



# Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

## Appraisal Stage

### **(ESRS Appraisal Stage)**

Date Prepared/Updated: 03/29/2022 | Report No: ESRSA02051



**BASIC INFORMATION**

**A. Basic Project Data**

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Cameroon	AFRICA WEST	P177782	
Project Name	Cameroon Emergency Food Crisis Response Project		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Agriculture and Food	Investment Project Financing	3/21/2022	5/2/2022
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
The Republic of Cameroon	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development		

Proposed Development Objective

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to strengthen food and nutrition security and increase resilience to climate shocks of targeted households and producers.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**B. Is the project being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?**

Yes

**C. Summary Description of Proposed Project [including overview of Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to CPF]**

The Cameroon Emerging Food Crisis Response Project objective is to improve access to food and reduce vulnerability to climate shocks of targeted households and producers. The aim of the project is to respond urgently to mitigate short-term impacts of food and nutrition insecurity and its drivers, while simultaneously building long-term economic, climate and community resilience. The project will target crisis affected (IPC3+) communities in the Far North, North-West, South-West, Adamawa, and East regions. To maximize the impact of the project interventions, the project activities will be anchored in a coherent and complementary nexus approach, responding to essential needs of targeted beneficiaries by providing an integrated support package while progressively transitioning to tailored resilience-building activities. To the extent possible, this implies convergence (co-location) of project activities in



IPC3+ food insecure communities. The project constitutes four components: (i) support for early response food and nutrition stabilization towards early recovery and resilience building; (ii) strengthening productive capacities of smallholders through crop and livestock support for climate and nutritional resilience; (iii) support for strengthening governmental food security crisis monitoring capacity, information systems and agrometeorological services for climate resilience; (iv) project management, monitoring and evaluation. In the first component the project provides direct and indirect food assistance to several segments including to malnourished or undernourished children and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG); to school children; and to individuals in households with severely reduced access to food consumption. The first component also includes public works programs that will aid households via cash to able-bodied laborers. The second component will provide producers (farmers, pastoralists, and fishermen) with inputs and technical assistance, postharvest management, value-addition, and access to markets. The third component will include (i) intergovernmental coordination and capacity building within MINADER, PNVRSA and CIAR, and other government institutions; (ii) support the preparation of the Food Security Crisis Response Plan (FSCPP) (national and regional), food security bulletins, market and price monitoring reports, and the development of climate information and agricultural advisories; (iii) collection, monitoring and publication of agrometeorological information; (iv) development of streamlined data collection and analysis systems. The fourth component is standard and will finance activities related to project coordination and management.

#### D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

The Cameroon Emerging Food Crisis Response Project will be implemented in both rural and urban areas in 5 five of the Cameroon's 10 regions, namely the Far North, Adamawa, East, North West, and South West regions.

These five regions where the project will be implemented contain a variety of landscapes, geomorphological and climatic zones that constitute the five distinct regional entities or agro-ecological zones of Cameroon. Indeed, the Sudano-Sahelian zone, which covers 100,353 km<sup>2</sup> and consists of the North and Far North regions, is characterized by a rainfall that varies from 400-1200 mm/year, a great pedological diversity with ferruginous leached soils, hydromorphic soils, alluvial soils, lithosols, vertisols, etc.... and the main crops grown are cotton, millet-sorghum, cowpeas, onions, and sesame.

The Adamawa region constitutes the high savannah zone with an area of 123,077 km<sup>2</sup>. It is characterized by a rainfall of 1,500 mm/year with 150 days of rain per year, with permeable soils with average water retention capacity: brown or red ferralitic soils and hydromorphic soils. The main crops grown are maize, cotton, millet-sorghum, yam, and potato.

Most of the Eastern region, together with a large part of the central and southern regions, constitutes the bimodal forest zone with a surface area of 165,770 km<sup>2</sup>. With a rainfall of between 1500 - 2000 mm/year, it has two distinct wet seasons and presents mostly ferralitic, acidic, clayey soils with a red or yellow color depending on the length of the wet season and a low nutrient retention capacity. The main crops grown in this area are cocoa, coffee, cassava, plantain, maize, palm oil and pineapple.

