



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 03/20/2023 | Report No: ESRSC03308



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Niger	WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	P179276	
Project Name	Agriculture and Livestock Development Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Agriculture and Food	Investment Project Financing	5/15/2023	6/15/2023
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Ministry of Planning	Ministry of agriculture		

Proposed Development Objective

The proposed Project Development Objective (PDO) is to increase productivity, commercialization, and climate resilience of the agri-food sector in the project areas.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	350.00

B. Is the project 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 [including overview of Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to CPF]

The proposed project will finance activities supporting the Niger 3N initiative (Initiative les Nigériens Nourissent les Nigériens) through increasing agriculture productivity, improving post-harvest management, supporting commercialization of agriculture produce and institutional strengthening of farmers organization toward increased professionalization of their activities.

D. Environmental and Social Overview



D.1. Detailed project location(s) and salient physical characteristics relevant to the E&S assessment [geographic, environmental, social]

Detailed project locations are not yet clearly identified, but it remains very likely that these include at least the regions crossed by the Niger River which are Dosso and Tillaberi and therefore OP 7.50 relating to transboundary water resources will be triggered. Niger is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to more extreme droughts, floods, heatwaves, land degradation, and desertification. On average, Niger experiences an agriculturally significant drought once every 2.2 years - leading to crop failure, livestock death, and land degradation. Floods, which were historically deemed beneficial and associated with bumper harvests, have now increasingly assumed extreme proportions, with debilitating impacts in terms of crop losses, livestock death, damages to productive infrastructure, and rural population displacement, which adversely affects agricultural performance. In terms of endowments, up to two-thirds of the country is desert, degraded and not suitable for agriculture. To maximize impact and sustainability, the proposed project will be implemented in selected geographic areas and for selected value chains. The project will focus on a limited number of crop and livestock value chains with large potential for poverty reduction and food security impact. The selection of target areas and value chains will be based on the ongoing value chain assessment, the presidential "Agro-Industrial Poles" Program, and other value chain analyses recently conducted by the Government of Niger, the World Bank and other development partners. This will be explored during project preparation. The project will target farmers (including women), farmers organizations (FOs) and small and medium agri-food enterprises (SMEs). Other direct beneficiaries include the public institutions involved in project implementation that would benefit from increased capacity, primarily the public agriculture and livestock services. The project is also expected to benefit rural communities through targeted technical skills development programs and the creation of job opportunities resulting from investments in community irrigation schemes, animal water points, and private sector-led rural economic growth. The positive externalities from enhancing climate resilience will also ensure a broader local community impact, hence making local communities indirect beneficiaries of the project.

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

The overall project implementation will be coordinated by the Niger Ministry of Agriculture in partnership with the Ministry of Livestock and the "Haut Commissariat a l'Initiative 3N" (HC3NI). These ministries have significant experience in the implementation of both, regional and national projects financed by the World Bank, such as (i) the Niger Project Climate Smart Agriculture Support (P153420) which Overall Safeguards Rating in October 2022 was satisfactory, (ii) the Sahel Irrigation Initiative Support Project (PARIIS; P154482), (iii) the Niger Agricultural and Livestock Transformation Project (PIMELAN; P164509), (iv) the West Africa Food System Resilience Program (FSRP; P172769) which Overall ESS Performance in September 2022 was satisfactory, and (v) the Regional Sahel Pastoralism Support Project II (PRAPS II, P173197), which are implemented throughout the country. The environmental and social risk management performance of these projects has been satisfactory so far though some weaknesses have been noted, especially with regards to the Borrower's capacity to manage grievance mechanisms, labor, sexual exploitation and abuse/harassment (SEA/H) risks, stakeholder engagement and supervision challenges in remote areas. Some of these projects are implemented under the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) of the World Bank. Others are implemented under the World Bank's operational environmental and social safeguard policies. The capacities of the PIUs to implement the additional requirements of the ESF, particularly to manage project-related social risks, may be very challenging. Relevant training and capacity reinforcement, supported by the World Bank team, will be required. Based on project activities and locations, a project safeguards team will be required at national and regional levels. The team composition will be identified during project preparation. Once this team in place and the project effective, the Bank team will provide, if necessary, targeted training to strengthen the safeguard team's capacities.



