



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

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BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
India	SOUTH ASIA	P178418	
Project Name	Tripura Rural Economic Growth and Service Delivery Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Agriculture and Food	Investment Project Financing	12/9/2022	3/30/2023
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
India	Department of Tribal Welfare, Government of Tripura, Department of Tribal Welfare, Government of Tripura		

Proposed Development Objective

Increase the agricultural incomes of rural households and improve governance and service delivery by state institutions for delivery of enhanced transport connectivity and learning environment in the targeted tribal-dominated blocks.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	175.00

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 aims to promote socioeconomic development and improve the quality of life of rural communities living in tribal geographies in Tripura through a multi-sectoral approach. More specifically, the project aims at improving the economic opportunity and transport connectivity for rural populations, including tribal women. Transport connectivity will be improved through a statewide rural road improvement program in support of rural road



efficiency and accessibility to social and economic amenities such as markets, schools, and other services. As a direct contribution to rural economic opportunity and enhanced inclusivity, the project will improve rural livelihoods via diversified production clusters and agriculture logistics including aggregation, storage facilities, and supply chain markets. Additionally, the project will support human capital development in these geographies by enhancing school complexes and learning environments, improving access to these facilities, addressing retention of secondary students, and improving early grade teacher capacities. Finally, the project will strengthen the state institutional capabilities for improved service delivery and governance in the tribal areas making use of incentive-based tools and capacity improvements. Other interventions aimed at gender equality and empowerment, women entrepreneurship, and vocational development programs will be included

D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

With geographical area of about 10,491 square kilometers, Tripura is the third smallest state in India. It is a predominantly hilly (60%) and largely landlocked state, located in the south-western extremity of India's Northeastern region. The International border with Bangladesh is 856 km.

Tripura's total population was 3,671,032 with 1,871,867 males and 1,799,165 females (2011 Census). Poverty rates in Rural (16.5%) and Urban (7.4%) areas in Tripura were low when compared to the rest of the country in 2011-12. The state has very little cultivable land (27%). The majority of the population remains dependent on agriculture which contributes to 23% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Services contribute to more than half of the GSDP, but remain largely small, unorganized and informal. The state has very low industrialization levels and unemployment rates are high (estimated to be 41% pre-pandemic).

The state of Tripura has about 7,721 sq. kms. of forests area, which is nearly 73.64 % of the State's total geographic area. The protected areas (PA) or eco sensitive zones including national parks, wildlife sanctuaries or Ramsar sites will not be considered for investments under the project. The hilly areas are largely covered by forests but are prone to increased runoff, landslides and soil erosion. The one-lane highway that connects Tripura to the rest of India sees frequent disruptions in movement because of rains and landslides. The state is also prone to frequent floods, winds and cyclones. There are 10 major ephemeral rivers in the state. The net annual ground water availability is about 2.36 billion cubic meters (BCM), whereas the withdrawal is only about 0.163 BCM, and ground water extraction is being promoted for agriculture use in the state. There are certain pockets in the State which are characterized by high iron in the ground water.

The project proposes construction and upgradation of rural roads, school buildings, postharvest facilities and minor irrigation infrastructure. However, these structures are small with small environmental and social footprints. TRESP aims to promote socioeconomic development and improve the quality of life of rural communities living in tribal geographies in Tripura through a multi-sectoral approach. ESS7 is relevant since project interventions will extend over majority of the 23 predominantly tribal blocks where tribals represent more than 80% of the population. Scheduled Tribes (STs) comprise roughly 30 percent of the state's population, and live mostly in 23 of the 58 blocks in Tripura, classified as the Sixth Schedule areas. STs include Kokbrok speaking Tripuris (17%), Reang (5%), Jamatia (2%); Chakma (2%) as well as other smaller tribal groups such as Halams, Mogs, Mundas, Kukis, Garos etc. comprising the rest of the 19 tribes in the state. In the Schedule VI areas, tribals comprise about 83% of the population. These Schedule VI areas



