



Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 01/02/2025 | Report No: ESRSA03898



I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Operation Data

Operation ID	Product	Operation Acronym	Approval Fiscal Year
P177372	Investment Project Financing (IPF)	PADIG	2025
Operation Name	Gabon Urban Development Project		
Country/Region Code	Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)	Region	Practice Area (Lead)
Gabon	Gabon	WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	Urban, Resilience and Land
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Gabonese Republic	Commission Nationale des Travaux d'Interet Public pour la Promotion de l'Entrepreneuriat et de l'Emploi (CNTIPPEE), Ministère des Travaux Publics, de l'Équipement et des Infrastructures	27-Jan-2025	01-Apr-2025
Estimated Decision Review Date	Total Project Cost		
14-Jan-2025	150,000,000.00		

Public Disclosure

Proposed Development Objective

The project’s development objective is to improve access to climate resilient urban infrastructure and public facilities, and reduce flood risk in selected cities.

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

The proposed project aims to support the GoG’s efforts in enhancing urban livability and climate-resilience in selected secondary cities (namely Franceville, Oyem, Lambarene, Koulamoutou, Mouila, Lembamba and Ndende) through improved access to climate-resilient infrastructure and investments promoting urban development. The proposed



project is a follow-on to the Local Infrastructure Development Projects I and II, and the project design builds upon and reflects lessons learned from the previous urban development projects in Gabon. The project intends to address bottlenecks impacting urban livability and resilience in the seven selected secondary cities. The project will support improved access to climate resilient urban infrastructure and public facilities as well as reduced flood risk in several secondary cities. Infrastructure investments will be complemented by activities to strengthen the capacities of municipalities in urban planning. The project will target integrated investments at the neighborhood level. These interventions will be informed by a spatial analysis of a city's characteristics to identify gaps in accessibility and quality of infrastructure and services and to prioritize investments that can help overcome existing constraints while limiting urban sprawl. This approach will also support local economic development and connect people to jobs and markets. Drainage and flood protection infrastructure will reduce flood risk in critical hot spots and thus protect people and urban assets. The investments will directly contribute to climate change adaptation and/or mitigation through the following: (i) designing drainage and flood protection infrastructure to withhold flood events with higher return periods ; (ii) upgrading road infrastructure to climate-resilient standards, (iii) retrofitting public facilities, such as schools, with renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions, improved ventilation/cooling solutions, and multipurpose infrastructure, and (iv) where possible, use Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) to address flooding and soil erosion, urban heat effect, and carbon sink capacities (creation or preservation). The proposed Project comprises four components: (1) Integrated Urban Development in targeted Cities; (2) Flood Risk Reduction Infrastructure; (3) Project Management, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation; and (4) Contingency Emergency Response Component. Component 1: The component will finance investments in climate-resilient urban infrastructure and services, while providing targeted technical assistance and capacity support to national and municipal government. The investments will be carried out in stages: The first stage will cover works which have been identified during preparation and have existing engineering designs. These are priority works that are less complex and quicker to design. The second stage will cover works which require more time to design as well as works in the three cities of Mouila, Lebamba and Ndende (which were identified at a later stage of preparation). Investments will include: a) Rehabilitation and upgrading of urban roads for resilience to climate shocks. The component will finance the upgrading or rehabilitation of urban roads to climate-resilient standards, which will include associated drainage and small complementary structures to improve all-weather accessibility, drainage, and road safety, such as sidewalks or pedestrian paths, footbridges, stairs, street lighting and signaling, access ramps and alike . The project will prioritize road sections and interventions based on two criteria: (i) the level of vulnerability of road section(s) to climate shocks (e.g., flooding, extreme heat) and opportunities to improve climate resilience at the road and network level; and (ii) the opportunity to improve access to basic services and economic opportunities (schools, hospitals, markets, well-lit bus stations), and long term outcomes identified by urban diagnostics. b) Rehabilitation and upgrading of selected public facilities. Currently, many public facilities like schools, community centers, sports grounds lack proper amenities and equipment which hinders their optimal use and functionality. Facilities in selected, dense, and poor neighborhoods would be prioritized with a maximum overlap with investments mentioned under part a above. For schools, this may include retrofits to improve climate-resilience like strengthening structural foundation, drainage, solar panels for electricity, ventilation, and sanitary facilities for boys and girls. The sub component may include other strategic studies for future upgrading investments such as feasibility studies for market upgrading . c) Development and upgrading of green and municipal spaces for social cohesion. Most cities have limited public (green) spaces that can be utilized by the communities for recreational purposes, despite relatively abundant vegetation and open green areas. This component will finance the upgrading of public plazas, playgrounds and, river bank enhancements. The designs will adopt a participatory approach and integrate Nature Based Solution to address the urban heat island effect and gender inclusive design through the facilitation of gender sensitive planning consultations to address barriers to inclusive public space use. Subcomponent 1.2 for strengthening the capacity of



