master Plan. Key areas identified for further strengthening is organizational strengthening of the Forest Department and its institutes and addressing policy constraints and distortions that limit forest protection. This component will (i) initiate organizational changes to help BFD with better staff deployment, research and administrative capacities and become fit for purpose and, (ii) modernize its training and research institutions' infrastructure and information and communication technologies. These investments are essential to improve the core capabilities of the public sector institutions to manage and monitor the forests.

16. **Sub-component 1.1: Strengthening research, training and management facilities** by financing Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI) facilities, improving training facilities at BFD training institutes and improving physical infrastructure for forest and protected areas administration, including wildlife centers, camp offices and field and office equipment. Specific research on topics relevant for the proposed project would be financed.

17. **Sub-component 1.2: Improving organizational effectiveness and Forest Management Information Systems.** This sub-component will finance (i) development of an organizational management plan for BFD with details on technical and administrative needs for different positions, staffing needs, incentive mechanisms and a performance management system. A time bound action plan for its implementation will be agreed to during implementation. Differences in career paths for officers recruited through different streams has been a long standing challenge which is to be addressed under the sub-component. Departmental officers and staff will receive training during the course of the project on technical and managerial topics; (ii) A second area of focus will be exploring options for long-term financing for BFD's core forestry activities. A study on options for financing forest plantations and protected areas will be conducted to draw on global experience on this subject; (iii) A third key area will be strengthening and deployment of forest management information system and the Department's Resource and Information Management System (RIMs) wing which was initiated under the CRPARP project. In addition, smart patrolling systems and other geo-spatial tools that can be deployed with community participation to improve protection and management of natural forests and plantations will be deployed on a pilot basis; (iv) and lastly, the project will finance on a pilot basis a joint exercise by the Forest Department and Department of Land Record and Survey (DLRS) to validate and update forest maps in three Forest Divisions.

18. **Component 2: Collaborative Management of all types of forests and selected protected areas (US \$ 120 million):** The focus of this component is (i) to develop and systematize arrangements for collaborative management in all types of forests and plantations and in protected areas and (ii) to take up restoration of degraded forest areas and improve management of protected areas, mangroves and newly accreted lands.

19. **Subcomponent 2.1: improving policy and institutional framework and implementation of collaborative forest management.** Active participation of communities in management of forests and protected areas has been widely acknowledged as a global good practice that generates positive forest management



outcomes. While a system for collaboration and benefit sharing has been established under social forestry, there is much room for improvement in the approach with respect to roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders and benefit sharing arrangements. Experience from the CRPAR and SRCW projects regarding such arrangements for forests and protected areas will be used to inform the design of this sub-component. Activities to be financed would include: (i) review of legal and policy measures for collaborative mechanisms involving local communities with a view to developing consistency in incentives and benefit sharing mechanisms and applying these arrangements for all types of forests; (ii) mobilizing, training and establishing community institutions for collaborative management; and, (iii) implementation of collaborative arrangements. This sub-component will be implemented by BFD with assistance from NGOs for community mobilization and training.

20. ***Sub-component 2.2: Management and restoration of forests and protected areas.*** In selected forest divisions forests and protected areas will be restored using site-specific and collaborative management approaches. For restoration/ plantation the project will finance procurement of seeds, nursery raising, preparation of sites, planting, soil and water conservation measures, protection and fire management and maintenance and monitoring. Under the SRCW project thirteen protected areas have developed management plans, and some will be selected for implementation under this sub-component. Having an approved site-specific management plan will be a pre-requisite for allocation of budget for this activity under the project. Site-specific management plans will be prepared in collaboration with communities and NGOs, in accordance with the guidance provided by the project. Emphasis will be on using geo-spatial planning tools and species selection and matching already piloted under recent projects. Areas will be selected from degraded Reserved forests and Unclassed State forests comprising the major forest ecosystems in the country. The extent of area to be treated under this approach will be determined during preparation.