The North-Western region is part of the highland zone with the Western region, which extends over 31,192 km<sup>2</sup> with a rainfall ranging from 1,500 - 2,000 mm/year, with 180 rainy days. This zone is characterized by very fertile soils that are suitable for agricultural activities: young soils (inceptisols) on steep slopes; highly leached soils (oxisols) in the old plateaus; soils with an illuvial B horizon in closed depressions and plateaus enriched with volcanic materials. This area is suitable for growing cocoa, coffee, maize, dry beans, potatoes, and vegetables.



The south-western region is included with the coastal region and part of the southern region in the forest zone with monomodal rainfall varying between 2500- 4000mm/year. It covers an area of 45,658km<sup>2</sup> on the volcanic slopes of Mount Cameroon, with sediments of rocky origin along the coast. These soils are mostly very fertile nitosols. Cocoa, banana, coffee, plantain, palm oil, ginger and pepper are grown. It should be noted that slash-and-burn agriculture, which causes many bush fires, is the most widespread system in these different regions. It is exclusively a food production system, with cash crops being almost non-existent. Farmers are increasingly looking for improved varieties to the detriment of local species that are sometimes better adapted to ecological conditions. The labor force is mainly composed of family members, sometimes supplemented by temporary labor during peak full stops. The means of agricultural production are still mostly rudimentary, consisting of machetes, hoes and pickaxes, and the processing of products is still in its infancy and faces problems of formulation, conservation, and packaging.

#### D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

The Government of Cameroon has experience in managing the E&S risks and impacts of WB-financed projects implemented under the Safeguards Policies. The country can also rely on an established legal framework and on established institutions for E&S management. However, there is limited in experience implementing projects under the ESF and experience from other Bank financed projects highlight that the capacity to manage E&S risks and impacts still requires considerable improvement in areas of supervision, monitoring and reporting.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER) will lead the implementation of the project through a PIU that will be established prior to project approval. However, as part of the implementation of the Project preparation advance (PPA), MINADER will rely on the PIU which is currently overseeing the implementation of the Bank-financed PULCI (P143940: Flood Emergency Project). The Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Animal Industries (MINEPIA) will be also engaged in the implementation of project activities. Furthermore, the Project will work with three main service providers (FAO, WFP and Cameroon's Public Works Implementation Agency) who have acquired some experience in the implementation and monitoring of safeguard E&S instruments. However, their respective experiences in implementing projects under the ESF is limited. The project memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with each of these entities will clearly state the ESF requirements, including requirements on security, labor and work conditions, and SEA/SH risks in terms of implementation of the safeguards instruments and other safeguard measures, including the recruitment of E&S specialists as agreed in the ESCP. The PIU capacity-building program will address the ESF training needs of WFP and FAO. The acting PIU's current E&S team includes one social specialist. During project implementation a PIU would be put in place by May 2022 and will recruit an Environmental/OHS specialist, a social specialist, and a GBV specialist no later than 02 months after the project effective date. In addition, the PIU E&S team will receive regular capacity building from the Bank ESF team throughout the implementation of the project, in the form of clinics on specific issues.

According to the arrangement) for the project implementation, the National Steering Committee of the Project will be hosted by the MINADER and chaired by the Minister Given that PULCI is implemented under the safeguards policies, the E&S capacity of the MINADER as well as that of other relevant institutions (Ministries, Municipalities, FAO, WFP) involved in the Project will need to be strengthened at all levels to ensure their participation, especially given their limited knowledge of and experience with WB ESF requirements.



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

### A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

High

#### Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

The Environmental risk is considered substantial. The Project will include a set of activities to increase the resilience of vulnerable households to future food security crises, as well as the overall country’s resilience and preparedness for such crises. The project will bring many benefits to beneficiaries and fewer environmental risks and impacts. Indeed, under subcomponent 2.1. the financing of interventions that promote climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and nutrition-sensitive agriculture (NSA) practices to build resilience, including: (i) improved drought-resistant and bio-fortified seeds, bio-intensive gardens, small-scale water conservation works such as small-scale drip irrigation, rainwater harvesting tanks; (ii) additional farm equipment and labor; (ii) small-scale post-harvest management equipment and machinery, including cold chambers (chillers, etc. ), mills, dryers, also undoubtedly contributes to reducing the effects of climate change by removing CO2 from the atmosphere through tree planting. However In component 1.2, the construction of investments for the creation of community assets for water harvesting, soil improvement, moisture retention, reforestation could among other things lead to (i) occupational health and safety risks for workers, including in particular beneficiaries from cash-for-work programs, as well as safety risks related to the works for surrounding communities, (ii) encroachment on crops in the vicinity of work sites, (iii) Noise pollution, construction site waste, etc., These risks and impacts are further linked to previous experiences and current knowledge of the implementation of projects in the agricultural sector and supporting infrastructure rehabilitation, and measures to address them are already known. Thus, taking into account this description of potential impacts and risks, and the current knowledge on how to manage them, added to the deleterious security context prevailing in the regions targeted by the project, and the lack of mastery of the new environmental and social framework by the actors involved in the implementation of the project, the environmental risk of the project is considered as substantial.

