



The World Bank

Accelerating Sustainable & Clean Energy Access Transformation In Afe Region Multi-phase Programmatic Approach (P180547)

Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(**ESRS Concept Stage**)

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I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Operation Data

Operation ID	Product	Operation Acronym	Approval Fiscal Year
P180547	Investment Project Financing (IPF)	ASCENT AFE MPA	2024
Operation Name	Accelerating Sustainable & Clean Energy Access Transformation in AFE Region Multi-Phase Programmatic Approach		
Country/Region Code	Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)	Region	Practice Area (Lead)
Eastern and Southern Africa	Eastern and Southern Africa, Multi-Regional	EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA	Energy & Extractives
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Secretariat	18-Oct-2023	15-Nov-2023
Estimated Concept Review Date	Total Project Cost		
06-Jun-2023	100,000,000.00		

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Proposed Development Objective

To accelerate access to sustainable, reliable and clean energy in Eastern and Southern Africa

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

Lack of access to sustainable energy is a major constraint to the Bank’s mission of reducing poverty and boosting shared prosperity. In the AFE region, accelerating energy access would serve as an engine of sustainable, inclusive and resilient growth. Access to energy reduces the risk of widening inequality based on access to technologies, information and services, and address climate change adaptation and mitigation needs of communities and countries. The proposed Accelerating Sustainable and Clean Energy Access Transformation in Eastern & Southern Africa Multi-Phase Programmatic Approach (ASCENT AFE MPA) covers 21 countries in AFE region and will be implemented over seven years



(2024-30). The development objective is to increase number of people served with access to energy services. The MPA includes country-specific and regional phases, which will be financed through IPF or PforR instruments. The ASCENT MPA will have up to 25 phases, to be implemented in a simultaneous and overlapping manner. The Phases will be designed during FY24-27 and implemented within 7 years (FY24-30). Synergies in deployment of solutions, such as cross-border electrification will be supported through multi-country phases, as appropriate. ASCENT MPA consists of three pillars, serving as a 'menu of options' to meet country's individual needs, enhanced by regional facilities towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG7) of Universal Energy Access by 2030. (i) energy access acceleration platforms to set comprehensive frameworks for energy access expansion, harmonize policies and regulations, align approaches and pool procurements, mobilize funding, monitor results, promote knowledge exchange and build skills; (ii) investments in grid-based electricity connections through grid densification, extension and reinforcement, including targeted support to strengthening utilities to increase reliability and affordability of service; (iii) investments to scale up decentralized renewable energy (DRE), including mini grids, off-grid solar systems, productive uses of energy (PUE), electrification of public institutions, grid-edge innovations, as well as clean cooking solutions. The Regional Energy Access Acceleration Platform, established under Phase 1 of the MPA will be managed by COMESA and spearhead the common framework and act as coordination mechanism for country-platforms. These platforms will explore and leverage opportunities for access acceleration and cost reduction through cross-country harmonization of policies and regulations, alignment of processes, pooling of resources, building a common market for DREs, leverage regional best practices and opportunities for acceleration and cost-reduction via regional integration approaches, while reinforcing Governments' leadership of electrification efforts, building capacities of national agencies and utilities, and allowing contextualization to specific country conditions, when required.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

The AFE region in general has a diverse range of varying environmental and social characteristics. During concept at each phase of the MPA each country/ entity will have a specific C-ESRS including country specific information and subsequently country specific characteristics will be provided in the country level ESRSs prepared under different P codes linked to this MPA. The salient physical features and key environmental aspects of the region include in the landforms: the region includes a variety of landforms such as mountains, plateaus, plains, and deserts. Examples include the Great Rift Valley, Mount Kilimanjaro, the Ethiopian Highlands, and the Sahara Desert. The Nile, Zambezi, Congo, and Limpopo rivers traverse the region. Lake Victoria, Lake Tanganyika, Lake Malawi, and Lake Kariba are significant freshwater bodies in the region. Somalia has the longest coastline on Africa's mainland and consists of plateaus, plains and highlands. The country is water-stressed, and vegetation is predominated by annual grasses and desert-adapted vegetation. The region is known for its rich biodiversity. It encompasses various ecosystems, including tropical rainforests, savannas, wetlands, and coastal areas. Countries like Madagascar, Tanzania, and the DRC are renowned for their unique and diverse flora and fauna. The region experiences a range of climates, from tropical to subtropical and desert. Countries like Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda have diverse climatic zones, including equatorial, highland, and coastal regions. The region is abundant in natural resources. STP is a small low-middle-income country with two main islands. Príncipe is a UNESCO Biosphere reserve and biodiversity hotspot with high endemism of terrestrial fauna and flora.