cities, communities and the national government for resilient urban planning and management will finance: a) Support to resilient urban planning and management. It will entail support to Municipalities and the Ministry of Housing, Urban Planning and Cadaster, to (i) update existing Urban Master Plan (SDAU) by integrating climate resilience and (ii) develop resilient Land Use Plans (POS) which will support the implementation of the five existing SDAU produced by ILDP2 . Mechanisms to ensure enforcement of the plans will be identified through participatory processes, simplifications and flexible designs. In addition, Solid Waste Management Plans and Drainage Master Plans will be developed to ensure sustainability of the investments. Lastly, Operation & Maintenance Plan will be developed for investments, particularly drainage infrastructure, with the involvement of key project stakeholders and beneficiaries to ensure the ownership needed for its viability, and to prevent dumping of waste into the drains and the occupation of flood prone areas. b) Capacity building for participatory processes and community engagement: Key government officials and some non-governmental organizations will be trained on participatory processes, through workshops and the development of training tools with the support of community facilitators and Urban, Environmental and Social technical assistance (Maitrise d'oeuvre urbaine, environnementale et sociale) through local NGOs and associations. This will foster local community participation and facilitate the investment prioritization and design, as well as Operation and Maintenance mechanisms adapted to their needs. Learning from positive experience from ILDP2, the support of locally based community facilitators a majority of which (60 percent) will be women would ensure the prominence of women's voices in investment preparation and implementation processes. Community members will receive dedicated training on climate resilience , Nature-Based-Solutions , maintenance of equipment etc, as well as awareness and sensitization on waste management issue and Gender Based Violence (GBV). c) Technical assistance for the preparation of climate-resilient investment (i.e. preparatory studies). The sub-component will finance technical assistance for preparatory studies for a small number of selected sub-projects, but will not finance any works. This includes for example the preparatory studies for the Lebamba-Mbigou-Malinga-Mollo road sections of the Trans-African Highway to Congo. It may also include preparatory studies for the rehabilitation of the School of Public Works and the laboratory of the Ministry of Public Works. d) The hiring of an independent consulting firm to supervise works (further referred to as "supervising engineers"). Component 2: The component will finance infrastructure for stormwater drainage and flood risk reduction, including grey and Nature-Based solutions (i.e. green and blue infrastructure). The focus will be on restoring, improving, and protecting the capacity of the drainage system to increase resilience to floods. Efforts in flood risk reduction under Component 2 may be complemented by the development of a solid waste management strategy under Component 1. Besides physical investments, the component will finance related technical assessments, including feasibility studies and pre-feasibility studies , detailed engineering designs, backup assessments and contracts with international engineering supervision companies in selected beneficiary cities. Activities will include critical interventions for flood risk reduction identified in the pre-feasibility studies. These may include urban flood control measures such as: a) stormwater drainage, including related works for construction, renovation and/or capacity increase or expansion of culverts (with check valves if necessary), canals and outfalls ; b) initial cleaning of channels or retention areas, as appropriate; c) the improvement of water retention areas/systems by integrating Nature-Based solutions where feasible and appropriate; d) the installation of river flood protection (e.g. sheet pile or similar Nature-Based Solutions) and/or small dikes where possible and appropriate, as well as e) ancillary work on adjacent urban infrastructure to integrate these structures into the flood-resilient design of the designated site (e.g. complement with Nature-Based Solutions). Component 3: This component will ensure the successful implementation of all project activities, in line with the Bank's policies and guidelines. It will support the borrower in the areas of project coordination, supervision of works, hiring of an independent consulting firm as "supervising engineers", resource management, procurement, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of project activities (including gender-disaggregated data), communication, audits, preparation and supervision of the implementation of environmental and social



safeguard instruments, preparation of related investigations, including through the provision of training, operating costs, goods and services. The component will also finance a technical assistance package to strengthen the capacity of the Project Coordination Unit (PCU). Consultants will be hired on a competitive basis to support the implementation of the various components. Component 4: Contingency Emergency Response Component (US\$0 million) This component is a 'zero-assignment' CERC that will provide funding for immediate response in the event of an eligible crisis or emergency, defined as an event that has caused or is likely to imminently cause a major adverse economic and/or social impact associated with natural or man-made crises or disasters.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

Gabon is located on the Atlantic coast of central Africa on a territory of 266,667 km². The terrain consists of a narrow coastal plain, a hilly interior, savanna, and mountains. Forests cover 91% of its territory. Gabon is highly vulnerable to the impacts of natural hazards and climate change, particularly to flooding, sea-level rise, landslides, storms, and precipitation changes. In 2022, Gabon was ranked 126 out of 187 countries on the ND-Gain Index which measures a country's vulnerability to climate change, as well as its readiness to improve resilience.

The main physical characteristics of the seven selected secondary cities to be covered by the project are:

1. Franceville is one of the four largest cities in Gabon. It lies on the Mpassa River and at the end of the Trans-Gabon Railway and the N3 road.
2. Oyem. Capital of Woleu-Ntem province, with lies on the River Ntem at an elevation of about 3,000 feet, high producer of coffee and cocoa.
3. Lambaréné. Capital of Moyen-Ogooué province, located on the banks of the Ogooué, centered around an island, with varied fauna and abundant flora.
4. Koulamoutou. Capital of Ogoou-Lolo Province in east-central Gabon with ca. 26,000 inhabitants, with mountains and border to Congo nearby, at the confluence of River Lolo and the River Bouenguidi, exposed to flooding.
5. Mouila. Capital of Ngounié province, located in one of the poorest regions with the Blue Lake as main sight.
6. Lebamba is a small town in southwestern Gabon. It is the capital of the Louetsi-Wano Department in Ngounié Province. It lies along the N6 road, 38.3 kilometers northeast of Ndendé.
7. Ndende is the capital of the Dola Department in Ngounié Province, southern Gabon. It is located 549 kilometers southeast of Libreville at the junction of the N1 and N6 roads.

These cities are facing several significant environmental issues, primarily related to its rapid urbanization and the impacts of climate change. The main challenges include flooding, deforestation, rapid and informal urbanization, low access to water and sanitation, pollution due to insufficient waste management, etc. Addressing these issues requires comprehensive urban planning, investment in resilient infrastructure, and active community participation to ensure sustainable development and environmental conservation.