#### Social Risk Rating

High

The overall social benefits are expected to be positive, however, project social risk are considered High. Key concerns relate to security risks on project workers and beneficiaries in the Far North, Northwest, and Southwest regions. Component 1 and 2 activities may subject project workers, and project communities in the Northwest and Southwest regions to significant security risk from the presence of non-state armed groups and the military in the regions since the start of the socio-political crises in 2016. Security risks on project workers and communities in the Far North region relate to Boko Haram terrorist attacks that have plagued the target communities since 2013. Moreover, there is a limited capacity on the overall ESF compliance necessary for this project that will be implemented by a PIU and WFP with first ESF practical experience. Other anticipated social risks and impacts include: (a) complex risks in forced displacement situations (due to extensive flooding, COVID-19 restrictions affecting agricultural supply chains and food trade, driving up food prices, slow increase or even stagnation of agricultural and livestock production) leading to a vulnerable population, often with minimal assets and limited access to basic services and employment; (b) high risks of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH) specific to the project as assessed through the SEA/SH risk screening tool. Children, women and girls in situations of displacement are vulnerable to GBV and sexual exploitation; (c) the limited capacity and experience of the recipient for effective stakeholder engagement; (d) risks for exclusion, marginalized and vulnerable social groups, and others agriculture practicing minorities groups which include female heads of

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households and young people in vulnerable situation. Vulnerable groups in project zones include people living with disabilities, orphans, women, boys and girls associated with non-state armed groups in the Northwest and Southwest regions, etc.), unemployed youth, refugees, IDPs and returnees. Further, people from ethnic or religious minorities, including those living in a community with different ethnic and religious majority characteristics who are at risk of discrimination and stigmatization such as Indigenous Peoples (IPs), refugees and the Mbororo (Peuhls), may only have to access food and nutrition facilities (e.g., nutrition for children, seed and inputs distribution) in a way that undermines the PDO; (e) risk of exclusion of vulnerable groups in the recruitment for Labor Intensive Public Works- LIPW especially in the cash for work and construction activities; (f) physical and/ or economic displacement that is likely to result from permanent or temporary land taken to advance activities related to support for early response food and nutrition stabilization towards early recovery and resilience building ; (g) IPs that are present in the target project areas may be subject to disadvantages or exclusion; (h) moderate labor influx in rural areas. The social risk classification also considered the following aspects: current COVID-19 related risks of dissemination, and uncertainties on new waves, in relation with the running of the markets and also during the labor-intensive community public works; potential risks related to stakeholder engagement activities of the project and eventual social conflicts that could be exacerbated. Overall, the project will have positive impacts given that planned activities aim at improving quality of life for the most vulnerable people, including girls and the people living with disabilities.

## 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:**

The Bank's review considered the Project's capacity to manage its environmental and social performance as a challenge. It was concluded that the Project's environmental and social capacity will need to be improved to comply with ESS1 requirements. Thus, the Project has developed and agreed to implement a set of measures and actions to fill the gaps and shortcomings, as defined in the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), including targeted training and support to the environmental and social specialists and project stakeholders.

The environmental and social risks and impacts of the Project are mainly associated with Components 1 and 2. The Project is preparing a draft ESMF to be ready by appraisal (to be finalized 2 months after the Effective Date). However, the environmental/OHS specialist will conduct, together with the social specialist, the environmental screening to confirm the nature of the instrument to be prepared for each sub-project ) .