cover about 2/3rd of the total area of the State. The scheduled areas are governed by the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC) that administers and governs these areas in line with tribal culture, customs, traditions as well as development priorities identified by the tribal village councils. These Tribal populations and areas are worse off in terms of infrastructure, basic service delivery, child nutrition, anemia, and educational attainment. Geographic isolation, remote, scattered settlements with poor connectivity and poor access to health and education facilities have been contributing factors for marginalization of these areas. TRESP interventions, institutional arrangements and implementation processes will need to comply with ESS7 requirements for recognizing, respecting and preserving indigenous knowledge, culture and practices; avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts, socially inclusive and culturally appropriate benefit sharing processes, meaningful consultations throughout project cycle.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

The TWD is the principal Implementing Agency entrusted with overall project coordination where an integrated Project Management Unit (PMU) with experienced project management, fiduciary, monitoring and evaluation, Environmental and Social Specialists and operational experts will be established. The E&S specialists in the PMU shall support other departments like Agriculture, Horticulture, Fisheries, Education, Water Resources. Project Implementing Units (PIU) will be established within each of these departments, as well as other departments identified during project preparation. PIUs will be responsible for detailed design and implementation of their respective sectoral investments. Most of the civil works under the project, including construction / restoration of rural roads, construction of schools, water resources augmentation, etc. is entrusted with Public Works Department (PWD).

TWD and none of the above-mentioned departments have implemented any World Bank financed project in the past. They lack prior experience, institutional expertise, dedicated institutional arrangement to prepare, design and implement this multisector project following Bank’s fiduciary and ESF requirements. Though the PWD has implemented Government of India’s road schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojna (PMGSY), they do not have dedicated environmental and social staff, and the environmental and social impact assessments have been carried out through external firms. Availability of technical expertise and consultants is a constraint in the state and the overall institutional capacity risk is assessed Substantial.

The project will prepare an Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) which will assess the institutional capacity of the various state departments that will be implementing the project interventions. Based on this capacity assessment, human resource, institutional, capacity building as well as technical assistance measures will be identified to manage and mitigate the E and S risks. The project proposes to engage dedicated E&S specialists in the PWD and the TWD, and the Government of Tripura has initiated upfront steps to engage dedicated and experienced environmental specialists and social specialists in the PMU and the proposed PIU in PWD. The project will emphasize the recruitment and training of locally recruited staff to build long-term skills and knowledge within TWD and other PIUs based on the capacity assessment.

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)	Substantial
Environmental Risk Rating	Substantial

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The project will support civil works related to the upgradation of about 881 kilometers of existing rural roads, and bitumen/alternate surfacing on about 356 kilometers of existing dirt/earthen roads. It will also support construction and upgradation of schools under education component and minor irrigation structures under agriculture component within the project area. The component that would have the highest risks and impacts is that related to rural roads upgradation, many in forest areas, but of small chainages. The upgradation works may involve vegetation clearance in the expanded Right of Way (RoW), affect biodiversity, health and safety of workers, generate dust, air and water pollution, spillage of chemicals and hazardous materials, potential inducement of landslides and degradation due to extraction/quarrying; The potential risks from investments under agriculture and allied activities are expected to be local and predictable with small footprint. These risks could arise from improper and overuse of agrochemicals and feeds; soil and water degradation. The project will only finance minor irrigations structures of heights less than 5 to 10 metres and ground water tubewells. Adequacy of water availability and quality will be ascertained through hydrological assessments before their construction. The environmental risk of the upgradation works is preliminarily assessed to be Substantial given that these will be carried out on existing roads. The risks from agriculture, water and allied activities can be managed and mitigated by implementing Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and investments restricted to minor irrigation structures. The project will have an exclusion/negative list for those activities/subprojects that would significantly impact natural habitats and critical habitats. At the time of project appraisal, Risk rating will be revisited based on identified risks and impacts.