II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

The project’s environmental risk is assessed as Substantial. This is due to multiple risks associated with the planned activities, including: (i) production and dissemination of improved planting material, certified seeds, and sustainable agricultural practices; (ii) improving access to mechanization, fertilizers, and agro-chemicals; (iii) support to irrigation development and water control; (iv) rehabilitation of existing medium irrigation schemes and scaling up small irrigation schemes managed by communities; (v) supporting animal health services, such as veterinary services and good animal husbandry practices; (vi) improved feed and fodder production; (vii) access to water and sanitary services to improve livestock (under the Component 1); (viii) investments to physical infrastructure in rural and urban markets; (ix) civil works for investments in public infrastructure (new or rehabilitated); (x) agro-processing and marketing infrastructure such as rural markets, aggregator points, storage facilities; (xi) milk collection centers; and (xii) slaughterhouses, etc. (under the Component 2). The potential negative impacts can be summarized as follows: (i) the multiplication of pathogens related to the poor management of solid and liquid wastes that will be generated on the construction sites; (ii) soil texture and structure modification due to the movement of machinery, (iii) the increase in soil erosion and the sedimentation of streams and water bodies; (iv) disturbance of sensitive ecological areas and micro-habitats and loss of multi-purpose species; (v) destruction or loss of natural habitats due to the destruction of vegetation and breeding sites during right-of-way preparations and during the opening and operation of borrow pits and quarries; (vi) disturbance of wildlife tranquility; (vii) pressure on water resources related to the needs of the work site (such as management of the preparation of soil, watering, concreting,); and (viii) misuse of chemicals and pesticides. Using fertilizers and pesticides and livestock effluents are potential sources of watercourses, groundwater and soils' s pollution and endanger human and animal health. Support of agriculture activities will increase erosion and soil degradation leading to changes in the functioning of the ecosystem. Furthermore, support for livestock activities will exacerbate the removal of plants which influences floristic composition and the structure of the grazed vegetation, particularly in arid and semi-arid zones. Damage on ecosystems due to the undermined capacity of the vegetation regeneration and when the surface horizons of the soil are seriously degraded by wind or water erosion. Supporting agro-processing and marketing infrastructure such as slaughterhouses could present operational phase risks such as infiltration and pollution of the groundwater; air pollution due to foul odors and dust; transmission of diseases due to poor management of the slaughterhouses. The potential for indirect and cumulative impacts exists, although they may be avoided or mitigated. Project intervention areas have not yet been clearly identified and the project design is not yet fully finalized. However, to achieve the project objectives, irrigation development likelihood around existing dams remains possible.

Social Risk Rating

Substantial

The social risk has been determined to be substantial as various potential risks have been identified even if all the exact locations have not been finalized yet. Niger faces a various range of significant social challenges, including access to land for women, high presence of refugees and internal displaced people (more than 660,000 forcibly displaced as of January 2023), high levels of poverty and illiteracy, especially in rural areas and high risks for child labor. Furthermore, Niger has been adversely affected by the activities of violent extremist groups, criminality and illicit traffic along its borders in the Lake Chad Basin, the Liptako Gourma region, and the Libyan border in the last few years. As a consequence, State presence especially in very rural and remote areas has been decreasing. The most

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significant social risks foreseen are related to: (i) involuntary resettlement (including permanent and temporary physical or economic displacement of populations located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed investments such as irrigation development and infrastructure); (ii) project-level factors that increase potential security and SEA/H risks (such as project activities in locations of planned project activities in very remote and insecure areas and/or rural areas with high rates of poverty); and (iii) the Borrower's capacities with regards to the management of grievance mechanisms and sexual exploitation and abuse/harassment (SEA/H), stakeholder engagement, supervision challenges and exclusion of vulnerable social groups in remote areas. The substantial social risk rating may be revised during project preparation, based on the results of a social assessment.

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1. General Assessment

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

This ESS requires that an environmental and social impacts and risks assessment of the project be conducted prior to Board approval. Anticipated environmental and social risks and impacts are described in the above ESRC section. The Borrower will prepare, consult and disclose an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) as the exact location of project activities will not be identified before appraisal. A social assessment, integrated in the ESMF, will be carried out to help understand potential social risks and their magnitude. The result of the social assessment will also inform the preparation of subsequent site-specific environmental and social assessments and risk mitigation instruments. Where areas and activities are well identified before the appraisal, the Borrower will prepare required site specific E&S instruments such as environmental and social impact assessments (ESIA) and resettlement action plans (RAP) before project appraisal. The ESMF will define procedures for screening and mitigating the potential risks and impacts from infrastructure works (such as rural markets, aggregator points, storage facilities, milk collection centers, slaughterhouses and catalytic investments for food testing, logistics, cold storage and plant nurseries). The ESMF will include: (a) checklists of potential environmental and social impacts and their sources; (b) procedures for participatory screening of proposed sites and activities and the environmental and social considerations; (c) procedures for assessing potential environmental and social impacts of the planned project activities, including cumulative impacts and SEA/SH risks; (d) institutional arrangements for avoiding, minimizing, mitigating and managing the impacts identified, according to the mitigation hierarchy; (e) environmental and social management planning processes for addressing negative externalities in the course of project implementation; (f) a system for monitoring the implementation of mitigation measures; (g) the capacity building measures recommended for environmental and social planning and the monitoring of project activities; (h) a specific chapter on cultural heritage, including "Chance Find" procedure to manage potential risks related to Cultural Heritage discovered during project implementation; and (i) a description of a toolkit and training for companies that will operate the project's supported value chains, in accordance with the WBG general and sector-specific EHSGs and Good Industrial Practices (this toolkit will provide guidance on Occupational Health and Safety, Waste Management, Emergency Preparedness and Response as well as Grievance Mechanisms). The ESMF will also cover the Contingent Emergency Response Component's (Component 5) environmental and social issues. The ESMF will also make use of the general and sector-specific EHSGs for the identified subprojects in relation to occupational and community health and safety. If confirmed during preparation that irrigation schemes rely on existing or new dams, the ESMF will include relevant dam safety requirements as per ESS 4. For its efficient implementation, the ESMF will include a specific chapter on