Relevant Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) are: ESS1 (Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts); ESS2 (Labor and Working Conditions); ESS3 (Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management); ESS4 (Community Health and Safety); ESS5 (Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement); ESS6 (Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources); ESS7: Indigenous Peoples (IPs)/ Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities and ESS8 (Cultural Heritage) and ESS10 (Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure). To address the aforementioned project risks and impacts on project communities including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups the Borrower has developed a Stakeholders Engagement Plan (SEP), and will prepare Labor Management Procedures (LMP), SEA/SH Assessment and Action Plan, Resettlement Policy Framework/Resettlement



Action Plan (RPF/RAP), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and any other relevant E&S instruments needed for project implementation.

The ESMF will ensure that the instruments prepared for subprojects include the commitments made relative to the other standards, as detailed in the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), SEA/SH Action Plan, Security Risk Assessment (SRA) and associated Security Management Plan (SMP), the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), a Pest management Plan (PMP) and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). In particular, the ESMF will: (i) identify OHS risks and impacts and define measures to protect workers from injury, illness, or impacts associated with exposure to hazards encountered in the workplace or while working; (ii) take into account the World Bank Group's General Environment, Health, and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs), and other relevant EHS Guidelines; (iii) provide guidelines for the preparation of the SEA/SH assessment and SEA/SH action plan ; iv) provide preliminary information on security issues in project zones as well as guidelines for the preparation of the SRA/SMP. The Project is preparing drafts of ESMF, RPF, IPPF, to be ready by appraisal (to be finalized 2 months after the Effective Date). The project implementation SEP is prepared and will be disclosed before project appraisal. Site-specific plans (RAP, IPP, ESMP) shall be prepared before any request for proposals is issued for any projects that include in part or in full civil works. The Labor Management Procedure (LMP), and SEA/SH assessment and SEA/SH plan shall be prepared and disclosed no later than one month after the project Effective Date. The project SRA/SMP shall be prepared no later than three months after the project Effective Date. Third party GRMs SEA/SH action plan and SMP for WFP and FAO will be prepared before the start of field activities.

### **ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure**

#### **ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure**

In consultation with the Bank, the Borrower prepared transitional SEP and grievance redress mechanism (GRM) to support preparation advance (PPA) activities. However, for project implementation, the project has prepared a separate project SEP which integrates a GRM for project implementation stakeholders. The project implementation SEP and associated GRM has been consulted upon and will be disclosed before project appraisal. The project (SEP) is proportional to the nature and scale of the project and its associated risks and impacts and will be implemented and updated as needed throughout the project lifecycle. This will need to consider all project's stakeholders: government institutions, farmers, informal producer groups, with an appropriate outreach program for women, Mbororos (living in the Far North, Northwest, and East regions), persons living with disabilities, Indigenous People (IP), internally displaced persons, and refugees in project's footprint. The Borrower will provide stakeholders with 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 Borrower will engage in meaningful consultations with all stakeholders throughout the project preparation and implementation paying attention to the inclusion of minorities and vulnerable groups (e.g women, persons with disabilities) and Indigenous People (IP) and be carried out in an accessible and culturally appropriate manner, with information provided in accessible formats. Community consultations with (women, young girls, and female heads of households) that are related to SEA/SH risks mitigation will be conducted in safe and enabling environments, such as in sex-segregated groups and with female facilitators. The project will need to identify and consult with relevant stakeholders who could promote increased





adhesion and encourage retention of young girls, women leading households, female workers within the agricultural activities. Such consultations will be focused on understanding women and girl’s risks and vulnerabilities, understand girl’s enrolment and engagement experience in food, agriculture and nutrition concerns in relation to the project.

In relation with IPs specific case, the approach to stakeholder engagement should be based on the principles of meaningful consultation and disclosure of appropriate information. The Borrower will undertake meaningful consultation in a manner that provides an opportunity for IPs to provide input on the risks, impacts and mitigation measures of the project, and for the Borrower to consider and respond to them in a culturally sensitive manner. These consultations will be carried out on an ongoing basis, as issues, impacts and opportunities evolve. If potential adverse effects on IPs are identified, those adverse effects will be avoided, minimized, mitigated or compensated. IPs’ Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) will be required if the project will have adverse impacts on IP land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation; cause relocation of Indigenous Peoples from land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation; or have significant impacts on Indigenous Peoples that is material to the identity and/or cultural, ceremonial, or spiritual aspects of the affected Indigenous People’s lives as stated in ESS7. In this case FPIC will build on meaningful consultation carried out by the project on the principle of good faith negotiation between the project and affected Indigenous Peoples. The project IPPF/IPP will document: (i) the mutually accepted process to carry out good faith negotiations that has been agreed by the project and Indigenous Peoples and (ii) the outcome of the good faith negotiations between the project and Indigenous Peoples including all agreements reached as well as dissenting views.

