



# Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

## Concept Stage

### **( ESRS Concept Stage)**

Date Prepared/Updated: 11/18/2023 | Report No: ESRSC03946



**I. BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Operation Data**

|                               |  |                            |                      |
|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Operation ID                  | Product  | Operation Acronym          | Approval Fiscal Year |
| P501343                       | Investment Project Financing (IPF)                                   | SESP                       | 2024                 |
| Operation Name                | Strengthening Electricity Services Project                           |                            |                      |
| Country/Region Code           | Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)                  | Region                     | Practice Area (Lead) |
| Congo, Republic of            | Congo, Republic of   | WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA | Energy & Extractives |
| Borrower(s)                   | Implementing Agency(ies)   | Estimated Appraisal Date   | Estimated Board Date |
| Congo, Republic of            | Energie Electrique du Congo (E2C), Ministry of Energy and Hydraulics | 08-Feb-2024                | 24-May-2024          |
| Estimated Concept Review Date | Total Project Cost   |                            |                      |
| 25-Sep-2023                   | 80,000,000.00  |                            |                      |

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**Proposed Development Objective**

To improve the quality and reliability of electricity service delivery, and improve the performance of the distribution and retail segment.

**B. Is the operation 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**

*[Description imported from the Concept Data Sheet in the Portal providing information about the key aspects and components/sub-components of the project]*

This operation will finance critical investment to improve technical and commercial performance of the electricity transmission and distribution networks.

**D. Environmental and Social Overview**



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

*[Description of key features relevant to the operation's environmental and social risks and opportunities (e.g., whether the project is nationwide or regional in scope, urban/rural, in an FCV context, presence of Indigenous Peoples or other minorities, involves associated facilities, high-biodiversity settings, etc.) – Max. character limit 2,000]*

The project is nationwide in scope; it will finance rehabilitation of some selected segments of the existing 500km 220 kV Transmission line (TL) from Pointe Noire to Brazzaville. Rehabilitation works will comprise the replacement of chains of insulators in areas with high saline environment, replacement of damaged towers and earthing system, and reinforcements to withstand wind effects. The project will also finance replacement/addition of power transformers to increase installed transformation capacity, the replacement/addition of switchgear and upgrading of communication infrastructure and distribution transformers and minor extensions of LV networks. About 10,000 public lighting will be replaced by high-efficiency LEDs. Installing of meters and some rehabilitation works will be in urban setting, while rehabilitation of the agreed segments of the existing TL will be across modified or natural habitats. The 500km TL passes across the Congo basin, which in general is described as having a rich confluence of rivers, forests, swamps, and flooded forests. The TL may pass across modified/natural habitats such as the Mayombe forests, but it does not pass across or adjoin any national parks or protected areas/critical habitats. Since the TL was constructed almost 40 years ago, project activities are not expected to pose significant risk to wildlife, biodiversity and migratory birds during operation stage. Although the specific sections of the TL to be financed have not yet been determined, there could be potential biodiversity risks (including risks to avian life) at construction stage which will need to be comprehensively assessed/surveyed prior to start of the bidding process and where needed, Biodiversity Management Plans will be elaborated.

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

*[Description of Borrower's capacity (i.e., prior performance under the Safeguard Policies or ESF, experience applying E&S policies of IFIs, Environmental and social unit/staff already in place) and willingness to manage risks and impacts and of provisions planned or required to have capabilities in place, along with the needs for enhanced support to the Borrower – Max. character limit 2,000]*

Energie Electrique du Congo (E2C) is the implementing agency for Components 1 and 2 of the project, and will be supported by an Owner's Engineer. The Ministry of Energy and Hydraulics (MEH) will implement Component 3. The PIU is to be established in the MEH. The Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development and Congo Basin is responsible for implementation of the country's environmental policy. The Directorate General for the Environment (DGE) is the main institution responsible for conducting and coordinating the environmental and social assessment process in the country. The MEH implemented a recently closed electricity project (Water, Electricity & Urban Development Project) which was implemented under the World Bank's Safeguards policies. The project's environmental and social performance was rated Moderately Satisfactory. The capacity of E2C and MEH to implement a project of this scope is uncertain at this stage of project preparation; However, it is expected that there will need for strong capacity building and handholding, especially given that this proposed project will be the first time that the agencies will be implementing a project under the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF).