the cost of each activity, the source of its funding and timing. The Borrower will also prepare an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) with the support of the Bank. This ESCP will include commitments regarding the preparation of subsequent E&S instruments, and the timeline. Finally, no associated facilities are anticipated in the context of this project.

Areas where “Use of Borrower Framework” is being considered:

This operation will not use the Borrower’s E&S Framework in the assessment, development and implementation of investments. However, it will comply with relevant national legal and regulatory requirements.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

The Borrower will prepare and implement an inclusive Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) proportional to the nature and scale of the project and its associated risks and impacts. This will be based on a detailed stakeholder mapping exercise (stakeholders identified at this stage include members of rural communities, including farmers; farmer organizations (FOs); small and medium enterprise (SMEs); and public institutions involved in project implementation that would benefit from increased capacity). The project team will ensure timely diffusion of information on social behavior and good hygiene practices in the COVID-19 pandemic context, and that any stakeholder engagement events be preceded with the procedure of articulating such hygienic practices. To the extent possible, stakeholder engagement should be undertaken in small-group sessions, such as focus group meetings. The needs of any vulnerable groups, will need to be considered to adjust for their meaningful participation. The SEP will be prepared and disclosed prior to Appraisal. The SEP will incorporate a comprehensive project wide Grievance Mechanism (GM) which will enable a broad range of stakeholders to channel concerns, questions, and complaints to the implementation agency. The GM will include channels/procedures for SEA/SH complaints. The grievance mechanism will need to be adapted to the local context and the possibility of addressing SEA/SH concerns. For its efficient implementation, the ESMF will include a specific chapter on the cost of each activity, the source of its funding and timing.

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B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts

A brief description of the potential environmental and social risks and impacts relevant to the Project.

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

A Labor Management Procedure (LMP) will be prepared to address risks related to project labor issues in line with the NES 2 requirements. Community workers could likely be involved in the project, to carry out some activities for identified investments under Component 1. the Borrower will prepare, by appraisal, labor management procedures (LMP) to address key issues, such as working conditions and the management of worker relationships, protecting the workforce, non-discrimination, minimum age of work, measures to prevent forced labor and child labor, and occupational health and safety requirements. The LMP will include a workers’ grievance mechanism that is SEA/SH sensitive, based on national laws and regulations and the provisions of ESS2 and management of labor issues. For its efficient implementation, the ESMF will include a specific chapter on the cost of each activity, the source of its funding and timing.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management



Due to expected use of pesticides and fertilizers, the Borrower will prepare an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) that integrates waste management aspects to prevent the harmful effects of pesticide use on the environment and on human and animal health. This IPMP will be prepared and publicly disclosed before project appraisal. Irrigation development and others civil work under the project will involve consumption of energy, water and raw material. Using heavy vehicles and machinery associated with construction activities will generate dust, greenhouse gases, traffic disturbance and noise. The ESMF, and site-specific ESAs, will include measures to avoid or minimize (a) emissions of pollutants, and/or (b) risks of soil destruction, erosion and salinization due to improper agriculture and irrigation practices. For its efficient implementation, the E&S instruments will include a specific chapter on the cost of the measures, the source of its funding and timing. Where necessary, the recipient shall ensure that the project contractors, suppliers and service providers develop and implement Waste Management Plans for specific subprojects, for both non-hazardous and hazardous waste in accordance with the requirements of ESS 1 and a ESS 3 and in a manner acceptable to the association. The specific ESAs/ESMPs associated with these activities will also make use of the General and Industry-specific Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