Effective communication will be imperative to increase project awareness and build trust, particularly in the sensitive conflict affected areas of the Northwest and Southwest regions. The Borrower will seek stakeholder feedback and opportunities for proposed future engagements, ensuring that all consultations are inclusive and accessible (both in format and location) and through channels that are suitable given the local context(s).

Given the COVID-19 crisis, measures will be put in place to prevent or minimize the community spread of COVID-19 during technical support activities, and other various awareness or training sessions. These measures will include, among others, respecting social distancing measures as stated by the government. The concerns and needs of identified stakeholders would be related to their full participation in project activities and information sharing. The Borrower will maintain, and disclose, a documented record of stakeholder engagement, including a description of the stakeholders consulted, a summary of the feedback received, and a brief explanation of how the feedback was considered, or the reasons why it was not.

The project SEP includes a comprehensive GRM and a stakeholder’s consultation process in the context of a crisis, particularly in the Northwest and Southwest regions where the security situations may limit groupings or the movements of people to ensure that project’s stakeholders can provide their feedback on projects activities at any time. The scope of both PPA and project implementation GRMs is proportionate to the potential risks and impacts of the project and addresses project risks related to SEA/SH.

The respective GRMs for the PPA and project implementation will also serve as platforms for continuous feedback from project-affected communities, other interested stakeholders and implementing partners. During project implementation, the Bank ESF team will train the PIU on GRM implementation including measures to ensure the ethical treatment and resolution of complaints. The project GRM will go operational no later that one month after the project Effective Date.





## 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. The implementation of the Cameroon-Emerging Food Crisis Response Project is likely to involve various workers, ranging from the PIU and government to specialized personnel for consulting, service provision and construction firms as well as unskilled laborers and community workers. In sum, a considerable workforce will be required, and the project will face difficulties in promoting sound worker-management relationships and to guarantee safe and healthy working conditions. The borrower will develop Labor Management Procedures (LMP) no later than one month after the Effective Date, to manage labor related risks and impacts. The LMP will provide an overview of national labor law, types of personnel to be hired under the project, and measures to comply with ESS2, including:

**Working conditions and management of workers relationship:** The Borrower shall describe how the project workers will be managed in accordance with the requirements of this standard and national laws. He will ensure to communicate in clear language and understandable by each worker of the project, information and documents (such as code of conduct and internal regulations) which describe their rights under national law (which will include the applicable collective agreements where applicable), including their rights to wages, overtime, remuneration and social benefits as well as any other rights mentioned in the requirements of ESS 2. The Borrower shall base employment relationship on the principle of equality of opportunity and treatment. The project shall prepare and put in place a worker Grievance Mechanism accessible to all direct and contracted workers recruited by third parties.

**Protecting the work force:** The Borrower shall emphasize compliance with the minimum age for employment and recruitment of project workers, which shall be at least 14 years unless the Borrower's legislation determines a higher age. The Project will not hire people younger than 18 years old for hazardous work; those between the national legal minimum age and 18 could do non-hazardous work in line with ESS2 provisions and will comply with Cameroon labor law.

**Third Parties:** The project LMP will include procedures for managing and monitoring the third parties' performance, including the three project service providers (FAO, WFP, and Cameroon's Public Works Implementation Agency) in line with the requirements ESS2. The MOUs between the PIU and WFP (to implement investments) and FAO (for technical assistance) will incorporate the obligations and appropriate noncompliance remedies related to workforce protection, non-discrimination, occupational health and safety, primary suppliers, worker grievance mechanism, and other ESS2 requirements. The MoUs will also include ESS2 requirements regarding sub-contractors recruited by WFP and FAO. The project will ensure that FAO and WFP have worker GRMs, before the respective project third party workers are hired, to facilitate complaints resolution for contracted workers involved in project activities. The project worker GRM will be operational once core PIU staff are recruited and will include procedures for monitoring the resolution of worker complaints recorded by third-party worker GRMs. Complaints from project workers involved of the Cameroon's Public Works Implementation Agency will be addressed through the project worker GRM.