21. ***Sub-component 2.3: Mangrove plantation on newly accreted land and non-mangrove coastal green belt.*** The afforestation activities under this sub-component are expected to contribute to better protecting lives and property against cyclones and tidal surges in coastal areas. According to current government law all newly accreted land goes under BFD jurisdiction and as with other forests under BFD management, collaborative arrangements will be initiated in these forests. To establish an unbroken seamless coastal green belt, a large swath of coastal land not suitable for mangrove species, will also be planted. These higher lands, where regular tidal inundation is absent need to be planted with non-mangrove tree species. Most of these lands are available on the foreshore side outside the coastal embankments. Species suitability for these plantations has been proposed under the 'Technical study for mapping of potential greenbelt zone in the coastal regions of Bangladesh' under the CRPAR project. All selected species will be indigenous and coastal. This sub-component will support nursery raising, planting, maintenance and monitoring and site-specific planning with geo-spatial analysis will precede execution of works.

22. **Component 3: Alternative Income Generating Activities (AIGAs) and Extension Services (USD 25 million)** This component will finance AIGAs to complement the joint or collaborative arrangements for forest management and, will also strengthen the extension capacities of the BFD to service the needs of tree farmers for Trees outside Forests, through better quality seedlings, advance market information and advice on silviculture and agroforestry.

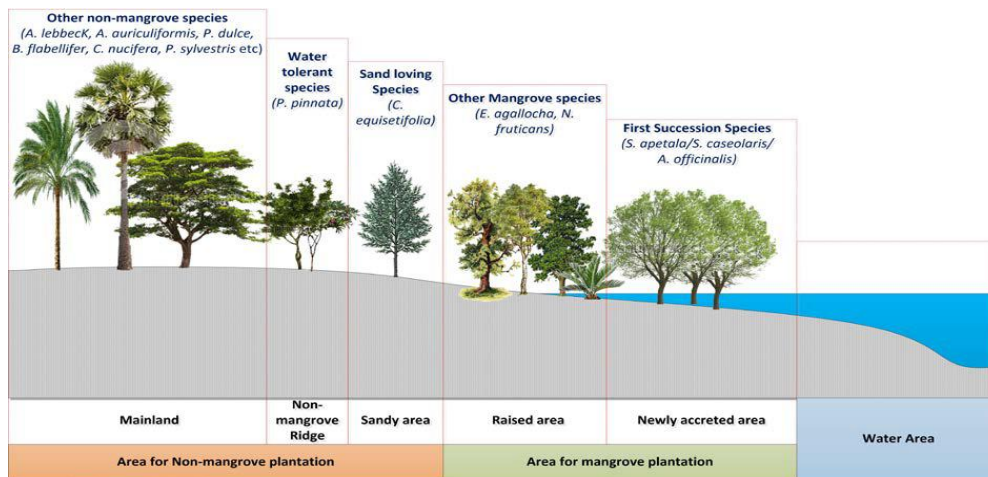


Figure 1: A model coastal green belt plantation from the Technical study for mapping of potential greenbelt zone in the coastal regions of Bangladesh' in CRPAR project

23. **Sub-component 3.1: Alternative Income Generation Activities (AIGAs):** The successful model of AIGAs implemented under the CRPAR project will be scaled up, using the services of the Arannyak Foundation¹⁴ (AF).

This sub-component will identify and mobilize forest dependent poor to receive training, start up finance and value chain support for income generation activities which supplement household income and reduce dependence on forests. The AIGAs will be executed by local NGOs who will work under the guidance of Arannyak Foundation, in close coordination with the Divisional Forest Officer and staff. Diversification of income generation activities will be financed for communities most dependent on forests for livelihoods in the target areas selected for treatment. During preparation, criteria for selection of households for AIGAs, the process of selection and the role of selected beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries in collaborative forest and protected areas management will be developed. Beneficiary households will receive grants for these activities.

24. AIGAs will be taken up with communities in the areas where restoration activities are carried out. All efforts will be made to dovetail the AIGAs to restoration /plantations activities. For instance, nursery raising could be an AIGA with technical support of BFD, to supply seedlings for the restoration. Where feasible, facilities and opportunities from the Sustainable Enterprise Project (under preparation) or the Nuton Jibon project will be used for the beneficiaries of this sub-component.