Main social features are:

- The project targets people who reside in the urban area of the above cities. Although sparsely populated with 2.4 million (2023) inhabitants on approximately 268,000 sq km that are mostly covered by forest, Gabon has one of Africa's highest urbanization rates. More than four in five Gabonese live in cities. The urbanization rate increased from 20 percent in the early 1960s to 91 percent in 2023, and is expected to rise to 95 percent by 2050. The secondary cities supported under this project host together around 13 percent of Gabon's population. They are connected and crossed by national roads, along which relatively dense commercial activities, and they are in need of significant infrastructure investments to upgrade their roads, urban facilities, and spaces to improve resilience, livability, and service delivery. Investments in resilient urban infrastructures and services have fallen significantly behind the rapid and often informal



urbanization. While the primary road network is of acceptable quality, many secondary or neighborhood roads are in poor or unpaved condition and pose a challenge during the rainy season. This makes it more difficult for residents of these cities to access these neighborhoods and impedes them from benefiting from public services and economic opportunities. The capital, Libreville, and the second largest city, Port Gentil, which is the economic capital, are home to 45 percent of the total population. Apart from Libreville, Port-Gentil, and Franceville (population of 110,568 at the 2013 census), all other cities are relatively small, with populations ranging between 500 and 80,000.. Gabon’s secondary cities are generally sparsely populated, spatially expansive, and poorly connected. With a very low average population density of 8.1 people per km² and the absence of substantial investment in transport networks, connectivity between and within cities represents a major challenge. for Gabon's urbanization and the country's economic development.

Uncontrolled urbanization resulted in sprawl and the proliferation of informal settlements, which account for 36.6 percent of the urban population nationwide. Informal development often takes place in flood-prone areas, swampy lowlands, or hillsides which are unsuitable for construction. 90 percent of the urban population have access to basic drinking water services, and 98.7 percent have access to electricity. However, the quality and reliability of these services vary within and between cities. Concerning sanitation, only 51 percent of the urban population has access to at least basic sanitation, and the solid waste collection coverage rate for Gabonese cities is 57 percent.

The political context, so far relatively stable thanks to popular support for the transitional authorities, could deteriorate with the organization of the referendum for the adoption of a new constitution and the upcoming electoral deadlines (<https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/gabon/overview>). According to Afrobarometer 2024, Gabon citizen's trust in institutional is one of the lowest in Gabon (26%) compared to Tanzania (78%), Niger (67%), and Burkina Faso (61%). As for the Transparency pillar, the law establishes the public's right to access environmental information; however, most government agencies are not required to make environmental information proactively available to the public. The public has the right to participate in a wide range of environmental decision-making. However, there are no requirements to proactively provide information to the public on these opportunities (Environmental Democracy Index Score. Access Initiative <https://accessinitiative.org/country/gabon/>)

Social discrimination against women remains high. Gender parity ratios in education, health, politics, and labor reveal long-dated constraints and inequalities. Although the maternal mortality ratio in Gabon has improved from 249 in 2000 to 227 in 2020, 227 women die per 100,000 live births due to pregnancy-related causes in Gabon; 56.8% of girls and 52% of boys complete lower secondary school in Gabon as of 2019 data; the female rate in Gabon is higher than in Sub-Saharan Africa but lower than the upper-middle-income group. The labor force participation rate among females is 39.9%, and among males is 57.7% for 2023 and the share of women who have experienced intimate partner violence is greater than the world average, 27%, defined as the percentage of ever-married women (ages 15-49) who have ever experienced physical or sexual violence committed by their husband or partner (<https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/home>). However, Gabon has adopted a series of reforms to its civil and penal codes designed to give women more rights in the home and at work. Among other things, the reforms make it possible for any woman to open a bank account and go to work without the permission of her husband. As a result, Gabon’s score on the Women, Business, and the Law 2022 index rose to 82.5, a substantial increase from 57.5 two years prior (Gabon: Women and men to share more rights and responsibilities. World Bank. May 11, 2022).

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



The project will be implemented by the Ministry of Public Works Equipment and Infrastructure (MTP) and build on the experience accumulated during ILDP1 and ILDP 2 under the leadership of the Ministry of Economy through the mobilization of the National Commission for Public Infrastructure Works and Promotion of Small-Scale Enterprises (CNTIPPEE) for its fiduciary aspects, including environmental and social risk management.

The MTP is the overall project lead, technical lead, and expert. It will also coordinate with other stakeholders.

A Project Steering Committee will be set up to mobilize all relevant ministries involved through representatives at the right level and facilitate coordination and collaboration between national agencies and municipalities, CNTIPPEE, and PIU. In addition, a technical committee or network of focal points will regularly monitor implementation and propose corrective action as needed.

The CNTIPPEE, under the leadership of the Ministry of Economy, is a shared organization responsible for fiduciary and ES risk management for all the WBG projects in Gabon, including the Infrastructure and Local Development Project 2 (LIDP 2 - P151077), which closed in 31 Jan 2021.

The CNTIPPEE will manage fiduciary and E&S risk management, performance, and monitoring of the Project through the Project Implementation Unit (PIU). The CNTIPPEE's capacity in managing ES aspects was weak during project preparation, to the point that HEIS support was arranged to support the preparation of the cross-cutting and framework ES instruments that will be part of the appraisal package.

The PIU team will maintain the environmental specialist and the social specialist, who are already on board. Any change of specialist should be done as per terms of reference acceptable to the Bank. A GBV and an EAS/HS specialist could also be engaged, and this will be agreed upon during Project appraisal. The roles and responsibilities of each specialist will be reflected in the Project Operational Manual. The PIU will coordinate overall implementation activities as well as Environmental, Social, and Occupational Health and Safety (ESHS). The PIU will be in charge of (i) implementation of the ESCP; (ii) incorporating the requirements of the relevant ESHS in terms of reference of technical assistance activities, in a manner acceptable to the Bank, and monitoring their implementation; (iii) preparing the ESHS requirements for all project documents, including bidding, for Bank's non-objection; (iv) prepare the ESHS quarterly monitoring reports to be submitted to the Bank; and (v) implement the project's stakeholder engagement plan, including the grievance redress mechanism, and prepare their reports.