The region is home to a large and diverse population, countries like Rwanda, Ethiopia, Kenya and DRC have high population densities, while others like Seychelles and Eswatini have smaller less dense populations. The region exhibits



a wide range of ethnic groups, languages, and cultures. There are numerous ethnic communities, including Bantu, Nilotic, Cushitic, Afro-Asiatic, and others, each contributing to the cultural tapestry of the region. The countries have varying levels of economic development. Some nations, like Kenya, Rwanda, and Ethiopia, have relatively well-developed economies, while others, such as Malawi, Zambia, and Somalia, face socio-economic challenges such as poverty, limited access to healthcare, and education. Key social issues include rural/urban poverty, economic development, unemployment/ low incomes and gender inequality. Increased displacement of the population due to fragility, conflict and violence, including social unrest has disrupted access to basic social services in many countries including Somalia and DRC. Lack of energy access is severely impacting the region's ability to lift its population out of poverty, build human capital and be ready to take advantage of technology and digital advancements, build food security, and resilience to climate, pandemic and other shocks. Less than half of population of the AFE region has access to electricity (48%). In rural areas, which include the largest share of the region's poor, only 26% on average have electricity access, with rural electrification rate still below 5% in some countries.

The MPA will focus on energy access in the AFE region and will include regional elements as well as country-level implementation. The anticipated order of the participating countries is: Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe (STP), Tanzania, and Somalia followed by Eswatini and Malawi. In FY25 the following countries are expected to be ready Kenya, Namibia, Burundi, Zambia, Mozambique, and Ethiopia; Finally, depending on implementation of current energy projects Comoros, Lesotho, Uganda, DRC, South Sudan, Angola, Madagascar, and Botswana will join in FY26/27.

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

ASCENT will involve a number of implementing agencies where the existing national institutional arrangements will influence the implementation arrangements and associated capacity of the borrowers.

Pillar 1 will be implemented by COMESA at the regional level but ministries of energy, regulators and rural electrification providers will implement national level activities. Pillar 2 will likely be implemented by national utilities and rural electrification/energy agencies (with COMESA potentially supporting procurement for smaller countries). Pillar 3 will be implemented by Financial Intermediaries (FI) at the regional level, likely to be Trade and Development Bank (TDB), a specialized FI of COMESA, with other regional FIs potentially joining at later phases. At the national level national institutions supported by Fund Managers or local FIs will be involved.

At a regional level, responsibilities for coordination of cross-cutting legal, ESF matters and policy and regulatory areas will be undertaken by COMESA under this P Code. COMESA has prior experience with Bank-financed projects, such as the Regional Infrastructure Finance and Facility (RIFF) Project (P171967) and has maintained a Satisfactory Rating for E&S performance. As with ASCENT, COMESA has mainly been involved in support Technical Assistance within RIFF where the E&S impacts and risks are not significant. The E&S risk management capacity of COMESA will be assessed during preparation; and capacity building measures will be proposed based on the assessment's findings and any lessons learnt from RIFF.

The countries in AFE have considerable experience in the implementation of Bank financed projects, including in the energy sector, however, there are variations in the E&S risk management capacity and knowledge of the ESF between the countries with many FCV countries lacking capacity. Each borrower's capacity to manage E&S risks will need to be



assessed in detail during preparation once the ministries and implementing agencies are identified. It is expected that some of the countries, especially in later phases of the MPA may have limited experience and expertise in managing E&S risks in line with the ESF, including in countries where projects to date have been implemented under the Operational Policies. Each implementing country will establish E&S risk management implementation arrangements including hiring of qualified E&S staff proportionate to the anticipated workload and level of risk. Country level capacity assessments and required capacity building measures will be undertaken when country specific projects are prepared. Countries/ Entities in Phase 1 include Regional Distributed Renewable Energy (DRE) Financing Facility (P181328), Rwanda (P180575), Somalia (P181341), Tanzania (to be prepared as a pure PforR P179631 and STP (P177099).