Client capacity will need to be enhanced to ensure that staff and contractors understand and comply with the requirements set out in the E&S instruments through various means, including mandatory staff trainings and contract conditions that are consistent with the ESF requirements and commitments of the ESCP. During implementation, the PIU will appoint one Environmental and one Social Officers and also specialists for overseeing Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS). The Owner's Engineer firm will be required to include Senior



Environmental Specialist, Senior Social Specialist, GBV specialist and Senior Biodiversity Specialist in its team Regular independent audits will need to be conducted to assess compliance.

## II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS

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

Substantial

#### A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

*[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating, in accordance with the ES Directive and the Technical Note on Screening and Risk Classification under the ESF – Max. character limit 2,000]*

The Environmental risk associated with rehabilitation of existing electricity transmission and distribution infrastructures is rated as Substantial at concept stage. The scale of works is expected to be large and potential impacts are expected to be significant. The impacts are expected to be mostly at construction stage since no new works are to be financed. Impacts of the rehabilitation works are expected to be site-specific, short-term, and can be effectively mitigated, subject to implementation of proper E&S measures. The risk rating is Substantial due to the scale of works around modified forests; and due to the Borrower capacity issues; and also since this project is being implemented in an FCV setting. Key potential environmental impacts include (i) generation of solid, electrical and construction waste during rehabilitation works (ii) generation of hazardous waste (PCBs) during replacement of old transformers (iii) temporary disruptions of traffic and risk associated with transportation of construction materials (iv) air, dust and noise pollution (v) potential impact of electromagnetic fields; (vi) Occupational health and safety risks of workers, including electromagnetic fields and electrocution, falls, and thermal burn hazards, working at heights. There can be potential community health and safety risks associated with electricity service disruptions, dust, noise, vibrations, hazardous waste and movement of heavy vehicles and machinery. There could be likelihood of biodiversity impacts during rehabilitation works of the existing TL while passing through the modified forest terrain; Detailed assessments will be undertaken during project implementation and once the specific segments and locations have been finalized.

#### A.2 Social Risk Rating

Substantial

*[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating, in accordance with the ES Directive and the Technical Note on Screening and Risk Classification under the ESF – Max. character limit 2,000]*

The Social risk at concept stage is rated as Substantial. The project may result in potential economic and physical displacement due to civil works, although the scale is expected to be small since there is no new construction works are being undertaken, and rehabilitation of transmission lines will only be undertaken along stretches of the grid where the risk of resettlement is low. There is a risk of exclusion and discrimination against vulnerable and marginalized groups. It is also possible that project activities would result in labor risks due to labor influx, difficulty in conducting significant and inclusive stakeholder consultations in certain project areas, potential gender-based violence (GBV) risks and/or sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), social conflicts.

*[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating. This attribute is only for the internal version of the download document and not a part of the disclosable version – Max. character limit 2,000]*

### B. Relevance of Standards and Policies at Concept Stage



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

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

Relevant

*[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]*

The potential E&S impacts are expected to be at construction stage, since all works will be undertaken on existing infrastructure within a specified ROW. These would include inadequate disposal of waste, illegal sourcing, OHS and community health and safety risks, impacts on biodiversity economic displacement, GBV and environmental pollution. Some potential environmental impacts are also expected at operations and maintenance stage, associated with vegetation control and OHS. At preparation stage, the project is preparing an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which will include procedures for screening; additional assessments to be conducted; and requirements for site-specific E&S instruments. The ESMF, will in line with WBG Environment, Health, and Safety (EHS) Guidelines, and Guidelines for Electric Power Transmission and Distribution. Stakeholder Engagement Plan and Resttlement Policy Framework will also be prepared during project preparation

**ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure**

Relevant

*[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]*

Key stakeholders will most probably include the ministries involved in the project, project affected people in the project areas including vulnerable groups and poor households. The SEP will be clear and concise and focus on the project while identifying its stakeholders. The engagement will be held in languages suitable for the beneficiaries to understand and explain the opportunities for public consultation, provide a deadline for comment and feedback. The Borrower will therefore prepare and disclose prior to appraisal a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), which will detail how to identify, meaningfully consult, and include stakeholders throughout the life of the project. During project implementation, the SEP will be regularly reviewed, and any major revisions effected to the SEP publicly disclosed to stakeholders. The needs of vulnerable groups, in particular indigenous peoples, will need to be considered to adjust for their meaningful participation.

**ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions**

Relevant

*[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]*

The proposed project activities will probably require the hiring of different categories of workers (direct workers, contracted workers, and primary supply workers) in addition to the PIU. Direct workers would include full-time and part-time staff assigned to the PIU and consultants. Civil servants working with the project will be subject to the terms and conditions governing their existing terms of employment or agreements in the public sector, unless there has been a valid agreement between the two parties. Contractual workers would include contractors and subcontractors engaged for the planned civil works. Labor Management Procedures will describe the terms and conditions of employment, nondiscrimination and equal opportunities, workers' organizations, measures against child and forced labor, grievance mechanism and occupational health and safety of workers; the LMP will be included within the ESMF, which will be consulted and disclosed before Appraisal

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

Relevant

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*[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]*

Rehabilitation of electrical lines and the installation of meters could generate solid, electrical, construction and hazardous waste which may pose health and safety risks to humans and the environment if not adequately disposed. As the capacity of the Borrower in waste management (storage, treatment and disposal) is still low, Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) and the EHS Guidelines on Hazardous Material Management, and Waste Management will be followed through mandatory provisions in contracts with suppliers and contracts. These requirements will also apply to the disposal of old transformers containing PCBs, which are toxic and bioaccumulative. The ESMF will clarify all these requirements along with clear guidance on sourcing of construction materials (metal, wood, concrete) and good practices to be implemented while working in forested areas, including preventing any hunting, OHS and emergency procedures.

**ESS4 - Community Health and Safety**

Relevant

*[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]*

Community health and safety risks are anticipated during the rehabilitation and civil works, specifically within urban settings. The project activities might lead to community health and safety risks associated with dust, noise, vibrations, disposal of waste, including hazardous waste, and movement of heavy vehicles and machinery. Restriction of access (vehicular or pedestrian) during works and electricity service disruptions are also potential risks. The project activities might also lead to GBV and SEA/SH risks, and risks of transmission of epidemics. These risks will be assessed as part of the ESMF and appropriate measures will be developed and implemented through E&S management plans. Since the nature of the activities might result in labor influx in dense urban settings, the project might exacerbate the GBV occurrence, particularly among vulnerable groups. Accordingly, GBV risk assessment will be conducted as part of the ESMF, and further mitigation measures will be identified.

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

Relevant

*[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]*

While the exact footprint of the project is not yet known, rehabilitation and civil works would probably entail some economic and/or physical resettlement. The Borrower will therefore prepare and disclose prior to appraisal a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF). The RPF will detail the principles that will be used during the implementation phase of the project where subsequent Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) will be prepared as necessary.