Lines of communication and coordination between the PIU and the institutions with a specific mandate over the approval of the environmental and social studies, such as the Directorate-General for the Environment and Nature Protection (DGEPN) and the Ministry of Land and Cadaster ruling involuntary resettlement, among others, will be described in the Project Operational Manual.

This project will address the implementation challenges faced by the CNTIPPEE managing the Bank safeguards policies in LIDP 2 - P151077 through a tailored and comprehensive capacity-building program that will aim at addressing the most significant issues, including insufficient site safety measures, recurrent accidents on sites, and failure to follow accident reporting procedures, not involvement of community and civil society organizations in implementing the activities as it was envisioned by the Project, and gender were not systematically considered.



The capacity building is part of component 3 of the project and shall be appropriately resourced and includes (a) Training for the MTP, CN-TIPPEE, and PIU staff, Municipalities E&S focal points (to be defined during appraisal) on ES screening steps and tools for subprojects, stakeholders engagement including participatory strategies and tools at the community level, grievance redressing, OHS and road traffic management, specific aspects of environmental and social assessment, emergency preparedness and response, community health and safety, gender-based violence: sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (GBV: SEA/SH), ES incident notification, response, and reporting; and (b) Technical assistance to prepare simple manual procedures, guidelines and tools to ensure the proper and timely implementation of E&S instruments with active citizen engagement. Topics will include occupation and health safety monitoring and other ES risk management and participatory strategies and tools to enable local communities to voice their concerns and needs in the selection and operation of infrastructure, as well as in urban land planning or implementation in their cities. Participatory tools will include how to carry out meaningful consultation, satisfaction surveys, and grievance redressal, among others.

In addition to that, the PIU will be supported by an international engineering firm for the technical aspects throughout the entire duration of the project, and a maitrise d’oeuvre environmental and social, and ES studies and instruments preparation will be included in the technical design contracts since most subprojects are low to moderate E&S risks.

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

Environmental risk is substantial and this risk is mostly link to components 2 of the project. Project activities under component 1 are (i) small to medium size urban infrastructure works, including upgrading of urban streets, drainage, footbridges, stairs, pedestrian ways, public lighting, access ramps, public places, green spaces. Specific features and location of these works are still unknown, but these works will be implemented in medium to small cities located in consolidated urban areas that may be already environmentally degraded. Although Gabon is endowed with natural resources and sensitive ecosystems like wetlands, forests, and national parks, significant adverse risks, and impacts on biodiversity are not expected from component 1 activities that will take place inside cities. Even though most of the negative direct environmental impacts of the project will be temporary, site-specific, predictable, and manageable, the weak track record of the Borrower in managing environmental impacts and risks (insufficient site safety measures, recurrent accidents on sites and failure to follow accident reporting procedures), raises the environmental risk to Moderate. In addition, while Component 2 of the project aims to enhance flood risk reduction through infrastructure improvements, it is crucial to consider potential adverse environmental impacts which include (i) disruption of natural habitats: construction activities for stormwater drainage and flood protection infrastructure may disrupt local ecosystems. The installation of culverts, canals, and dikes can alter natural water flow patterns, potentially affecting aquatic habitats and species; (ii) Soil Erosion and Sedimentation: the construction process may lead to soil erosion, especially during the initial phase of channel or retention area cleaning. This erosion can result in sedimentation in nearby water bodies, impacting water quality and aquatic life; (iii) loss of vegetation: the improvement of water retention areas and installation of Nature-Based solutions may necessitate the removal of



existing vegetation. This loss can reduce biodiversity and disrupt local flora and fauna; (iv) Pollution Risks: construction activities often involve the use of heavy machinery and materials that can introduce pollutants into the environment. Accidental spills of oil, fuel, or other substances can contaminate soil and water sources; (v) altered hydrology: Implementing flood control measures may change the natural hydrology of the area. While these measures aim to reduce flood risks, they can also lead to unintended consequences such as downstream flooding or reduced groundwater recharge, (vi) Impact on Community Health: the construction phase can generate dust, noise, and vibrations, adversely impacting the health and well-being of nearby communities. Adverses impacts that may result from TA and M&E activities (capacities building, preparatory studies of subprojects, PIU supervision activities, and mobilizing international firm as supervising engineers..) are traffic related accidents due to teams mobility, and carbon emissions (frequent travel for supervision and coordination can contribute to an increased carbon footprint). Mitigation measures should be in place to minimize these effects. But overall the project wil have significant positive impact and numerous benefits for selected cities: reduce the vulnerabilities to flooding, environmental restoration through NBS, ensure the longevity and sustainability of the urban infrastructures, etc. Adverse impacts have been addressed by including provisions for assessing and addressing them consistent with ESSs 1-10. For the works, which location will be determined during project implementation, the Borrower has prepared, consulted and disclosed an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) before project appraisal. Environmental and Social Management Plan/s (ESMP/s),as information on the project's specific works, becomes ava