II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

The environmental risk of the project is substantial, the risk rating will be reviewed during preparation. The MPA will have significant environmental co-benefits through optimization of energy systems and enabling greater use of energy sources with lower emissions, as well as assisting in adaptation to climate change through diversification of energy supply. The MPA will help countries to participate in international carbon markets. However, there are various environment, health, and safety (EHS) risks that could result from the activities proposed. Pillar 2: Grid electrification will finance grid connections and associated infrastructure, utility reform and strengthening, and support to users and communities for accessing energy efficient appliances and developing productive uses. Construction activities related to this pillar such as creation of ROW, substations, low and medium voltage distribution lines are foreseen, no high voltage transmission line are envisaged, access roads can lead to habitat alteration, disruption and fragmentation. This can affect natural and critical habitats e.g. wetlands and endangered species. Loss or modification of habitats can have significant impacts on flora and fauna especially in countries with high endemic species. Other risks and hazard relate to live wire, accidents, injuries, working at height, security risks, and health hazards for workers and nearby communities during construction and operation of LV and MV lines and associated infrastructure like transformers. The construction and maintenance of transmission line ROW can pose fatal risks to birds and bats through collisions and electrocutions. Bird and bat collisions with power lines may result in power outages and forest/bush fires which requires an emergency response mechanism to be in place. Pillar 1 will provide technical assistance through a regional and national energy access platforms to set comprehensive and coordinated frameworks and processes for accelerating energy access efforts in the Region. This is Type 2 and Type 3 TAs according to OESRC Advisory Note classification. Downstream, the Type-2 TAs including feasibility studies may lead to preparation of subsequent investments that may attract a higher risk rating, such as multiple small-scale hydropower with potential watershed impacts and cumulative effects. The TORs for the TA activities will be consistent with ESF requirements. Pillar 3 DREs and clean cooking will finance investments in DREs and clean cooking with the aim of expanding clean energy access for households, enterprises, farmers, schools, health clinics and other public institutions. The DRE will predominantly be solar PV but other DRE technologies, such as mini hydro, could be included. These investments will be primarily implemented by the private sector and TDB will act as FI. OP 4.03 World Bank Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities is FI-1 will be applied to this pillar. Other regional FIs may join in later phases. The pillar will cover all 5 windows of DARES, mini grid, off grid solar market, electrifying schools and health clinics, powering farmers, grid-

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edge innovations as well as clean cooking. Potential risks for pillar 3 include risks from mini-hydros such as impacts on watersheds as well as cumulative impacts, impacts on drainage and hydrology at intake sites; resource efficiency and pollution, mainly due to disposal and management of hazardous waste, including used batteries; nuisances related to air and noise emissions; land disturbance, water, biodiversity, etc. Key environmental risks are FI, private sector operators and borrower’s capacity to implement mitigation, labor and working conditions , traffic, nuisances like dust and noise, poor construction-related waste management, disposal and management of hazardous wastes, and management of nonbiodegradable hazardous wastes from electrical equipment; damaged or leftover solar panels, and used or damaged batteries, OHS and CHS.

A.2 Social Risk Rating

Substantial

The Social Risk is Substantial for the overall MPA activities. However, the social risk rating will be reviewed and confirmed during preparation. Technical assistance activities at the regional level and in participating countries are mainly associated with establishing priorities for accelerating energy access, developing integrated plans and mobilizing finance. Downstream impacts, including of feasibility studies may lead to preparation of subsequent investments that may attract a higher risk rating, such as resettlement, impacts on Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (IP/SSAHUTLC) as well as cumulative effects on livelihoods. All TA activities must be undertaken in line with the requirements of the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) to mitigate potential E&S risks and impacts and in compliance with the Bank’s Advisory Note on Technical Assistance. Activities under Pillar 2 could result in range of social impacts as it will expand grid electrification which will involve civil works. While the priority is on densification and reinforcement new distribution lines will also be constructed including the potential for cross border LV/MV distribution lines if appropriate. This could result in a range of social impacts including land acquisition, restrictions on land use and involuntary resettlement associated with the establishment of rights or way and / or easements depending on national requirements. The severity of any such impacts will depend on the both the existing land uses, importance of sites for livelihoods and the ability of landowners to utilize the land following construction. Such impacts will differentially affect vulnerable groups notably IP/SSAHUTLC depending on the location of investments as well as women, people living with disabilities and those with smaller land plots or with informal rights to the land they use. Other impacts associated with construction include the potential for labor influx with associated risks for increased transmission of diseases including sexually transmitted diseases, conflict between communities and workers and increased tension. Again, the nature and extent of these risks will vary depending on the location of the investment but many border areas within AFE Region are known to have higher risks of tension and social conflict for a range of reasons including access to natural resources, historical tensions/ conflict between different groups and as a result of migration (including of displaced persons). The presence of IP/SSAHUTLC will need to be assessed by the Bank for each country to determine if communities that meet the requirements of ESS7 are present and the associated impacts on these groups (as well as benefits associated with access to electricity). These risks will be fully described in the individual country level E&S assessments. Risks associated with labor and working conditions including child labor, lack of contracts and inadequate access to facilities (drinking water, sanitation etc) for workers given the nature of the work. Construction works can also increase the risk of SEA/SH associated with labor influx. Pillar 3 will involve financing of sub-projects through FIs in multiple countries. The focus is expected to be on DREs which may also result in involuntary resettlement impacts, SEA/SH risks, labor management issues, and may be in areas where IP/SSAHUTLC are present, areas affected by conflict or violence, or areas hosting refugees. The capacity of the FIs to monitor and supervise sub-projects over a large geographical area, as well as the capacity of their potential borrowers will need to be determined but may influence the nature and scale of these risks. The FIs will need to screen projects to identify

