

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: ISDSC325

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 30-Dec-2011

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Bolivia	Project ID:	P127743
Project Name:	Rural Alliances Project II (P127743)		
Task Team Leader:	David Tuchschnieder		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	09-Jul-2012	Estimated Board Date:	19-Sep-2012
Managing Unit:	LCSAR	Lending Instrument:	Specific Investment Loan
Sector:	General agriculture, fishing and forestry sector (70%), Agricultural extension and research (20%), Agro-industry, marketing, and trade (10%)		
Theme:	Rural markets (50%), Rural services and infrastructure (40%), Rural policies and institutions (10%)		
Financing (In USD Million)			
Financing Source			Amount
BORROWER/RECIPIENT			0.00
International Development Association (IDA)			40.00
Municipalities of Borrowing Country			3.00
Local Farmer Organizations			7.00
Total			50.00
Environmental Category:	B - Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	Yes		

B. Project Objectives

The project development objective (PDO) is to improve market access for small rural producers in selected areas of the country.

C. Project Description

The proposed Project is a follow on operation to the successful PAR I, which tested the model for improving market access. In order to improve market access for small rural producers, the proposed Project will support the creation and maintenance of productive alliances between small organized rural producers and effective value-adding buyers (intermediaries, retailers or transformers). Furthermore, it will empower rural producers through the strengthening of self-managed grass-roots organizations; increase their access to productive assets and technology to improve production; promote awareness and know-how on related environmental sustainability, and more effective, responsive and accountable service provision at the local level. Three components have been designed to facilitate these aims:

- (i) Institutional support. Outputs from this component would include the identification of viable alliance plans, the institutional strengthening of small-producer organizations and the consolidation of commercial relations between alliance parties.
- (ii) Implementation of rural alliances. This component would finance small-producer subprojects, designed to achieve agreed product specifications, as well as small municipal public works required for the alliance viability. Alliances which introduce technological innovations and provide access to more demanding markets would be eligible for greater funding levels than those which simply aim at increasing volume for commodity production. Matching grants would cover goods, small works and technical assistance. Associations which have received funding from PAR I, as well as those involved in non-agricultural production, would be eligible to receive funding for technical assistance only.
- (iii) Project management. In order to achieve effective and efficient implementation, this component would finance goods, consulting and non-consulting services for project administration, M&E, transparency and accountability.

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

The Project would take place in three geographically different Departments across the country: (i) Northern La Paz; (ii) Santa Cruz and parts of Beni; and (iii) the Chaco. These areas have been selected using criteria which identify poor municipalities with growth potential and exclude the poorest and the richest municipalities of the country. A definitive list of eligible municipalities will be drawn before appraisal, depending on the total funding available. In all Project areas, the Project will work with organized producer groups of indigenous peoples, peasant communities and women.

The Departments include a variety of ecological regions spanning from high-altitude valleys to tropical humid forests. PAR I has already operated in all these ecological zones, yet the proposed Project area encompasses new municipalities. The upcoming complementary EA will update the earlier assessment of expected project impacts and requested environmental management guidelines for each ecological region, including a specific view on each newly incorporated municipality.

E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

Overall Borrower capacity for safeguard implementation is low; however, safeguards management in PAR I has been satisfactory throughout implementation. Based on an on-going Independent Environmental Assessment of PAR I, next phases of the Project preparation will contemplate lessons learned and recommendations for improving the environmental know-how of the key stakeholders, for example the facilitators contracted to support the implementation of the rural alliances.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Ruth Llanos (LCSSO)

Tuuli Johanna Bernardini (LCSEN)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	TBD	Explanation
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	X			No large-scale impacts are expected given the limited, community-based nature of Project activities. Most alliances will be dedicated to agricultural products, and limited to primary production. On average, producer subprojects under alliances, will include 25-40 smallholder production units and one line of production. A number of associated small municipal public works will also be financed, including road rehabilitation and improvement, and water and irrigation. A partial EA will be conducted as part of Project preparation to revise and complete identification of its potential environmental impacts based on the PAR I EA and lessons learned. Consequently, the PAR I Environmental Management Plan (EMP) will be revised and improved based on the results and recommendations of an on-going Independent Environmental Assessment of PAR I. The focus of the same is to enhance effectiveness and efficiency of the requested mitigation measures for negative impacts, as well as measures aimed at strengthening positive impacts.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	X			The EMP of the Project is expected to contemplate strengthened environmental management procedures of rural alliances that work within or near buffer zones of protected areas and other potential critical natural habitats.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	X			The Project will contemplate deforestation risks of humid or dry forests related with expansion of croplands or pastures that might be induced by some of the beneficiary rural alliances or other project effects. On the other hand, rural alliances focused on eco-tourism and gathering of non-timber forest products could effectively promote natural habitat conservation by rural producers.
Pest Management OP 4.09	X			Based on lessons learned from PAR I, the PAD-stage ISDS will reflect enhanced measures for implementing pest management plans in the agricultural subprojects which require it. It is expected, following the experience in PAR I that an important proportion of subprojects will actually promote organic agriculture.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	X			Some rural alliances involving tourism could benefit from, and perhaps help protect or restore important archaeological, historical, or other cultural property. Conversely, poorly-managed tourism could damage fragile sites or objects of cultural interest. Civil works such as roads and irrigation canals could possibly uncover significant cultural property. Management plans in individual subprojects will be developed to manage specific related issues.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	X			Given that the overwhelming majority of beneficiaries is indigenous, the project as a whole is considered an Indigenous Plan. Specific measures for encouraging alliances with minority groups in the lowlands will be enacted. Project documents and the Operational Manual will include key procedures and activities to ensure implementation of key policy elements.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	X			This safeguard will be triggered to ensure proper care is taken, particularly in the municipal investments sub-component, to avoid involuntary resettlement. As some subprojects may require to acquire land for alliance purposes, a Resettlement Policy Framework will be formulated before Appraisal. No works will be identified before appraisal.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	X			The Project may finance small dams less than 8 meters in height and for which generic safety measures, designed by qualified engineers will be included in the Operational Manual. Subprojects that rely on the performance of an existing dam or a dam under construction will be deemed ineligible.

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Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No	TBD	Explanation
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50		X		Minor irrigation works which may be financed are not expected to adversely change the quality or quantity of water flows to other riparians.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60		X		No project activities are contemplated in disputed areas.

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS: 18-May-2012

B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing¹ should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS:

A consolidated Social Assessment Framework and Resettlement Plan will be ready by March 31, 2012.

A complementary Environmental Assessment will be ready by March 31, 2011.

IV. APPROVALS

<i>Signed and submitted by:</i>		
Task Team Leader:	Name: David Tuchschnieder	Date: 28-Dec-2011
<i>Approved By:</i>		
Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Name: Glenn S. Morgan (RSA)	Date: 30-Dec-2011
Comments:		
Sector Manager:	Name: Ethel Sennhauser (SM)	Date: 30-Dec-2011
Comments: Approved DAvid.		

¹ Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.