Substantial

A.2 Social Risk Rating

Social Risk is substantial. Social risks are associated with the small to medium scale (size, budget, duration) of infrastructure works (upgrading and rehabilitation of urban roads; drainage infrastructure and flood risk management solutions (including NBS), schools and other public facilities as well as green spaces and plazas) and the downstream social impacts that could emerge from the execution of the Land Use Plans (that will operationalize the existing Urban Master Plan or the ones to be developed). Works of mostly temporary, predictable, or reversible ES impacts will be implemented in cities of small to medium-sized populations, comprised of poor people, including families living in riparian areas and informal settlements. Investment subprojects will cause low to medium size resettlement, mostly economic displacement. Works are not expected to pose a social conflict or have large adverse effects on the population's health. The main social risks of infrastructure works include: (a) Exclusion of most "disadvantaged or vulnerable" social groups, who, because of their age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, physical, mental, or other disability, social, civic, or health status, sexual orientation or gender identity, and economic disadvantages, may be more limited than others in their ability to participating in the consultation processes related to the selection and features of the infrastructure works in their communities or the development of Land Use Plans that could affect them; (b) Poor citizen participation in project activities. Low confidence citizens and communities have in the institution can prevent citizens from participating in the project. (c) Urban plans and land use plans operationalization can pose downstream, direct, or indirect social impacts, if they (i) support the preparation of feasibility studies, detailed technical designs, safeguard instruments, bid documents, etc. of future construction of physical infrastructure or the implementation of other activities with potential physical impacts; and (ii) are implemented through future investments. For example, land use may eventually have impacts on livelihoods or restrictions on land; or gentrification. Improvement in the cities can cause rising living costs due to, for instance, an increase in property values and can consequently cause the displacement of usually poorer residents; (d) Temporary disruption of economic activities and obstacles to access to residences and commerce during the execution of works. This risk will be managed through the subprojects ESMPs. (e) Temporary or permanent impact on land and assets for some of the works; (f) Poor labor conditions -management, including GBV: SEA/SH in the workplace and from project workers

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towards the communities. Social Risks will be addressed through the following instruments prepared and disclosed before project appraisal: - The Stakeholder Engagement Plan according to the ESS10 (a and b) - Provisions for assessing and addressing downstream social impacts in terms of reference and work plans and/or other documents of the urban plans and land use plans operationalization, defining the scope and outputs of the activities so that they are consistent with ESSs 1-10. - Provisions in the subprojects ESMPs (d). - The Resettlement Framework according to ESS 5 requirements (e) - Labor Management Plan and SEP, according to ESS2 and ESS 10; (f) The Borrower's poor track record in managing social risks in LIDP 2, including poor community, and civil society organizations engagement in the project will be addressed by the capacity building program included in the ESMF and ESCP.

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESS) 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

ESS1 is relevant. The project finances small to medium-scale urban infrastructure works, including upgrading and rehabilitation of urban roads; upgrading, rehabilitation, and extension of drainage infrastructure and flood risk management solutions (including NBS); upgrading and rehabilitation of schools and other public facilities as well as green spaces and plazas. Besides physical investments, the project will also finance TA, including pre feasibility studies, detailed engineering designs, and probably a solid waste management strategy. For most of those physical investments, the exact technical characteristics and/or locations will be only known during project implementation. Out of a long list of investments identified, there are four investments that are relatively simple to execute and already advanced in technical, environmental, and social studies preparation. These are sampling the typology of works to be financed by the project. The sub-projects will be implemented in cities with small to medium populations in consolidated urban areas composed of poor people, including families living on riverbanks and in informal settlements. The project's environmental and social (ES) risks assessment and management also included the potential downstream environmental and social impacts of the operationalization of the urban master plan produced by the Infrastructure and Local Development Project II - LIPDII (P151077) through the implementation of elaboration of land use plans. The works' exact size and specific features, and location will be defined at later stages of the project's preparation. On balance, the ES impacts of the project are expected to be positive. These include enhancement of living conditions and quality of life of the population and the environment of the underserved neighborhoods with improved access to service through the small public facilities (footbridges, stairs, pedestrian ways, public lighting, access ramps); and improvement of health conditions through the drainage and public and green spaces, protection against periodic flooding. Improved streets will make streets safer, strengthen community bonds, and facilitate mobility and integration into the urban fabric. In addition to the direct and local positive impacts from the site-specific works, positive downstream effects are expected from planning innovations adopted by the municipalities. Innovations include addressing climate-related risks, building resilience, and improving disaster preparedness and response by incorporating relevant technologies and standards in works' design, operation, and management options. Activities funded by the project are expected to have manageable ES risks and impacts, most of which will be temporary, predictable, or reversible, as described in the risks sections of the present ESRS. However, the Borrower's past track record in managing ES risks and impacts raised the ES risks to substantial. Eight out of the ten WB ESS are relevant to the project. The environmental and social instruments to address the risks related to these ESS, including institutional strengthening measures, were prepared by the Project and disclosed by the

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Borrower and on the World Bank website on December 23 - 24, 2024. They are: - An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); - A Resettlement Framework (RF); - A GBV: SEA/SH Action Plan. - A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), including a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM); - A Labor Management Procedures (LMP). - The Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) describes the organizational structure to manage the ES risks, the reporting, and ES instruments already prepared and those to be prepared during project implementation. The Terms of Reference (TOR), work plans, and other documents defining the scope and outputs for updating urban development plans and land use plans will be prepared to ensure consistency with relevant ESS standards. More specifically, detailed ESIA and a Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) for the investments to be made in the different watersheds will be considered. The Waste Management Strategy's ToR will be prepared to ensure consistency with relevant ESS standards and World Bank ESHS Guidelines specific to waste management. The TOR and work plans for developing tools such as standard bidding documents, operational guidelines, processes, regulations, procurement manuals, etc., will include general Environment, Social, Health, and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs) and specific EHSGs related to the urban sector. In addition, the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) of the following four subprojects, which were prepared consistent with the relevant ESSs, will be disclosed before the project appraisal is finalized. (i) Rehabilitation of Libongui School in Koulamoutou; (ii) Upgrading of two sections of road measuring 749 ml and 247 ml in the Dialogue district in the 2nd arrondissement of the commune of Franceville; (iii) 400 ml of roads in the ATONGOWANGA neighborhood in the 1st arrondissement of the commune of Lambaréné; and (iv) Upgrading of a 523 ml section of road in the AKOAKAM 1 district (place called Manguier-Tougou-Tougou) in the 1st arrondissement of the municipality of Oyem.

ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

ESS 10 is relevant. An open and transparent engagement between the Borrower and project stakeholders will help the development of strong, constructive, and responsive relationships that are important for successful management of the project environmental and social risks and timely implementation of the project. The GoG prepared a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) that will be disclosed before project appraisal. The SEP incorporates stakeholder mapping and suggested engagement methods throughout the Project life to guide the GoG in interactions with a wide range of affected and interested parties as follows": Affected parties: (i) Government agencies: Ministry of Public Works; Ministry of Economy; Ministry of Budget, Ministry of Cities Planning, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Decentralization and Regional Planning; The Presidency of the Republic; Association of Mayors of Gabon; the CNTIPPEE; Governorates, Prefectures, Sub-Prefectures, Town Halls, Departmental Councils; and (ii) Project beneficiaries: include most disadvantageous and vulnerable individuals and groups (young people, women, migrants, disabled people, etc.). Other interested parties: (i) private sector, including insurances company covering project related risks; (iii) Civil Society Organizations, (iv) non-governmental organizations, (v) universities, (vi) the press, (vii) health centers on managing project related incidents or accidents, etc. Several consultations were carried out during the identification and preparation of the project through more than nine project identification missions, five of which were conducted by videoconference and four in the field in the four municipalities previously targeted by PADIG, including four environmental and social screening missions. The consultations held were designed to: (i) to present the program; (ii) to encourage and promote the participation of the central and local government authorities, the heads of the technical administrative structures, the population, economic operators, associations and NGOs, and young people from the municipalities of the four target cities; and (iii) to receive the opinions and concerns of these stakeholders regarding the environmental and social impacts. The following proposals were made Continuous monitoring of ES indicators relevant to project M&E; Strengthening community capacity in ES risk management;

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Providing feedback to stakeholders on project performance; Adding the Ministry of Planning and Prospects as a stakeholder; Separating the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Human-Wildlife Conflict from the Ministry of Water and Forests; maintain current participants as focal points in each administration; include communication tools such as displays and the scrolling strip; include the Ministry of Culture and Communication as a stakeholder; establish a peer review committee for documents produced; establish a collaborative framework for delineating subprojects covered by PADIG and those included in the national budget. The SEP will aim to: a) Facilitate timely access for affected and interested parties to the project's information and its environmental and social risks and impacts. b) Using a gender-based approach, facilitate broad, inclusive, and comprehensive public consultations with project stakeholders, including disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals and groups. The approaches to be taken in communications will ensure that information is: • meaningful, timely, and accessible to affected stakeholders; • addresses cultural sensitivities and challenges deriving from gender, illiteracy, disability; • provides reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities as appropriate. c) Provide ways in which citizens feedback will be integrated into the activities. d) Describe and disseminate information on a grievance mechanism for the project. The citizen engagement will be tracked through the following indicators, i) "Community satisfactory survey - Respondents reporting satisfaction with project delivered infrastructure and services (Percentage)" Such a survey will be performed at Mid-Term Review or one year after first infrastructures and services are delivered; and ii) "Grievances resolved through the GRM that are addressed in the specified timeframe (Percentage)". This will be followed up after missions and progress reflected in the project ISR. The comprehensive Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will result from assessment of the following features: a) Different ways in which stakeholders can submit grievances, including submissions in person, by phone, text message, mail, e-mail, or via a website and accessibility features for people with hearing and speech impairments. b) A log where grievances are registered in writing and maintained as a database. c) Publicly advertised procedures, setting out the length of time users can expect to wait for acknowledgment, response, and resolution of their grievances. d) Transparency about the grievance procedure, governing structure, and decision-makers. e) An appeals process (including the national judiciary) to which unsatisfied grievances may be referred when the resolution of grievance has not been achieved.

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ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

ESS 2 is relevant to the project. Work-related risks may comprise non respect of project's workers labor conditions by the works contractors, including delay in the payment of salaries and noncompliance with the social insurance, likely presence of migrant or seasonal workers, thus influx of labor that could also increase GBV: SEA/SH; hazardous work such as working at heights or in confined spaces, handling heavy equipment or hazardous materials; occupational accidents and other OHS-related risks. To mitigate labor and working conditions risks, promote safety and health at work and ensure adherence to ESS2 provisions, the project developed a Labor Management Plan (LMP) to be disclosed prior to project appraisal. The project will include direct workers, contracted workers, and primary suppliers, all of whom will be covered under ESS2. At this stage of the project, community workers within the meaning of ESS2 and security personnel are not envisaged. Employees of the public sector working in connection with the project, whether full-time or part-time, will remain subject to the terms and conditions of their existing public sector employment agreement or arrangement unless there has been an effective legal transfer of their employment or engagement to the project (such transfer will be conducted in accordance with all legal requirements and transferred workers will be subject to all requirements of ESS2). Except for the provisions in paragraphs 17 to 20 (Protecting the WorkForce) and paragraphs 24 to 30 (Occupational Health and Safety), ESS2 will not apply to public sector employees. Direct workers: people employed or engaged directly by the Borrower (including the project