To ensure the health and safety of workers during project implementation, the ESMF will address Occupational Health and Safety, in line with the WBG's EHS Guidelines and Good International Industry Practice (GIIP), including WHO guidance particularly for the COVID-19 virus. The measures will include requirements for the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), planning of training activities, and investigation/reporting of accidents, a worker Code of



Conduct, and other labor issues such as labor influx, non-discrimination, equal opportunity, and prevention of all forms of forced labor. A set of Environment, Social, Health and Safety requirements, as detailed in the ESMF will be included in bidding documents for all activities, and serve as the basis for the development of specific Contractor ESMPs that will be required for all site-specific subprojects.

The risk of Child labor is not anticipated for this project given that payments to project beneficiaries/participants of LIPW will be done through income transfers which allow for verifying the age of the recipient. The project LMP besides setting roles and responsibilities for monitoring contracted workers will enforce responsibility of third parties to take appropriate steps to remedy any identified cases of child labor or forced labor cases.

### **ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management**

This standard is relevant because there are potential sources of pollution from pesticide use, and from accidental spillage of chemicals and waste from infrastructure construction sites. The ESMF will include generic mitigation measures for the anticipated types of impacts resulting from construction and rehabilitation of infrastructure. Detailed site-specific mitigation measures will be identified and included in site-specific ESAs and/or ESMPs that will be developed based upon the scale, location, and detailed technical specifications of the infrastructure to be rehabilitated/constructed become available.

Although the project does not envisage the purchase and use of pesticides, the design of agricultural activities funded by the Project will have to integrate cultural practices and provisions aimed at reducing the risks of pollution, by adopting varieties and technical itineraries that reduce the dependency of crops on phytosanitary products, and by reducing the transfer of pesticides through the establishment of grassy areas in the case of sloping fields. A Pest management Plan (PMP) will be developed, consulted upon and disclosed to project beneficiaries to prevent potential risks and impacts related to poor pesticide management. The PMP will be finalized before the start of activities of component 2.

### **ESS4 Community Health and Safety**

This standard is relevant. Specific measures to protect the health and safety of communities in the project implementation areas are necessary, as agricultural activities, rehabilitation and construction of infrastructure and even nutrition are likely to have direct and indirect impacts on the communities.

The project will conduct a risk and hazard assessment (RHA) as part of the ESMF. The Project includes activities to provide information needed for decision-making in terms of flood protection, preparedness, response and policy choices, including better information on hydro-meteorological risks, as well as a flood early warning system.

The use of phytosanitary products in agricultural activities, in particular poor management of packaging, improperly adjusted sprayers, improper emptying of rinse water, drift of spray droplets during application if it is carried out without taking into account the weather conditions, can be dangerous for communities when it is abundant and uncontrolled. As indicated above, a good practice procedures for pesticide use will be developed and inserted in the ESMF to help protect communities and ecosystem services.

Infrastructure rehabilitation and construction works could generate road accidents, especially in areas where the road network is already limited and which are generally occupied by pedestrians. The ESMF will include measures to reduce road accidents involving project vehicles during construction. Site-specific Contractor ESMPs will include



traffic management measures to ensure pedestrian safety, as well as requirements for the adoption of safety signs and barriers in or near work areas and safe storage arrangements for machinery and equipment. The ESMF will include guidelines for the preparation of the SEA/SH action plan as well as for the preparation of the SRA/SMP. The SEA/SH action plan will be prepared and mitigation measures will be defined on the basis of an analysis of SEA/SH risks for Labor Intensive Public Work- LIPW workers, and project beneficiaries to mitigate the risks. The SEA/SH risks assessment and SEA/SH Action which will be prepared and disclosed no later than one month after the project Effective Date. These requirements will apply to all service providers as needed (specifically to WFP) and other contractors and sub-contractors. The project will ensure that WFP develops a SMP specific to its implementation activities and a safety management plan that details their approach to the preservation of community health and safety, road safety and worker and community hygiene and health. Moreover, WFP and FAO will prepare SEA/SH action plans specific their activities. Service provider SMP, safety management plan, SEA/SH action plans will be prepared before the start of field activities . These elements will clearly be included in the MoU. The project SRA/SMP, SEA/SH action plan and other safeguard instruments will cover the activities of the Cameroon's Public Works Implementation Agency.