Social Risk Rating

Substantial

The overall Social Risk Rating is assessed Substantial, given that project involves multisector interventions and land take and construction activities in significantly tribal areas. Majority of the road construction/widening and other construction activities are expected to be carried out largely within the existing ROW and/or land available with the government agencies. Subprojects requiring Physical Displacement will be prohibited and are put under negative list. However, project activities will also involve land take through voluntary land donation as well as as land acquisition (in small number of cases with minor impacts). The scope and scale of adverse social impacts from land take, especially on land and livelihoods is expected to be small in scale and scope and mitigated through the provisions of ESS5. Other social risks relate to labor management, protection of tribal cultural heritage, ensuring participatory and inclusive engagement and broad community support of tribal communities and their leaders during planning and implementation will be important for the achievement of PDO. Planning, institution building, and implementation processes will require close engagement with formal and informal tribal leaders representing different tribal subgroups, as well as the tribal village councils. The Implementing Agencies particularly Tribal Welfare Department (TWD) and Public Works Department (PWD) have good experience in working in tribal areas. However, they lack prior experience and institutional arrangements for Environmental and Social assessment, mitigation planning and implementation required by the specific ESSs. The risk rating would be reviewed at appraisal based on project design and implementation related information available at that time.

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) Risk Rating

Moderate

The SEA/SH risk is assessed Moderate at concept stage. The construction labor is expected to be drawn largely from local communities, and the SEA/SH risk from labor influx is low. Apart from labor, SEA/SH and GBV risks could be affected by other project activities too such as, community-based training in agriculture and livelihoods, remote locations and construction activities within educational facilities, gender imbalance among teachers, presence of tribal communities, as well as absence of clear SEA/SH related protocols. SEA/SH risks will be assessed in-depth during detailed project preparation, Social Assessment and stakeholder Consultations, and the SEA/SH risks and rating will



be revisited. Suitable Risk mitigation measures on SEA/SH Prevention and Response focusing on education, agriculture and road sectors will also be finalized.

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:

ESS1 is relevant for assessing, managing and monitoring environmental and social risks and impacts associated with the project, and ensuring that project interventions are environmentally and socially sustainable.

The benefits emanating from the project would be improved road connectivity and transport for rural and tribal population leading to enhanced quality of education, improved livelihoods of farmers, efficient use of water resources. Physical investments, largely on rural roads, schools and minor irrigation structures, would ensure resilient services for education, agriculture/aquaculture water use, efficient market linkages etc. By strengthening Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), adaptive governance systems and capacities, the project will entrust the communities in efficiently managing the uncertainties in future, including building climate resilience and adaptation

The project proposes construction and upgradation of rural roads, school buildings, postharvest facilities and minor irrigation infrastructure. However, these structures are small with small environmental and social footprints. Road upgradation/construction will be largely in brownfield areas, where the individual road lengths is expected to be small (2 to 5 km on an average). The construction activities and risks of improper civil works will include potentially adverse environmental construction stage impacts on air, water and material source, viz. dust, local hydrology and drainage, waterbodies, landscapes, and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS). As chainages of these rural roads largely pass-through forests, potential risks include tree felling, disturbance / damage to biodiversity. The potential risks from investments in agriculture, horticulture and fisheries could relate to soil health, improper usage of pesticides, excessive use of fish feed and antibiotics, impacts on flows in streams/rivers, deterioration in water quality, dewatering of aquifers and poor maintenance of minor irrigation (MI) structures.

Risks related to Physical Displacement are not anticipated and are put under the exclusion/negative list. The social risks and impacts are related to land take through land donation and land acquisition that may involve unavoidable minor impacts on land and livelihoods which will be fully mitigated through the provision of ESS5. Construction activities could increase OHS risks for workers and threats to community safety and well-being. Other social risks relate to labor management, stakeholder engagement and consultations with tribal communities as well as protection of tribal cultural heritage. The potential environment and social impacts from project activities are expected to be predictable, limited, site specific and manageable.