proponent and the project implementing agencies) to work specifically in relation to the project. The project will likely hire individual consultants for the PIU and other specific tasks of the project. The requirements of paragraphs 9 to 30 of the ESS2 will apply to direct workers [A. Working conditions and management of worker relationships: Terms and conditions of employment, Nondiscrimination and equal opportunity, Worker's organizations; B. Protecting the work force: Child labor and minimum age, Forced labor; C. Grievance mechanism; and D. Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)]. Contracted workers: people employed or engaged through third parties (may include contractors, subcontractors, brokers, agents or intermediaries) to perform work related to core functions (those production and/or service processes essential for a specific project activity without which the project cannot continue) of the project, regardless of location. The project will include civil contractors and service providers workers. The requirements of paragraphs 9 to 33 of the ESS2 will apply to contracted workers, as specified in Section E [A. Working conditions and management of worker relationships: Terms and conditions of employment, Nondiscrimination and equal opportunity, Worker's organizations; B. Protecting the work force: Child labor and minimum age, Forced labor; C. Grievance mechanism; D. Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and E. Contracted workers]. Primary suppliers of goods and services workers: people employed or engaged by the Borrower's primary suppliers (suppliers who, on an ongoing basis, provide directly to the project goods or materials essential for the core functions of the project). These may include supplier of computer equipment and the PIU office, suppliers of construction materials such as stones, cement, iron, fuel). These workers will be treated in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 39 to 42 G. Primary supply workers, including potential risks of child labor, forced labor and serious safety issues, consistent with paragraphs 17 to 20 [B. Protecting the work force: Child labor and minimum age, Forced labor. Where there is a significant risk of serious safety issues, the Borrower will require the relevant primary supplier to introduce procedures and mitigation measures to address such safety issues]. These procedures could imply the mobilization of an insurance company to cover specific risks that may affect workers. As per described in the World Bank bidding document it could be all-risk insurance for construction sites, individual accidents, health insurance.... For workers exposed to traffic commuting accidents, the Borrower may request from contractor, a road safety protocol or procedure for worker transportation. The LMP includes inter alia: (i) provisions and measures to ensure equal treatment in recruitment, working conditions including worksites facilities, promotion, payment, and no child or forced labor use for any category of project workers and suppliers; (ii) a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) for all direct workers and contracted workers (and, where relevant, their organizations) to raise workplace concerns. This GRM provides separately from the GRM required under ESS10 and foresees a tailored window for GBV: SEA/SH claims; (iii) occupational health and safety (OHS) and traffic risks or incidents, including as relevant the requirements of paragraphs 24 -33 of the ESS2, and will take into account the General EHSs and, as appropriate, the industry-specific EHSs and other GIIP; and (iv) Code of Conduct to adequately manage risks related to GBV, particularly SEA/SH in the workplace and in the community as well as any other risks from labor influx.

ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Relevant

ESS 3 is relevant. The relatively short-term and medium-sized nature of civil works in the project (street paving, drainage, public places, footbridges, stairs, pedestrian ways, public lighting, access ramps, public places, and green spaces) construction and the machinery and vehicle employed for them, will use energy, water, and raw materials. They will also generate air, water, and land pollutants, causing adverse temporary, reversible, and manageable impacts on human health and the environment. Use, transport, and maintenance of construction materials such as shuttering, pebbles, cement, iron, sheet metal will consume small amounts of water, electrical energy and generate manageable greenhouse gas emissions such as CO2. Pollution risks may result from construction activities in



watersheds that often involve the use of heavy machinery and materials that can introduce pollutants into the environment. Accidental spills of oil, fuel, or other substances can contaminate soil and water sources. Release of likely limited in scope and duration climate project-related emissions of short and long-lived climate pollutants that could not be avoided due to the construction works include: Air emissions. They include exhaust from heavy vehicles and machinery and fugitive dust generated by construction activities or material transportation. Those most likely to be affected are workers and people living within the proximity of the work sites. Waste, including drain cleaning wastes, some hazardous wastes. Construction activities will generate solid waste, including empty cement bags, scrap metal, timber, used oil, sewage from concrete plants, excavated soil, and hazardous waste such as hydrocarbon oils from construction machinery and vehicles. Noise. Vehicle movements and machinery used in the construction will generate noise. The construction works may, however, be a short-term nuisance to the public and property owners adjacent to some of the project sites. Pesticides, chemicals, and hazardous materials. It is expected the project will use a moderate amount of chemical and hazardous materials in the construction works (paints, solvents, acids, flammable materials, etc.). Once further information becomes available, the ESMF/ESMP has a chapter containing mitigating measures to address risks related to ESS3, including (i) financially feasible measures for improving efficient consumption and potential cumulative impacts associated with civil works; (ii) provisions for waste handling, transport, and disposal; (iii) measures to minimize air emissions such as dust suppression and vehicle maintenance; and (iv) measures to minimize and manage the noise levels such by applying standard restrictions to hours of site work.