25. **Sub-component 3.2: Extension services for tree farming and agroforestry.** This sub-component will include development and promotion of quality planting materials, technological support and awareness for private tree farmers and nursery owners. Government nurseries in the coastal areas will be activated and strengthened to be able to supply quality seedlings and saplings to the farmers. Support to private nurseries will

¹⁴ This arrangement is under discussion and pending agreement by MOEF. AF (also known as the Bangladesh Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation) is a not-for-profit company (limited by guarantee and not having a share capital). It was established in 2003 by the joint initiative of the Governments of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the United States of America based on the provisions of the US Tropical Forest Act of 1998, which seeks to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity assets of tropical forests. AF's mandate is to promote conservation and restoration of tropical forests and forest biodiversity through promoting alternative income-generating activities (AIGAs). It has Board of Directors with representatives of civil society, and of Bangladesh and US Governments.



include technology transfer on germplasm management and quality control. There is a strong private sector national level nursery network and planting materials distribution system. Outreach and collaboration with this network will be a focus of this sub-component, to develop market intelligence and upgrade production protocols. To encourage agroforestry in the coastal areas, the pilot promoted by the UNDP ‘Triple F’ model (Forest-Fruit-Fish) under the Community Based Adaptation to Climate Change through Coastal Afforestation Project funded by the GEF will be promoted – farmers will receive training and guidance to take up silvo-fisheries.

26. **Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring and Learning (US\$12 million):** All activities related to administration and supervision of the project, procurement and financial management as well as monitoring and reporting will be covered under this component. A full time Project Management Unit (PMU) will be established within the Forest Department with technical and fiduciary specialists, monitoring and evaluation specialists and environment and social specialist.

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SAFEGUARDS

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

The project interventions are going to cover a large part of the country, but, primary focus would be on coastal, southeastern hills, plain land ‘Sal’ forest and northeastern freshwater swamps. Main project interventions will be forestation of the newly accreted land in the coast and other degraded government forest lands, other interventions will include (i) rehabilitation of field offices; (ii) alternative livelihoods for forest communities; and (iii) technical studies and capacity building. The proposed project is expected to make positive environmental contributions such as reducing soil erosion, working as barrier against storm surges, enhancing the carbon sink and improving wildlife habitat. However, the project has been classified as “Category B” considering the risks associated with site preparation for planting, species selection, use of fertilizer and civil works construction related disturbance in areas of ecological sensitivity and vulnerability. The exact locations for project interventions are not known yet, therefore, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be prepared. This will provide guidance for subprojects to be screened for environmental and social impacts where necessary, detailed site-specific EMPs to be prepared to identify and address impacts of proposed activities once sites and beneficiaries are known. A Pest Management Plan will be prepared during project implementation to manage the likely use of chemicals and pesticides. If it is expected that the project will touch upon indigenous people community’s areas, a Small Ethnic Community Planning Framework (SECPF) will be prepared as a standalone document to provide guidance for preparation and implementation of site-specific Small and Ethnic Community Plans (SECP) where required. The ESMF will include a Gender Action Plan (GAP) and Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines for components and publicly disclose all documents before appraisal. Guidance will also be provided for grievance redress systems and institutional arrangements.

B. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

The implementing agency for the project is the Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD) and the executing ministry is the



Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). Arannayk Foundation (AF) will implement the livelihood support component. Although BFD has successfully recently implemented Climate Resilient Participatory Afforestation and Reforestation Project (CRPAR) (P127015) and APL on Strengthening Regional Cooperation for Wildlife Protection in Asia (SRCWP) (P121210), the main risk associated with the ministry and department is related to the weak capacity in managing medium to large scale investments covering relatively large geographical eco-regions. Therefore, the capacity of both BFD and AF for safeguard policy implementation and monitoring is still in need of strengthening at the central and local level. The project is expected to significantly invest in improving related counterpart institutional capacity in conjunction with addressing the project-specific safeguards needs.

C. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Teen Kari Barua, Social Safeguards Specialist
Sabah Moyeen, Social Safeguards Specialist
Md Istiak Sobhan, Environmental Safeguards Specialist

D. Policies that might apply

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	<p>The project is expected to increase quantity and quality of forest coverage, which will have a positive impact on the local environment and micro climate. Afforestation in coastal areas will help to dissipate wave energy of cyclonic storms and reduce impact on embankments during storm surges. It will also contribute in reducing land degradation and resource depletion. Plantation in hills and plains are expected to play an important role in reducing the risk of landslides and erosion and increase water availability in the catchment. In addition, the ability to fix CO2 and maintain micro-climatic balance, betterment of wildlife habitat, minimizing dust and pollutants, will be greatly enhanced with the growth of plantation. Local species by natural selection and succession are most suitable for local climates and natural conditions and key elements to develop stable forest ecosystem which fulfill multifunctional roles.</p> <p>However, it is anticipated that some activities may trigger reversible environmental impact during the site clearance of plantation and infrastructure development. Species selection, use of fertilizer in the plantation program, use of polypropylene bag for seedling raising, minor construction related disturbance and unmanaged extraction of non-timber forest products in areas of high ecological sensitivity and vulnerability are some such activities. Hence, certain short term negative environmental impacts</p>