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these risks such that high risk subprojects would not be eligible for financing. The FIs ESMS will include screening criteria and exclusion lists to address these risks.

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

The anticipated potential environmental and social risks vary across pillars. Potential environmental risks include disposal and management of liquid and solid waste, such as spoils metals, cables, capacitor, wood, glass, and packaging materials; disposal and management of hazardous wastes such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from older imported transformers and capacitors in use by ESPs, transformer parts and oils, certain amount of heavy metals, used and damaged solar panels, and batteries; soil erosion and degradation; fauna and flora disturbance leading to loss of habitats due to land clearance; dust and noise; contamination and degradation of soil and water; and health and safety of employees and communities including those associated with operation of vehicles, plant and equipment, working at height, contaminations associated with improper handling of e-wastes, electrocution and aesthetic and light reflection, and resource use, mainly in areas of less availability. Disposal and management of hazardous wastes will be more aggravated due to limited capacity on disposal, recycling, and management of nonbiodegradable hazardous wastes from electrical equipment; damaged or leftover solar panels and used or damaged batteries. These risks and impacts are expected to be managed in accordance with the World Bank Group General Environment, Health, and Safety (EHS) Guidelines as well as the EHS Guidelines for Electric Power Transmission and Distribution, and for Construction Materials Extraction and the relevant requirements of Environmental and Social Standards ESS1, ESS2, ESS3, ESS4, ESS6, ESS8 and ESS9. A range of social risks may occur including i) physical and/ or economic displacement as a result of land take; (ii) civil works may result in community health and safety impacts including transmission of diseases, social conflict etc. while construction is ongoing and during any maintenance activities during operation; (iii) presence of security personnel (if required) notably during construction of infrastructure but also to protect assets during operation; and (iv) adverse impacts to land used by IP/SSAHULTC depending on siting of infrastructure. Differential impacts may be experienced by vulnerable groups. Potential environmental and social (E&S) risks and impacts, including potential transboundary impacts (as cross-border electrification is foreseen) as well as cumulative impacts will need to be considered as part of the decision-making process through due diligence and E&S screening to determine sub-projects to be invested in. Screening of the sub-projects should be undertaken as early as possible (and as part of preparation) to determine if proposed activities are likely to be environmentally and socially sound and sustainable against pre-defined criteria which will include but not be limited to consideration of access to land, livelihoods, presence of ESS7 communities, existing land uses etc. Framework plans will be prepared by the participating countries prior to appraisal to guide the development of projects. Each participating country will prepare an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) prior to appraisal (as per the timelines of the individual P Codes) which will serve as a basis for identification and management of the E&S risks associated with the project activities. The ESMF and the ESCP will include clear exclusion criteria so that higher E&S risk activities will not be eligible for the project financing. ESAs or other site-specific instruments for civil works, if any, will be prepared during implementation stage, when specific sub-projects have been defined, following the requirements of the ESMF and other frameworks (eg Resettlement Policy Framework) prior to commencement of construction activities. At this stage no facilities, which fulfil the ESF definition of associated