Studies on environmental and social aspects will be carried out by the Tribal Welfare Department (TWD) based on a select/known sample of sub-projects to identify, assess and plan the management of the environmental and social risks/impacts. These assessments and studies will specifically help in: (a) developing understanding of the key potential environment and social risks and impacts associated with project interventions, (b) identifying recommendations/ suggestions to design management/mitigation measures for reducing risks and help strengthen



environment and social performance for targeted project interventions. The studies will involve desk review, site visits, primary data collection as well as extensive consultations with the key stakeholders. The studies on environment and social aspects will also identify institutional capacity needs/gaps (including on staffing and skills) required to apply environmental and social standards (ESSs) for the proposed operation. The findings on environment and social risks will be subsumed in ESMF.

The principle of ‘mitigation hierarchy’ will be adopted to prepare Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF), to address environmental and social risks and impacts during planning, design and implementation stages. The ESMF will include an exclusion / negative list mentioning activities that will not be financed under the project (for example eco sensitive zones, national parks, critical biodiversity areas, Ramsar sites and other wetlands important from biodiversity point of view, construction of large dams). The exclusion / negative list will also include any subprojects involving i) physical displacement of tribal households; ii) adverse impacts on customary tribal lands, natural resources and cultural properties; iii) opposition of tribal leaders as well as community institutions; iv) non-compliance with ESF and specific ESSs. The exclusion/negative list will be updated, reviewed and revised based on the detailed ES assessments/studies across project components, field visits, consultations, and due diligence. The ESMF will also include procedures for undertaking E and S screening of sub-projects and preparing site specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs). The ESMF will include detailed guidance on community consultations and participation in design and implementation of investments; Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), guidelines on carrying out voluntary donation and other land take mechanism and processes that comply with ESS5, as well as provisions for training of project staff and communities. All the key requirements of ESS7 will be included in ESMF, RPF, project’s institutional arrangements, grievance mechanisms, intervention planning and implementation processes. In addition, the ESMF will include activity-specific generic ESMPs that can be readily used for low/medium-risk activities under component 1A, 2 and 3. The World Bank Group’s Environment, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSG) will be applied while developing ESMF and other ESF instruments.

Apart from project preparatory studies on environment and social aspects and the ESMF, and Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), Labour Management Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) will be prepared by appraisal.

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

Borrower’s E&S Framework is not being considered since TRESP will be the first World Bank supported project for the IAs, and their institutional capacities and implementation practices on meeting country’s ES requirements are expected to have gaps. Instead, the project will apply the Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and the associated Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) and provide necessary technical assistance to meet the standards. Project will be meeting all applicable requirements for clearances, licenses, permits and approvals by national, state and local governments, as well as existing laws and policies on ESF. The requirements for these permits and clearances, wherever applicable, will be recorded in the ESCP.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

This standard is relevant given that i) TRESP will be engaging with a range of stakeholders directly affected by the agriculture, rural livelihoods, roads, education, tribal welfare and planning, institutional strengthening and capacity building interventions; ii) Project area is predominantly tribal with special safeguards and provisions for information

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sharing and approvals from village committees and autonomous councils for project supported interventions; iii) and, TRESP will be strengthening the capacity of village committees, tribal communities, and other relevant stakeholders to participate in village planning, budget allocations and citizen’s engagement. Primary stakeholders such as tribal councils, village development committees, SHGs, and FPOs will be consulted extensively in local tribal languages during studies on environment and social aspects. These stakeholders will be engaged in planning, endorsement and implementation of specific project interventions, as well as in risk mitigation measures related to land take/acquisition, involuntary resettlement, labor, health and safety etc.