		<p>may occur during the implementation phase. These negative impacts are expected to be largely localized and site-specific and easily mitigated with proper planning and sound environmental practices. Because of low and short term reversible impacts, the project is classified as category 'B' in accordance with OP 4.01.</p> <p>An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be prepared to provide guidance for environmental and social assessment and management. It will also identify the requirements and responsibilities for preparing Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) as a precondition for individual investments that are likely to have some environmental impacts. Since exact locations and design information for conducting activity-specific ESIA for the project activities will likely be available only during project implementation, the ESMF will define the detailed process for the corresponding consultations, reviews, and clearances.</p>
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	<p>The project is expected to make a positive long-term contribution to the environment such as protection against soil and water erosion, working as a barrier during cyclone and storm surge, reducing atmospheric pollution, providing habitat for flora and fauna etc. Project is going to implement management plans for the protected areas, which will contribute to the conservation and enhancement of natural habitat in the protected areas. Although the project is not expected to impact natural habitat negatively but OP 4.04 is triggered due to the proximity of work in natural habitat.</p>
Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	<p>The project will promote afforestation and reforestation throughout the project cycle from the planning phase and a community participation model will be developed using as basis the social forestry program and co-management approach. Conversion or alteration of natural forests for plantations or non-forest use will not be permitted under the project. The plant species would be carefully selected in consultations with the local communities and professionals.</p>
Pest Management OP 4.09	Yes	<p>The policy is triggered considering the potential use of chemicals in nurseries to manage pests and disease during sapling and seedling raising. A separate Pest</p>



		Management Plan will be prepared as instrument with Nursery Operational Manual.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	No	Chance finds are unlikely in the project areas and the project activities are not expected to relate to physical and cultural resources. Although this OP is not triggered, however, the ESMF will provide detailed guidelines of the 'Chance Find Procedures' for the contractors in case of any findings.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	Yes	There is a likelihood that some of the project operation and activities might touch upon areas inhabited by indigenous peoples (recognized as Small Ethnic Communities by GOB) and so OP 4.10 on Indigenous Peoples is triggered. The project will therefore prepare a standalone Small Ethnic Community Planning Framework (SECPF) to provide guidance for the preparation and implementation of site specific Small and Ethnic Community Plans (SECP) as and when required. The framework will be fully cognizant of local and cultural nuances associated with designing and proposing alternative livelihood measures, grievance redress processes and all other project interventions including free, prior and informed consultation process. Appropriate screening mechanisms to determine whether peoples of SECs are affected by project activities will also be included. Overall, activities financed by the project for Small Ethnic Minorities are expected to result in positive outcomes in terms of livelihoods and forest health. Once the SECPF is approved by the Bank it will be disclosed locally and internationally as per WB policies.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	Although the project does not expect any private land acquisition, it may adopt certain guidelines to carry out project activities on private lands where they are absolutely necessary to maximize and sustain the benefits of a given subproject. It is also likely that some public lands would be under use by private citizens for living and livelihood without formal authorization. As such, the project triggers OP/BP 4.12 and an RPF will be prepared as part of the SMF. This will provide the basis to prepare and implement mitigation plans like RP/ARP as and when necessary. All subprojects at all locations will be screened to determine whether or not there are social safeguard issues that the project will have to address as per RPF. The SMF will also provide guidance on addressing



gender issues through specially tailored consultation and communication strategies. A Gender Action Plan will be prepared to help gender sensitization programs, which will target officials at all levels, especially field-based officials who will be directly involved in implementation and supervision the work.

Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	Not triggered, as the project has nothing to do with dams.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	Not triggered, as the project will not impact any international waterway.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	The project will not support activities in disputed areas.

E. Safeguard Preparation Plan

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage PID/ISDS

Nov 07, 2017

Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing should be specified in the Appraisal Stage PID/ISDS

Initial consultations during preparation mission in August 2017 will determine the scope of necessary safeguards-related additional studies.

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Practice Manager/Manager:	Kseniya Lvovsky	28-Jul-2017
Country Director:	Rajashree S. Paralkar	03-Aug-2017

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