facilities, have been identified. If any associated facilities are identified during preparation, E&S risks will be identified and managed in compliance with the requirements of the ESF. The development of any legal, regulatory or operational frameworks as part of the project at the regional or national level will need to be undertaken in line with the requirements for the ESSs to protect people from potential harm. This needs to consider limitations of vulnerable groups and avoid exacerbating any divide in access to energy that may exist in participating countries. Implementing agencies will ensure that capacity building or technical assistance activities will be implemented in compliance with the Bank’s Advisory Note on Technical Assistance. The borrower countries and COMESA will also prepare ESCPs which outline the measures and actions that are required to avoid, minimize, reduce or otherwise mitigate the potential environmental and social risks and impacts For pillar 3, the World Bank shall require TDB and other participating FIs to take all the requisite measures including the requirement to implement an Environmental and Social Management System to ensure that the subprojects receiving Bank financing comply with applicable country legislations of the countries where TBD/ the FIs makes the investments and the World Bank Groups (WBG) Performance Standards (PSs). All investments - which would constitute project or corporate finance for which WBGs PSs are most readily applicable - are expected to comply with the relevant provisions of the WBG PSs. The World Bank will review TDB’s/FIs institutional capacity to implement E&S measures, and the degree of support from its senior management, for TDB this will cover its performance under RIFF.

ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

Stakeholder engagement is a critical tool for social and environmental risk management, project sustainability and success. The participating borrower countries and COMESA will prepare and implement inclusive Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEPs) proportional to the nature and scale of the project and associated risks and impacts. This will need to consider regional, national and local stakeholders who may be affected by the Project. Stakeholders are likely to include supporting ministries, academic institutions, civil society, technical organizations, regulatory authorities and the private sector. In addition, Project Affected People especially in relation to proposed civil works will need to be engaged. A SEP will be prepared by each participating Country/ Regional Entity. The Country/ Regional Entity SEPs will ensure there is engagement on the Program overall with the regional entity expected to take a lead on regional engagement on the program. The Country Specific SEPs will ensure engagement at the national level and the approach to engagement for the sub-projects to be implemented in their countries including collaboration with other implementing partners for cross border activities. The SEPs will outline approaches to sharing information on the project activities, incorporating stakeholder feedback into the Project and reporting and disclosure of project documents. In addition, the needs of different groups including vulnerable groups (women, PLWD etc) and Indigenous Peoples/ Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (IP/SSAHUTLC) will need to be considered in planning such activities where relevant. The SEPs will be prepared and disclosed prior to appraisal which will outline the engagement during project preparation and implementation including stakeholder identification and mapping, proposed approaches to engagement for different stakeholder groups as well as timings. The results of the engagement planned/undertaken for the preparation phase will be reported on during appraisal, including how the inputs were considered in project design and E&S instrument preparation. The Borrowers will undertake meaningful engagement with stakeholders ensuring the provision of timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation. The SEPs will include a description of a Project Grievance Mechanism which will include confidential mechanisms for receiving complaints of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment, as well as other forms of GBV and establish a protocol to enable survivor-centered responses. The GRM will address

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complaints and suggestions coming from both project-beneficiaries and other interested parties. Consideration will be given to utilizing or strengthening existing grievance redress mechanisms which may exist in the participating countries if relevant.

ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

Project workers under Pillar 1 and 2 will include (i) Direct Workers who will be directly engaged by the Borrowers to work on the project; (ii) contracted workers employed by third parties to undertake activities including construction, provide technical inputs and support the TA activities; and (iii) primary supply workers to provide goods or materials needed for the project. At this stage, the use of community workers is not anticipated. Relevant aspects of ESS 2 will also apply to FIs. COMESA has existing labor management procedures for its workers as such the ESCP will include measures to ensure COMESA manages labor and working conditions in line with ESS2. Workers may be subject to labor risks including terms and conditions of employment which are not in line with national law and/ or ESS2 including in relation to hours of work, remuneration, living conditions etc. Risks associated with Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) may also occur especially affecting women and girls e.g. in return for or to maintain employment opportunities. OHS issues are one of the anticipated risks of the Project especially. Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) measures will be applicable to all project workers. Attention will be given to training of workers on OHS risks and awareness to minimize the risks. The OHS measures will be designed and implemented to address: (a) identification of potential hazards to project workers; (b) provision of preventive and protective measures, including elimination of hazardous conditions or substances; (c) training of project workers and maintenance of training records; (d) documentation and reporting of occupational accidents, diseases and incidents; (e) emergency prevention and preparedness and response arrangements to emergency situations; and (f) remedies for adverse impacts such as occupational injuries, disability and disease. Contractors will be required to prepare and implement Occupational Health & Safety Plans (OHSP) following the World Bank Group Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines, adopt a code of conduct for all workers and establish GRM (accessible for direct and contracted workers) before commencement of the civil works. Labor Management Procedures (LMP) which identify the main labor requirements and labor risks associated with the will be prepared based on the requirements of ESS2 and national labor laws. The LMP will provide procedures to address labor issues including, but not limited to: (i) child and forced labor; (ii) Contracts of employment and terms and conditions of employment, (iii) protection of wages including fair treatment, non-discrimination and equal opportunity of project workers, (iv) occupation, health and safety issues, (v) labor influx and associated risks (vi) SEA/SH risks; and (vii) grievance mechanism for workers with accessible means to raise workplace concerns including SEA/SH grievances in a confidential manner. The project will also apply enhanced due diligence for evaluation of forced labor risks in the solar supply chain; in line with OPCS guidance. Bidding documents for the energy infrastructure shall include budget for all OHS provisions as well as other costs associated with labor management e.g., the operation of a grievance redress mechanism, security of project personnel and SEA/SH prevention measures. The Project implementing entities in the participating countries will regularly monitor the contractor's performance in implementing the LMP and OHS measures in site-specific ESMPs and/or OHS plans. The security risk assessment and security management plans will need to consider risks to project workers based on the contextual situation and develop appropriate mitigation to address the risks to the extent possible.

ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Relevant

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This project tackles climate change both from a mitigation and an adaptation perspective. By reinforcing the grid and building a more efficient and resilient network, the project will reduce technical losses in the grid and make the grid more climate resilient. Potential issue related with project activities under pillar 2 and 3 activities is generation of hazardous wastes due to the generation of solid and hazardous wastes associated with Photovoltaic panels and used solar batteries. The potential for environmental contamination will be a significant if the PV panels and solar batteries are damaged or improperly disposed upon their end life and decommissioning. Each country ESMF will include guidance for sub project ESIA/ESMP to include Proper planning and good maintenance practices to minimize impacts from hazardous materials through development of a waste management plan and Hazardous waste handling, storage and disposal protocol focusing on used and damaged PV- panels and batteries as part of comprehensive ESMP. A wide range of pollution and resource efficiency issues is expected to arise in the supported projects under pillar 2 and pillar 3. The project is likely to generate waste and cause pollution. During construction and operation, mitigation measures at the construction and operation sites will include standard construction pollution prevention and control measures, such as: (i) solid and hazardous waste handling and disposal (ii) domestic/camp wastewater treatment; (iii) storage and handling of hazardous materials; (iv) control of erosion and storm water runoff; and (vi) noise, and dust abatement measures; among others. Other risks are adverse impacts around solid and liquid waste spoils metals, cables, capacitor wood, glass, packaging materials as well as hazardous wastes such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) from older imported transformers and capacitors, transformer parts & oils, fluorescent bulbs and a certain amount of heavy metals (chromium, copper and arsenic). These control and mitigation measures will be included and required in contractor’s ESMP (i.e., waste management plan, hazardous materials management plan). If non-compliances identified, operators will be required to implement immediate corrective actions. The use of water, energy and raw materials should be assessed considering the mitigation hierarchy and efficient use and management of all types of material, including waste as part of the ESMS for FI-1 for TDB/FIs

ESS4 - Community Health and Safety

Relevant

Given the scale of the works under Pillar 2, some labor influx is considered to be likely but will vary depending on the nature of the civil works and geographical location. Skilled and semi-skilled workers are likely to be sourced from outside the local areas, but it is expected that unskilled workers can be sourced from the community close to the project sites. Labor influx can lead to an increased risk of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) notably of women and girls especially associated with construction activities and locations where camps are established. Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) especially due to poverty situation which may see even young girls engaging in survival sex; transaction sex, sexual harassment (SH) and other forms of GBV. Sexual violence and GBV in the countries in across AFE are known to be prevalent with many forms of SEA including child marriage, FGM/C, rape and intimate domestic violence being normalized especially in conflict areas. To address these risks SEA/SH Action Plans will need to be developed. Activities other pillar and 3 may also pose community health and safety risks related to infrastructure and equipment design and safety, management and safety of hazardous materials, traffic and road safety, disaster risk, emergency preparedness and response. A community and safety risk assessment and management plan will be prepared as part of the ESIA/ESMPs as per the country level risks identified. In addition, transmission of communicable diseases is also a concern including Covid-19 and Sexually Transmitted Diseases notably HIV/AIDS. Workers may also increase the rates of crime, social conflict and violence especially if they are unfamiliar with cultural norms in the areas where they are working. Construction activities may pose potential health and safety concerns for the inhabitants within the vicinity of works especially when construction is carried out near a village/community. These risks will need to be assessed as part of the ESMF and appropriate mitigation measures included and elaborated