The SEP will guide the identification of and engagement with stakeholders, particularly in activities proposed under Component 2. IAs will prepare a stakeholder engagement plan (SEP) that is customized for local language, the literacy levels, the hilly and remote landscape with limited facilities, and the tribal context of the project area. SEP will focus on operationalizing the most effective and practical channels for stakeholder engagement, information sharing, information disclosure, citizen’s feedback, and grievance redressal mechanism (GRM) throughout the life of the project. The potential mechanisms would include multimedia information campaigns in local language, stakeholder meetings, review meetings, website, telephone hotline, as well as periodic surveys and consultations. Studies on environment and social aspects will assess the accessibility and usage of existing GRMs in project areas and recommend suitable GRM that would be accessible to stakeholders in project areas. Capacities and systems to register, resolve and track project related grievances will also be strengthened. Based on SEA/SH assessment, suitable GRM focusing on SEA/SH will be designed. The draft ESMF will be consulted with relevant stakeholders through virtual and physical meetings, and disclosed on borrowers and Bank’s websites, as well as locally in tribal language. Institutional mechanism for SEP implementation in PMU and PIUs will be finalized during project preparation.

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

This standard is relevant since TRESP interventions will involve engagement of direct, contracted and community workers as well as officials of government of Tripura to carry out the project activities. Primary supply workers are not anticipated.

Studies on environment and social aspects and Project Preparatory work will involve estimation of the requirement of these labor/worker categories as well as review and assessment of the existing labor laws and practices with respect to workers work/service conditions, remuneration, Occupational Health and Safety, Codes of conduct, grievance redressal mechanisms. Laws and Practices related to prevention of child and forced labor and protection of vulnerable workers will also be reviewed. Any gaps between the existing labor/workers laws and practices and the requirements of ESS2 will be addressed through preparation of a project specific Labour Management Procedure (LMP).

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management



The principles and requirements laid down in ESS 3 are relevant to the project.

With respect to Resource Efficiency, the project preparation and the studies on environment and social aspects will identify feasible measures for efficient: (a) water usage and management to minimize water usage during construction, conservation measures to offset total construction water demand and maintain balance for demand of water resources; (b) increasing water efficiency for agriculture and aquaculture; (c) ground water resource sustainability; (d) post harvest waste management; (e) raw materials use by exploring use of local/alternate materials, recycled aggregates, use of innovative technology so as to minimize project's footprints on finite natural resources; (f) enhancing energy efficiency and minimizing green-house gas emissions.

For pollution prevention and management, focus will be on: (a) debris/ construction waste management; (b) run-off/silt control at work sites to prevent sedimentation and any possible contamination of water sources; (c) management of hazardous wastes and; (d) storage and management of construction materials to prevent ground/soil contamination; (e) exclusion of banned pesticides and fertilizers. Further the project will implement IPM and INM practices to mitigate the potential risks emanating from these activities..

With respect to Carbon Emissions, the environment studies will estimate GHG due to implementation of Component 1 (rural roads, agriculture and allied activities), identify feasible measures for reducing such emissions, creating carbon sink, and climate resilient measures to suit local needs and challenges, and by possible use of alternative technologies.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

Community health and safety will be important concerns with respect to exposure of local communities to adverse impacts from construction of rural roads, school buildings and minor irrigation infrastructures. While the Project aims to plan, design and implement "resilient" roads for improving safety of communities which are already at high risks of earthquakes, landslides, cloud bursts, erosion and flooding, the project roads are all likely to be in high earthquake zone (Zone V, the severe risk earthquake zones), and in landscapes prone to landslides and slips. The anticipated risks to community on rural roads are largely due to improper scheduling of works, unsafe handling of hazardous materials, haphazard dumping of construction wastes, differences in operating speeds, road geometry, functionality, enforcement level, etc. These risks can be easily mitigated by various and safety measures, such as speed management, proper signages, improved surfacing, awareness, waste management, etc.

Even though labour is expected largely to be sourced locally, the potential of health, safety and SEA/GBV/SH risks to local tribal communities and school students from labour force as well as project workers/contractors does exist. Apart from labor influx, SEA/SH and GBV risks could also be driven by community-based interventions as well as training in agriculture and livelihoods, remote locations of student facilities, gender imbalance among teachers, absence of SEA/SH related protocols. During Social Assessment and Consultations, these issues and risks will be assessed, and Suitable Risk mitigation measures on SEA/SH Prevention and Response in the education, agriculture and road sectors will be finalized .