The project SRA/SMP will be prepared no later than three months after the project Effective Date, before implementation of project field activities in active conflict areas. The project SMP will define measures to avoid, reduce or mitigate the identified risks for workers, beneficiaries and project assets . The project SRA/SMP will also inform on the nature of security personnel that will be required to oversee and monitor the implementation of security measures.

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

ESS5 is considered as relevant to the Project: Under component 1, project activities will include the construction of storage facilities, rehabilitation of feeder roads, irrigation canals, micro dams and water ponds, and community level tree planting in target communities. Given the preparation phase, project site-specific locations are not yet known. More specifically, the impacts of the anticipated works in rural areas (warehouses, irrigation schemes, etc.) may include encroachment on agricultural land or require land acquisition that could lead to the involuntary resettlement, loss or disruption of income or livelihood activities for individuals or groups of people. The works in rural areas will adopt a community approach and land issues are expected to be addressed through voluntary land donations. In urban areas, drainage rehabilitation works that would require land acquisition or permanent resettlement will not be eligible under this project. However, the rehabilitation of irrigation canals in urban areas may cause temporary economic displacement of people with small commercial activities along the sections. Therefore, a project-wide Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will be prepared before appraisal (to be finalized 2 months after the Effective Date). Once specific project site-specific locations are known, corresponding social risks assessments and Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) will be prepared, consulted upon and disclosed. The RAPs shall be prepared before any request for proposals is issued for any projects that include in part or full civil works. A social assessment will precede the preparation of each RAP. This will be reflected in the ESCP.

In addition, it's important to mention that a screening tool is being developed as part of the ESMF, and there will be a requirement to screen all sites/facilities to assess the potential for project activities to cause economic or physical displacement. The tool will have particular relevance for the choice and location of project infrastructure marked for



construction. At this stage of project development, the land for the constructions of some infrastructures (e.g., community warehouses, irrigation schemes) will be made available by the municipalities. In principle, this will be unoccupied land. A voluntary donation of land is foreseen in rural areas, but the risk of land being taken from indigenous people is not envisaged. All project voluntary land donations would be done in accordance with the World Bank Voluntary Land Donation protocol. The works in rural areas will adopt a community approach that is well established in Cameroon and land issues are expected to be addressed through voluntary land donations and will need to meet relevant requirements set out in ESS5. However, after the screening of specific intervention sites (if occupied), the possibilities for resettlement or compensation will be analyzed and determined. In all cases, the basic principle will always be to avoid resettlement.

### **ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources**

This standard is considered relevant. In Component 2, activities related to Support for food production are likely to result in the conversion or degradation of natural habitats through the creation of new cropland. In Component 1 of the project, infrastructure works will be developed within existing rights of way and mainly in urbanized and/or degraded areas, however, it is possible that some works may potentially interfere with remaining areas of native vegetation or areas important for biodiversity.

The ESMF will provide guidance on biodiversity screening to ensure that project activities do not alter or cause destruction or degradation of any critical or sensitive natural habitats, especially forests and wetlands outside those legally designated protected areas. Infrastructure activities that could result in significant adverse impacts on critical habitat and/or protected areas will be screened out through the ESMF, and site-specific ESIA/ESMPs with adequate mitigation measures must be developed before launching the bidding process for the respective project activities. The ESMF will also include generic biodiversity related mitigation measures that will serve as a basis for subsequent development of site-specific ESIA/ESMPs. Potential risks and impacts on natural habitats will be assessed in detail upon the definition of the location, type, and scope of infrastructure work to be financed.

For activities under the nutrition component, where natural resource products, including food products, wood products and fibers could come from regions where there is a significant risk of conversion or significant degradation of natural or critical habitats, or pressure on fauna, the ESMF will include an assessment of the verification systems and practices used by suppliers.

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

ESS7 is considered relevant to the project. Indigenous People (Baka, Bakola, Bagyéli, and Bedzang) are present in Cameroon's East region forest areas, and are considered vulnerable and disadvantaged. The project will conduct a social Assessment which will, among other things, examine potential risks, impacts, and project benefits for the IPs. Using a consultative approach, the Social Assessment will identify measures to mitigate risks and to ensure culturally acceptable benefits to IPs. However, no activity under this project is expected to have an adverse effect on Indigenous Peoples (displacement, land, cultural heritage, habits & behaviors). The Stakeholder Engagement plan will include outreach programs to ensure that indigenous communities, especially those living in remote areas, are