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in subsequent ESMPs or ESIs depending on the nature of the investment. In addition, the need for engagement with communities around these issues will be included in the SEP. Security is a key risk in some countries the project will be implemented. Given the conflict context in some countries in AFE there is likely to be a need to secure project workers and assets during construction and operation including maintenance activities. Deployment of security forces may be required to prevent vandalism, theft or attacks on assets as well as protect workers during construction and operation but presents risk to the community include SEA/SH. The presence of security can result in risks to the community including undue use of force, inappropriate conduct to the community, increased risk of SEA/SH etc. The use of security personnel including risks posed to communities will need to be assessed further during project preparation following security personnel GPN and security assessments and security management plans including Codes of Conduct and other measures that will govern their interaction with the local communities will be developed. Community H&S risks under Pillar 1 are expected to be minimal, given the nature of the TA. For Pillar 3 risks and impacts associated with Community Health and Safety will be addressed through the ESMS of the FI.

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

Relevant

ESS5 is relevant. For Pillar 2, land use and rights vary across the proposed countries participating in Phase 1. In many countries for example Somalia land is subject to unregistered communal land rights meaning arrangements for land transfer of formal tenure is challenging. Even in Ethiopia, despite the national and regional proclamations on land expropriation and rural land administration, respectively, customary practices prevail, where land is communally owned and managed. As such land acquisition, restrictions on land use (potentially in the form of easements) and involuntary resettlement are likely to be complex. Land related risks include (i) conflict over rights to the land and resources; (ii) exclusion of land users (especially seasonal users) in decision making and provision of resettlement support including compensation; (iii) failure to acquire land in line with the requirements of ESS5 given the potentially limited capacity and (v) impacts to livelihoods. Key to mitigating these risks will be coordination with all stakeholders including the customary land rights authorities of the respective areas as well as members of the communities and seasonal users to ensure that their land usage is not affected. Livelihood losses will also need to be considered and assessed including from temporary disruption due to construction activities, easements and permanent loss of access to land. The extent of these impacts will be considered further during country specific project preparation as the sub-project activities and locations are further defined/ prioritized and screened to determine if they are environmentally and socially sustainable. This will include assessing the nature, extent and risks of any potential resettlement. Country specific RPFs will need to be prepared which will outline the approaches to avoid and minimize physical and economic displacement where possible. The RPF will also include the approach to acquire land, and where relevant an approach for voluntary land donation. the potential risks and impacts of land acquisition associated with the various activities and likely geographical areas as well as assessing livelihood losses and associated restoration plans. Subsequent Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) in line with national law and ESS5 will be prepared during implementation for site specific investments. This requirement will be captured in the ESCP. Land acquisition is not anticipated as part of the activities being implemented by COMESA. For Pillar 3 risks and impacts associated with land acquisition, involuntary resettlement and restrictions on land use will be addressed through the ESMS of the FI. Under Pillar 1 the requirements of ESS5 will be included in all TA activities where relevant.

ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Relevant

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The construction and maintenance of transmission line ROW can pose fatal risks to birds and bats through collisions and electrocutions. Bird and bat collisions with power lines may result in power outages and forest/bush fires which requires an emergency response mechanism. The environmental and social assessment will therefore adequately consider possible measures to prevent and control impacts on natural /critical habitats and biodiversity including alignment to avoid critical habitats (e.g. nesting grounds, heronries, rookeries, bat foraging corridors, and migration corridors); avoidance of construction activities during the breeding season and other sensitive seasons or times of day; siting rights-of-way, access roads, lines, towers, and substations to avoid critical habitats; removal of invasive plant species during routine vegetation maintenance; installing visibility enhancement objects such as marker balls, bird deterrents, or diverter, etc. small hydros e.g. presence of the weir/small dams / reservoir can affect aquatic habitat, erosion, sedimentology, migratory fish movement etc. If significant impacts to biodiversity from (sub)project activities are identified/anticipated that would require biodiversity management plans, then those activities or subprojects should be excluded accordingly, and a BMP should thus not be needed. An exclusion list will be established as part of the ESMF for the other pillars to exclude high risk activities, including interventions in protected areas and critical habitats. Biodiversity Management Plans will be developed if significant impacts to the biodiversity are expected. Construction and operation of LV and MV lines and associated infrastructure like transformers are likely to be restricted to urban areas where there are major load centers, existing road, energy corridors or Wayleaves/ROW and within mini grids existing footprint and therefore impacts on natural and sensitive habitats is expected to be limited. Nevertheless, as the location of actual physical infrastructure are still not identified, the potential impacts will only be identified during project design when specific routes are known and will be addressed in the in the site specific ESIA/ESMP instruments to be prepared for this project. Relevant requirements of PS6 will be expected to apply to TDB/ participating FI clients categorized as FI-1. While the FI clients will not be known until implementation, if sub projects are located in modified or natural habitats; or potentially affect or be dependent on ecosystem services. To limit the level of environmental risk exposure in the sub-projects, a list of excluded activities will be agreed with private sector operators and TDB/ participating FIs, including any subprojects having adverse impacts on critical habitats and/or legally protected and internationally recognized areas of high biodiversity value and subprojects where a biodiversity offset is proposed as the mitigation measure. FIs's ESMS, will exclude activities with significant risks and impacts to critical or sensitive habitats.