Since the irrigation structures are expected to be minor irrigation structures and small in scale (of heights less than 5 to 10 metres) and ground water tubewells, dam safety is not anticipated as a risk. The potential risks could be mitigated through regular maintenance of these dams and conduits/canals, development of an operating schedule, awareness raising, strengthening/establishing Water Users Associations etc. Nonetheless, the minor irrigation structures, performance of which the project potentially relies on, will be reviewed during preparation stage. As the project would implement agriculture and allied activities, the potential risks will be mitigated through promoting appropriate agrochemicals to prevent adverse human health impacts from exposure during use, or accidental ingestion or misuse.

The studies on environment and social aspects will assess the health, safety and SEA/GBV/SH risks to communities during project life cycle from construction, traffic, labor influx, and propose management measures in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy, such as emergency response measures which will be incorporated into the ESCP. Further, all works, and operations will be planned, designed and implemented to comply with the World Bank Group's Environment, Health and Safety guidelines (EHSG), good practice in road safety design and existing guidance (e.g. Good Practice Note, Guide to Road Safety Interventions etc.).

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

ESS5 is relevant since road upgradation/widening and other construction activities are expected to involve land take that includes use of existing land and right of way (RoW) available with government agencies, voluntary land donation (including village/community lands that are not under customary or cultural use) as well as land acquisition.. The scope and scale of land take and the potential for adverse social impacts is expected to be small since most of the road work will be carried over already existing roads or mud/brick tracks, only a small number of road segments are expected to be along new alignments and the average length of road packages is small. Land take is expected to be in small land parcels, over short segments along the existing roads/tracks.

Physical displacement is not expected and is placed in exclusion/negative list, along with any other subprojects involving subprojects involving a) physical displacement of tribal households; b) adverse impacts on customary tribal lands, natural resources and cultural properties; c) opposition of tribal leaders as well as community institutions; d) non-compliance with ESF and specific ESSs. The exclusion/negative list will be updated, reviewed and revised based on the detailed ES assessments/studies across project components, field visits, consultations, and due diligence.

The studies on environment and social aspects will assess the scope and scale of land take under the project along with its likely impacts on land, structures, crops, livelihoods and common assets of households and communities, as well as tribal heritage. PWD, Tripura has developed about 4500 Kilometers of rural roads in the state through voluntary land donation. The process has involved community participation in transect walks, finalization of road alignment as well as land donation requirements, when applicable. Signed resolutions are obtained from the village assemblies about their agreement and community support for road construction as well as land donation. Similar process is expected to be followed for land take in building road, post-harvest infrastructure, minor irrigation structures.



To avoid, minimise, and mitigate the social risks and impacts associated with land take, the ESMF will include a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) that will lay down the process for screening and assessment of the scope and scale of land take and its adverse social impacts, as well as the process for preparing RAPS to mitigate any unavoidable adverse impacts on project affected people through timely compensation, rehabilitation assistance, and to ensure resettlement actions are carried out with meaningful consultations, informed participation, appropriate information disclosure and grievance redressal mechanism. The RPF will also include an assessment of the existing mechanisms and processes of voluntary land donation, and recommend practical measures/guidelines to address any gaps with respect to the ESS5 requirements on voluntary land transactions (availability of informed choices and right of refusal with potential land donors, availability of written willingness to donate, minor size of the donated land, potential for physical displacement, access to direct benefit from subprojects, and maintenance of transparent documentation of all consultations and agreements by the borrower). The scope and scale of voluntary land transactions will need to be agreed with the Bank by appraisal. The RPF will also include the specific requirements that apply to Schedule VI areas under the LARR Act 2013 and other laws on local self governance and forest rights, as well as the requirements of ESS7. Based on availability of site specific DPRs prepared during project preparation, PIUs will also prepare site specific ESMPs and RAPS.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

The ESS 6 is relevant to the project.