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

Relevant

*[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]*

Based on available information known at this stage, the rehabilitation of the TL is not expected to have impact critical or sensitive habitats while works are undertaken within existing infrastructure and ROW. The ESMF will provide guidance on biodiversity screening, biodiversity assessments and mitigation measures to ensure minimal disruption to biodiversity and wildlife during period of construction. Given the age of the TL which was constructed almost 40 years ago, the rehabilitation works are not expected to have any impacts on migratory birds. The ESMF however, will include a screening criteria to determine the impact of any activities on natural or critical habitats, biodiversity,



wildlife and avian life, along with guidelines for developing biodiversity management plans, if needed. While LED bulbs are more energy efficient, the old bulbs which will be replaced will need to be properly disposed, as incandescent bulbs entail a high risk of mercury pollution.

**ESS7 - Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities** Not Currently Relevant

*[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]*

**ESS8 - Cultural Heritage** Relevant

*[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]*

The ESMF will include environmental and social screening procedure for identification of cultural heritage, and hierarchy of mitigation measures will be applied to manage the potential risks and impacts of the project. Since these are existing infrastructure, it is expected that there will not be any significant chance of tangible or intangible cultural heritage finds. However, chancefind procedure, in line with national laws and regulations, will also be articulated in the ESMF. In the event, contractors stumble on such chance finds during project implementation, "incidental finding procedures" will be included in E&S instruments, along with incidental finding clause to be included in the works contracts

**ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries** Not Currently Relevant

*[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]*

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**B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply**

**OP 7.50 Operations on International Waterways** No

**OP 7.60 Operations in Disputed Areas** No

**B.3 Other Salient Features**

**Use of Borrower Framework** No

*[Optional explanation – Max. character limit 1,000]*

**Use of Common Approach** No

*[Optional Explanation including list of possible financing partners – Max. character limit 1,000]*



#### **B.4 Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts**

*[Description provided will not be disclosed but will flow as a one time flow to the Concept Stage PID – Max. character limit 5,000]*

The main social risks are potential small-scale economic and physical displacement due to civil works along with the risk of exclusion and discrimination against vulnerable and marginalized groups, labor risks due to labor influx, difficulty in conducting significant and inclusive stakeholder consultations in certain project areas, potential gender-based violence (GBV) risks and/or sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), social conflicts.

The main environmental risks include generation of solid, electrical, hazardous and construction waste during rehabilitation works and replacement of old transformers; Biodiversity impacts especially along the TL; Occupational health and safety risks of workers; air, dust and noise pollution and community health and safety risks due to heavy traffic and material movements.

#### **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 by Appraisal?**

*[Description of expectations in terms of documents to be prepared to assess and manage the project’s environmental and social risks and by when (i.e., prior to Effectiveness, or during implementation), highlighted features of ESA documents, other project documents where environmental and social measures are to be included, and the related due diligence process planned to be carried out by the World Bank, including sources of information for the due diligence - Max. character limit 3,000]*

Documents and actions prepared and completed prior to Appraisal:

1. Preparation, consultation and disclosure of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) including GM;
2. Preparation and disclosure of Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP).
3. Preparation, consultation and disclosure of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) including Labor Management Procedures (LMP) and templates for Occupational, Health and Safety (OHS); Traffic Management and Emergency response and Waste Management plans and GBV risk assessment;
4. Preparation, consultation and disclosure of the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF).

Possible issues to be addressed in the Borrower Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP):

1. Preparation, consultation and disclosure of site-specific E&S instruments such as Biodiversity assessments and Management Plans, ESIA and ESMPs as per ESMF screening and requirement;
2. Preparation and disclosure of LMP including GM for workers post effectiveness and prior to hiring workers and Occupational, Health and Safety Management Plan
3. Institutional Capacity Enhancement Plan as part of the project ESCP;
4. Appointment of Environmental, Social, GBV and OHS specialists at PIU; Regular independent audits and inclusion of Senior Environmental Specialist, Senior Social Specialist, GBV specialist and Senior Biodiversity Specialist in the Owner’s Engineer firm
4. Development of a detailed GBV Action Plan based on the GBV risk rating.

### **III. CONTACT POINT**





**Contact Point**

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**IV. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

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**V. APPROVAL**

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