aware of the availability of new or expanded access to food and nutrition activities, seed and other inputs distribution, as well as labor intensive public works activities, training sessions under the project. The potential social impacts can be adequately managed/ mitigated through the development, implementation and monitoring of appropriate measures. This means that the borrower should proactively engage with the IPs to ensure their ownership and participation in project design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. In addition, some measures provided under the project to ensure that IPs and other groups will be able to share in project benefits are: Possibility to enroll beneficiaries without distinction and without discrimination in agriculture, food and nutrition activities, participation in agriculture workers' committees, employment of animators and/or community workers, LIPW recruitment, etc. within the framework of the program for the rehabilitation and construction of infrastructures, the distribution of jobs, the provision and distribution of inputs (seeds, materials, etc.) to all peasant etc. in the most equitable way. Here, particular attention will need to be paid to additional disadvantages that some specific vulnerable groups including IDPs, and Mbororos, who may face in terms of impacts and/or exclusion from project benefits.

The Social Assessment will also explore the appropriate consultation methods for these groups and examine culturally appropriate grievance mechanisms. These measures will be detailed in an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) and will be incorporated into the project design including, but not limited to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the grievance mechanism. It is also essential for all ethnic groups (including the Mbororos where they exist), without exception, to be able to access the complaints management mechanism. Project activities will not cause relocation or impact resources or cultural heritage of IPs groups.

An Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) will be prepared before appraisal (to be finalized 2 months after the Effective Date). Once project sites and activities are determined, if needed, The PIU will prepare an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) depending on locations and timing, acceptable to the Bank that sets out measures through which the project will ensure that: (i) IPs affected by the project receive culturally appropriate social and economic benefits; and (ii) if potential adverse effects on IPs are identified, those adverse effects are avoided, minimized, mitigated or compensated. IPP will be prepared prior to implementation of any activities (not just works) in areas where IPs are present. A social assessment will precede the preparation the IPP to identify project risks and impacts on IPs as well as identify IP needs that can be addressed through project activities. At this stage of project development, the site-specific locations for civil works are not yet known. Also no planned activity is expected to have adverse impacts on IP land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation; cause relocation of Indigenous Peoples from land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation; or have significant impacts on Indigenous Peoples that is material to the identity and/or cultural, ceremonial, or spiritual aspects of the affected Indigenous People's lives. Thus, Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) of IPs will not be required unless such adverse risks or impacts are identified by the aforementioned social assessment. In this case FPIC will be required and shall be implemented in line with ESS 10 requirements for meaningful consultation.

### **ESS8 Cultural Heritage**

This Standard is relevant since the construction of infrastructures may involve soil excavations or damaged public buildings with cultural or historic value; in addition, the creation of new agricultural plots could possibly affect cultural sites. The ESMF will include provisions for site-specific screening and assessment of any known sites of cultural or historic importance which may be impacted locally, as well as identification of any sites of cultural/social



importance for local communities. The ESMF will include: (i) a generic Chance Finds Procedure for all construction or works contracts, requiring civil contractors to take proper protective measures in case cultural heritage sites are discovered, including to stop construction activities if cultural property sites are encountered during construction.

**ESS9 Financial Intermediaries**

NA

**B.3 Other Relevant Project Risks**

Borrower capacity in implementing ESF will need to be strengthened to monitor project activities. Capacity building of the PIU and all stakeholders involved in the implementation of the project will be the focus of related support from the Bank team to ensure adequate Project compliance with the ESF requirements.

**C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply**

**OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways** No

**OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas** No

**B.3. Reliance on Borrower’s policy, legal and institutional framework, relevant to the Project risks and impacts**

**Is this project being prepared for use of Borrower Framework?** No

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

Due to its current weakness, reliance on Borrower E&S Framework will not be considered in this project.

**IV. CONTACT POINTS**

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**Borrower/Client/Recipient**

Borrower: The Republic of Cameroon

**Implementing Agency(ies)**

Public Disclosure



Implementing Agency: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

**V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

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**VI. APPROVAL**

Task Team Leader(s):	Ashwini Rekha Sebastian
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Senait Nigiru Assefa Cleared on 25-Mar-2022 at 11:58:15 GMT-04:00
Safeguards Advisor ESSA	Johanna van Tilburg (SAESSA) Concurred on 29-Mar-2022 at 13:42:57 GMT-04:00