The ESMF should refer to the Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines of the World Bank regarding community health and safety to recommend various measures for addressing community health and safety, to address risks related to road safety/security from noise pollution, social conflicts and tensions related to non-recruitment of local labor, sexually transmitted diseases, SEA/SH and propagation of the COVID-19 illness. If confirmed during preparation that irrigation schemes rely on existing or new dams, the ESMF will include relevant dam safety requirements as per ESS 4. Moreover, among the various measures for addressing community health and safety, ESMF and site specific ESAs should include the requirement to Constructors for the preparation of quarries and borrow sites management and restoration plans to be submitted to the Bank for review and clearance. It will also include specific measures to address SEA/SH and road security risks. Public infrastructures should include universal access to facilities when it is technically and financially possible. Contractors should, as part of their C-ESMP, provide a plan of how they intend to ensure safety of workers and of the community. Project target areas have not been defined but as it may be likely that the project would have activities in very remote and insecure areas, a Security Risk Assessment (SRA) will be prepared prior to project appraisal and if necessary a Security Risk Management Plan (SRMP) three months after effectiveness and guide necessary arrangements.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

The project will finance communities' small scale irrigation schemes under its Component 1 and infrastructure investments – such as collection, washing and grading points, and improvements to physical infrastructure in rural and urban markets) - under its Component 2. These activities could lead to temporary or even permanent losses of land, assets and/or livelihoods (both physical and economic) of populations located within the immediate vicinity of the proposed investments. The location of these activities is not yet known and the precise impacts of potential risks would therefore need to be re-evaluated by appraisal. A Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will be developed for the project prior to appraisal and a description of the arrangements for funding resettlement, including the preparation and review of cost estimates, the flow of funds and contingency arrangement. The project will develop site-specific Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) as necessary during implementation. All RAPs need to be monitored throughout the project and adjustments will need to be made as necessary.



ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Most project activities will take place in areas of modified habitat. Trees take a long time to grow in Niger, given the climate, and therefore all alternatives should be considered before cutting down large trees. The ESMF that will be prepared will describe how the Borrower should adopt and implement biodiversity management measures, including through the preparation of specific E&S instruments, such as ESIA, ESMPs or even biodiversity management plans (if applicable), all in accordance with the requirements of ESS 6 and in a manner acceptable to the association. Wetlands, grasslands, ponds and rivers should also be considered. The specific E&S instruments will be submitted to the Bank for approval before launching the supplier/provider consultation documents.

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

There are no known Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities in the project area.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

Project areas have rich, and diverse, cultural heritage. The environmental and social assessments will confirm, through consultation with the communities and national heritage institution, the existence of tangible or intangible cultural heritage in project areas. If there is any cultural heritage present that could be affected by the project, the Borrower will design mitigation measures, in consultation with the relevant national authorities and experts, to protect it. The ESMF, and site-specific ESIA, will include a specific chapter on cultural heritage, including a “chance finds” procedure to manage potential risks related to Cultural Heritage discovered during project implementation, in particular as construction is expected as part of the Component 2 of the project. For these activities, once the areas for the construction are identified and an ESIA is necessary, that ESIA will include a section on cultural heritage to ensure that there is no pre-existing or known cultural heritage sites which could be affected by the project. Lastly, a “chance find” clause will be added to the contracts, defining procedures for contractors if cultural heritage is encountered.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

The role of the "Fonds d'Investissement pour la Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle" (FISAN) will be mostly related to the “grants” (subsidies) part of the project financing which will be provided to some producers and communities, but as FISAN will not be receiving any financial support from this World Bank project, ESS 9 is not relevant. FISAN activities are mostly related to providing technical support to grant applicants in preparing their business plans, which will be presented to FIs for funding. FISAN's role will thus be limited only to linking producers to FIs, but these FIs are not envisaged to receive funding from the project.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways

Yes

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OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas

No

III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered?

No

Financing Partners

N/A

B. Proposed Measures, Actions and Timing (Borrower’s commitments)

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

Instruments to be elaborated by the Borrower by project Appraisal:

- Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)
- Stakeholders Engagement Plan (SEP)
- Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP)
- Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF)
- Draft of the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)
- Labor Management Procedure (LMP)
- SEA/SH Action Plan
- SRA

Actions after Board Approval:

- the Security Risk Management Plan (SMP), three month after effectiveness

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

- PIU composition, structure and timeline
- Preparation of ESIA/RAPs
- Operationalization of GRMs
- CERC requirements

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS

30-Mar-2023

IV. CONTACT POINTS

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Contact:	Aimee Marie Ange Mpambara	Title:	Senior Agriculture Economist
Telephone No:	5350+3215 / 227-20-727515	Email:	ampambara@worldbank.org

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: Ministry of Planning

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Ministry of agriculture

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 473-1000
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Aimee Marie Ange Mpambara
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Pia Peeters Recommended on 10-Mar-2023 at 04:12:47 EST
Safeguards Advisor ESSA	Nathalie S. Munzberg (SAESSA) Cleared on 20-Mar-2023 at 09:13:55 EDT