ESS4 - Community Health and Safety

Relevant

ESS 4 is relevant. During the implementation of civil works, some temporary, site-specific, and reversible adverse impacts may occur at the community level, posing risks to community health and safety, especially those in informal settlements. These risks may include improper wastes, dust, noise, and vibrations, GBV: SEA/SH among others. To address these community health and safety-related risks: Improving drainage and flood protection infrastructure will mitigate health risks associated with stagnant water, such as waterborne diseases. Additionally, the project will reduce the physical and psychological stress experienced by residents during flood events, thereby improving overall community well-being. However, during the construction phase of water drainage infrastructures, the project can generate improper wastes, dust, noise, and vibrations, adversely impacting the health and well-being of nearby communities. The ESMF, the SEA/SH Action Plan, the SEP and subprojects ESMPs include provisions to address Community Health and Safety impacts and risks as follows: (i) measures to prevent disease and exposure to toxic materials such as the proper disposal of human and hazardous waste; (ii) community emergency response procedures; (iii) circulation of trucks and machinery that can impact the safe movement of people and lead to traffic accidents and impair traffic and road safety or block or diversion of traffic to potentially less accessible routes in terms of mobility; (iv) operational security arrangements, including installation of a security system around the project sites, equipment, and vehicles using fences and security guards, controlling access to project sites including managing risks associated with property theft and safety provisions for the security of personnel interactions with the local community; (v) exposure to hazardous materials and possible health risks associated with inappropriate storage/use of chemicals; mitigate the soil movement and consequent air pollution impacts by particulate material exposure to dust emission, noise pollution increases in noise levels and production of debris and health risks linked to inappropriate disposal of solid and human waste; (vi) a robust GRM to manage potential complaints of non-employment, divergence in cultural behavior of external workers, and differing behaviors, including GBV/SEA incidents; and pollution or environmental incident; (vii) provisions that vehicles and machinery will be operated by

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professionally trained drivers and operators, and periodical technical inspections of vehicles and machinery operating conditions; and (viii) guidelines for reporting to the Bank on incidents and accidents The project design will ensure universal accessibility to all improved infrastructure, where technically and economically feasible.

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

Relevant

ESS 5 is relevant. Civil works to be supported by the project (component 1) will require land acquisition, restrictions on land use, and involuntary resettlement, partially, completely, temporarily, or permanently affecting families. According to the screening of resettlement in the four sampling subprojects that will be part of the Project appraisal package, including the rehabilitation of three roads in Franceville, Oyem, and Lambarene, involuntary resettlement, is expected to be from small to medium size and mostly economic displacement, probably not exceeding 100 persons affected by subprojects. Likewise, works could also cause temporary disruptions to the economic activities of the local populations or access to the domiciles. In addition, urban development plans and land use plans may have adverse downstream implications related to restrictions on land use and requirements for involuntary resettlement. The Project prepared a Resettlement Framework (RF) to guide the preparation and implementation of the resettlement plans during project implementation, which will be disclosed before the appraisal. The RF includes provisions to address risks related to unavoidable adverse social and economic impacts from land acquisition and/or restrictions on land use by, among other things (i) providing timely compensation for loss of assets at replacement cost and assisting displaced persons in their efforts to improve, or at least restore, their livelihoods and living standards, in real terms, to pre-displacement levels or to levels prevailing before the beginning of project implementation, whichever is higher; and (ii) ensure that resettlement activities are planned and implemented with appropriate disclosure of information, meaningful consultation, and the informed participation of those affected. In addition, the RF and/or RAPS will also include ESS5 requirements, as relevant: A. General: eligibility classification, project design, compensation and benefits for affected persons, community engagement, grievance mechanism, planning, and implementation; B. Displacement: physical displacement, economic displacement; C. Collaboration with other responsible agencies or subnational jurisdictions; D. Technical and financial assistance.; and Elements of the involuntary resettlement instruments: A. Resettlement plan; and B. Resettlement framework. To mitigate potentially adverse downstream implications related to urban development plans and land use, the RPF will also stipulate that all terms of reference, work plans or other documents defining the scope and outputs of urban development plans and land use will be drafted so that the advice and other support provided is consistent with ESS 1-10.

ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Relevant

ESS 6 is relevant. Gabon is richly endowed with natural resources and ecologically sensitive ecosystems, including wetlands, forests, and national parks. The project should not create any significant negative impacts on local biodiversity as it will be implemented in the urban environment. However the construction activities under component 2 in watersheds in Lambarene, Oyem, Franceville and Kolamoutou, may request a detail ESIA to assess adverse impact on aquatic biodiversity and other. The ESMF contain a chapter containing mitigating measures to assess and manage risks to biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management, including inter alia (i) procedures to assess biodiversity and natural habitats and services that could be impacted by Project activities; (ii) a screening mechanism to avoid any high-risk ecological areas; and (iii) guidance to Site-Specific Plan (SSP) including mitigation measures in line with the mitigation hierarchy.

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

Not Currently Relevant

ESS7 is not relevant in the context of this project. No people are meeting the criteria outlined in ESS7 in the projects area. The project will be developed in urban areas. In Gabon, indigenous peoples mainly live in forests with a way of life closely linked to the use of land and forests.

ESS8 - Cultural Heritage

Relevant

The presence of culturally significant sites associated with the project cannot be determined at this stage of project preparation. A Chance Finds procedure will be included in the ESMF as a precautionary measure.

ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries

Not Currently Relevant

This Standard is not relevant, as the project is not an FI operation.

B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Operations on International Waterways

Yes

OP 7.60 Operations in Disputed Areas

No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework

In Part

The project will finalize the selection of subprojects to finance during project implementation. ESIAAs and ESMPs, RAPs as relevant of subprojects assessed as low to moderate ES risk will be prepared by the country's systems provision, and complemented by requirements provided in the ES crosscutting and framework instruments prepared for the Project, including the ESMF, the GBV: SEA/SH, the LMP, the RF and the SEP and GRM. Subproject assessed as Substantiel after the screening process, the ESS and ESHS guilines will be applied. All ESIAAs and ESMPs and RAPs will need to be prepared in accordance with terms of reference previously considered acceptable by the Bank.

Use of Common Approach

No

N/A

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 implementation?

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Prepare the ES assessment and ESMP and RAPs as applicable for the subprojects identified during the Project Implementation.

III. CONTACT POINT

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