The rural roads, though small in chainage, are likely to pass through forests, the ESMF will include an exclusion/negative list of activities that will eliminate the possibility of activities being taken up in critical natural habitats/eco-sensitive zones having species with critical biodiversity value. The road alignments and the risks and impacts of the project on biodiversity; the avoidance of critical habitats and preservation of key ecosystem services, particularly for Tribal populations, will be assessed and included in screening criteria for site selection; and depending on identified significant direct or indirect impacts, appropriate mitigation measures will be included in a Biodiversity Management Plan, that will be implemented as needed and included in ESCP.

There is a possibility of some impact on aquatic life due to the construction of the structures on streams (which are likely to be small and/or seasonal), which could impact the flow and quality of water, especially during the lean season. However, any potential adverse impacts on aquatic biodiversity rich areas/living resources on account of such works will be determined through an environment and social screening and assessment processes. Provisions will also be made in the bidding document to ensure that no materials for construction activities are sourced from any critical habitats, protected areas, forest areas, eco-sensitive zones or any recognized areas of high biodiversity for works/activities supported under the Project.

Based on the location of project interventions (which is not known at this stage) and the findings from the studies on environment and social aspects (which will be subsumed within ESMF), relevant measures if required, to avoid impact on biodiversity will be taken-up in the project to fulfill requirements laid out in ESS 6. Such measures in the ESMPs will also include precautionary measures to prevent any possible impact on aquatic life (due to discharges from worksites and/or dumping of debris in water bodies).



Further, in case there is any requirement of tree felling for construction works under the project, requisite permission will be obtained from the Forest Department/Competent Authority prior to initiating civil works and provisions for compensatory plantation in line with regulatory norms will be built into the sub-project Detailed Project Reports/estimates.

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

Tripura has significant Indigenous Peoples or scheduled tribes (STs) population that have unique language, cultural heritage and customary institutions and practices. STs comprise roughly 30 percent of the state's population, and 74 percent reside in rural areas. STs include Kokbrok speaking Tripuris (17%), Reang (5%), Jamatia (2%); Chakma (2%) as well as other smaller tribal groups comprising the rest of the 19 tribes in the state. While Tribal groups are found across the state, the key tribal inhabited areas are constitutionally notified as Schedule VI areas. These Schedule VI areas are spread across all the four districts, cover about 68% of State's areas, and have more than 83% of the population as tribals. The Schedule VI areas are administered by the Tripura Tribal Areas Autonomous District Council (TTAADC), an autonomous district council led by tribal leaders that governs the tribal areas in line with the identity, culture, customs and practices of the tribal people. TTAADC is the state level, nodal institution that holds the responsibility for planning and implementing schemes and programs in line with needs, customs and priorities of the tribal people.

ESS7 holds special relevance as TRESP will be implemented in 23 predominantly tribal blocks where tribals represent more than 80% of the population. These areas have been historically marginalized and underserved in terms of access and connectivity to social, economic and human capital infrastructure and services. Large number of tribal inhabitations continue to lack all-weather roads, proper schools and primary health centres and remain cut off from labor and agriculture markets. Tribal areas have comparatively higher levels of poverty, livelihoods and food security with lower human development outcome indicators. Tribal households and communities will be the primary stakeholders and the main beneficiaries of project investments and interventions.

Given that TRESP interventions are planned exclusively for tribal areas and tribal communities in Tripura and will be complying with all the legal, administrative and institutional provisions, safeguard mechanisms and processes that are applicable in Schedule VI tribal areas, the risk of impacting local tribal rights, community land/properties and tribal cultural heritage remains low. TRESP will essentially be acting like an IPF/IPDP and the requirement for a separate, dedicated IPP or IPF is not anticipated. However, project preparation, subproject design and studies on environment and social aspects will include meaningful consultations with local tribal communities, village committees, and community leaders, to ensure the ownership and participation of tribal communities in project design, implementation and monitoring. The PMU/PIUs will undertake consultations in local tribal language to ensure the sociocultural appropriateness of the proposed project interventions, and to identify and address any constraints that may limit the participation of and benefits for the tribal beneficiaries.