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

Relevant

IP/SSAHUTLC are present in a number of countries in AFE that are being considered for inclusion for example Kenya and Ethiopia. In other countries such as Somalia distinct (often minority) tribal or clan groups exist who may not meet the requirements of ESS7 but may need differential measures to ensure inclusion and access to benefits are present. For Pillar One while IP/ SSAHUTLC impacts on ESS7 communities associated with their activities are not expected. This will be confirmed during preparation. However, the ToR and outputs for any consultancies, studies, capacity building, training and any other technical assistance activities under the Program will need to be undertaken in line with ESS7 to ensure that the needs of these groups in relation to energy access are considered. Requirements to engage with representatives of IP/SSAHUTLC will be included in the SEP as relevant. For Pillar 2 the presence of Traditional Local Communities will need to be assessed further during preparation of country specific projects as part of the screening of priority projects to identify the likely presence of Traditional Local Communities and likely risks and impacts. However, Traditional Local Communities presence will be determined based on proposed location of civil works/ project activities. Where there are multiple sub-projects being implemented in locations where Traditional

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Local Communities are present the Project may develop IP/SSAHULTLC Frameworks when applicable. Site specific timebound IP/SSAHULTLC Plans setting out the measures or actions proposed will be prepared and implemented. The plans will need to be consulted on and disclosed and where relevant and in line with the requirements of ESS7 Free Prior and Informed Consent will also be obtained. For Pillar 3 risks and impacts associated with IP/SSAHUTLC will be addressed through the ESMS of the FI (initially TDB but may include others in future phases).

ESS8 - Cultural Heritage

Relevant

For Pillar 2 the locations of sub-projects are not yet known, however given the nature and scale of these activities impacts to cultural heritage are likely to be avoidable or limited. The impact on cultural heritage and relevance of this ESS8 will be further assessed during the preparation of country specific projects. As part of this environmental and social screening procedures shall consider impact identification of cultural heritage and assessment of tangible and intangible heritage in consultation with affected stakeholders. A standardized chance-find procedures including screening process will be included as an Annex to the ESMF. The need for a cultural heritage management plan will be determined during site specific screening processes. Information about cultural heritage baseline will also be obtained during environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA). The ESIA's will include measures to meet the requirements of ESS8 including stakeholder consultation, identification of tangible and intangible cultural heritage, documentation of impact assessment and action plans and mitigation measures. Exclusion criteria will also be considered during project preparation of country specific projects to avoid impacts to cultural heritage in particular heritage sites that are national or internationally recognized as well as guidance on how to minimize impacts to locally important sites. For Pillar 3 risks and impacts associated with cultural heritage will be addressed through the ESMS of the FI. Under Pillar 1 the requirements of ESS8 will be included in all TA activities where relevant.

ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries

Relevant

The requirements of this standard will apply to the pillar 3 for the participating FIs. The management of environmental and social risks and impacts will be undertaken according to the World Bank Performance Standards OP 4.03 and ESS 9. The project will provide private operators with assistance to help them adopt or mainstream WBG Performance Standards in their operations. TDBs existing ESMS will be reviewed and strengthened as needed to support the ASCENT operation building on lessons learnt from RIFF. Activities under Pillar 3 will be prepared under a separate P code and will include a more detailed assessment of TDB and other participating FIs capacity to manage E&S risks.

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

The use of Borrower Frameworks is not being considered. However, it should be noted that any countries (e.g. Tanzania) that implement activities using the World Bank Program for Results will develop an Environmental and Social Systems Assessment (ESSA) that will include the use of country systems.

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Use of Common Approach

No

No financing partners are being considered.

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?

III. CONTACT POINT

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