In line with ESS7, the ESMF will lay down the processes and mechanisms that would need to be followed, especially with respect to meaningful and informed community engagement and consultations, Screening of subprojects/DPRs (including location, alignments, scope of land-take, tribal heritage, customary land and natural resources, ecosystem services etc.), documentation of broad community support, information disclosure in local tribal language, and



inclusive access to project benefits. These requirements will be integrated in ESMF, RPF/RAP, project’s institutional arrangements, grievance mechanisms, and planning and implementation guidelines. Since subprojects involving physical displacement of tribal households significant adverse impacts on traditional lands and natural resources as well as tribal cultural heritage are prohibited, the requirement for FPIC will need to be reviewed during during detailed project preparation, and suitable guidance will be sought. Application of FPIC/ESS7 procedures, on utilization of Village/Community lands for roads/infrastructure will be part of the FPIC review.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

The project is proposed to be implemented in 23 tribal blocks of the State. Given the vast geographical area over which several sub-projects would be located under various components, the possibility of cultural heritage (such as sacred groves, religious places, burial sites etc) being impacted by certain sub-projects can not be ruled out. The project preparation will determine the presence of all such cultural areas assets and determine significance of the project’s direct or indirect impacts on these. The proposed sub-projects will be screened for potential cultural heritage impacts. Consultations with communities will also be utilized to screen any sensitive issues related to cultural resources. The studies on environment and social aspects would evaluate the potential for any direct or indirect impact of project activities on cultural assets and determine the presence of any other such resources that may not be listed with national or state governments (Archeological Survey of India) but could be of local significance.

Any such identified cultural heritage impacts and/or chance finds will be dealt with in line with national legal requirements and requirements set forth under ESS 8. Procedures for handling chance finds will be prepared as part of the ESMF and will be included in the ESMPs and the Bidding Documents to handle any such situation that may come-up during project implementation.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

Use of Financial Intermediaries is not envisaged in the project.

B.3 Other Relevant Project Risks

No other relevant project risks are envisaged at this time.

Should "Other Relevant Project Risks" be disclosable? Yes

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways Yes

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas No

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III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered?

No

Financing Partners

No financing partners are envisaged at this time.

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

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

- a) Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be prepared that would include description of the E&S risks and impacts of the typologies of subprojects/activities, Exclusion / Negative List, Screening Criteria, Guidelines for Community Participation and Engagement, Consultation and Disclosure during subproject design and implementation, and RPF (including assessment of implementation experience of voluntary donation and recommendations for its adoption by the project).
- b) Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)
- c) Labour Management Procedures (LMP)
- d) Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)

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

The ESMP will cover the following issues:

- a) implementation of E&S staffing, LMP and capacity building program;
- b) responsibilities for reporting on progress in implementation of the ESF requirements;
- c) E&S Screening, ESMP, including any ESS related plans required, if needed;
- d) establishment and operationalization of agreed GRM mechanisms;
- e) processes and timelines for obtaining of requisite statutory clearances, if not obtained by Appraisal;
- f) the implementation and updating of ESMPs and SEP as needed; and
- g) provisions for managing unanticipated risks and impacts

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS

08-Dec-2022

IV. WORLD BANK ES OVERSIGHT

An Environmental and/or Social Practice Manager is providing oversight.

V. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: India

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Department of Tribal Welfare, Government of Tripura

Implementing Agency: Department of Tribal Welfare, Government of Tripura

VI. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VII. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s): Priti Kumar, Anna Charlotte O'Donnell, Tesfamichael Nahusenay Mitiku
 Practice Manager (ENR/Social) Kevin A Tomlinson Recommended on 03-May-2022 at 11:05:50 GMT-04:00

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