



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 11/02/2020 | Report No: ESRSC01663



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Niger	AFRICA WEST	P174414	
Project Name	Niger Integrated Water Security Platform Project (Niger-IWSP Project)		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Water	Investment Project Financing	3/22/2021	7/26/2021
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		

Proposed Development Objective

The project development objective is to strengthen the management of water resources and support increased access to water services and improve the resilience of livelihoods to climate variability in the selected areas in Niger

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	400.00

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 integrated water platform approach underpinning this project facilitates the development of a series of integrated projects to improve water security. The water platform is a systematic process to better coordinate water-related planning, policies and investments across all water-using sectors, potentially including the World Bank Group, government and development partners, providing a more holistic and effective approach to managing water. Consultations supported by the Niger Water Platform technical dialogue (TF0B1557) have enabled the pre-identification of priority sub-basins in 5 regions for this initial project: the Dallol Maouri valley (Dosso), the Goulbi Maradi/Kaba watershed (Maradi), the low Tarka/Maggia valley (Tahoua), the valley of the Sirba/Dargol river (Tillabery) and the Koroma valley (Zinder). These are priority sub-basins for PANGIRE and two out of the five include Ramsar sites. The current project is organized around four components:



- (i) Integrated investments for water security and services
- (ii) Expansion of water supply and sanitation services and behavior change
- (iii) Project management and capacity strengthening
- (iv) Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC, Standardized)

The project design adopts an integrated approach to sustainably mobilize water resources and manage their multiple uses and related natural resources. The project activities are geared toward: (1) the protection of livelihoods through sustainable natural resources management institutions; (2) Natural Assisted Regeneration (NAR); and (3) resilient, community-driven infrastructure for the provision of water supply, sanitation, and irrigation services on lands belonging to and owned by communities.

Across components, project activities are interconnected, complementary and mutually reinforcing. As Table 2 below illustrates, synergies will be leveraged at national, regional, and local levels for improved socio-economic development and resilience. At the local level, the project’s geographically-adapted approach strives to maximize impact and ensure the sustainability of implemented activities (see Annex 1 of PCN - Theory of Change). In addition to the three main ministries that are directly involved, crosscutting issues such as hygiene, water quality, gender, and pollution will be coordinated with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Women Development and Child Protection.

Reducing gender gaps. To address the stark gender inequalities present in Niger (e.g. gender barriers to access to water, sanitation services and livelihood opportunities), the project will integrate gender-sensitive interventions into the project’s key components that focus on promoting women and girls’: (a) access to water and sanitation services, (b) access to knowledge and information on water resources; and (c) increased access to assets, agricultural inputs, climate smart agricultural practices and irrigation; and (d) agency, voice and decision-making power in community organization. Finally, the project will promote GBV prevention, mitigation and response mechanisms. A comprehensive gender analysis, to be prepared during project preparation, will further guide the operationalization of project gender interventions, including the identification and concretization of activities focused on multi-sectoral prevention and response to GBV.

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 integrated water platform approach underpinning this project facilitates the development of a series of integrated projects to improve water security. Consultations supported by the Niger Water Platform technical dialogue (TF0B1557) have enabled the pre-identification of priority sub-basins in 5 regions for this project: the Dallol Maouri valley (Dosso), the Goulbi Maradi watershed (Maradi), the low Tarka valley (Tahoua), the valley of the Sirba river (Tillabery) and the Koroma valley (Zinder). Two out of the five sub-basins include Ramsar sites. The proposed project is organized in four components: (1) Integrated investments for water security and services; (2) Expansion of water supply and sanitation services and behavior change; (3) Project management and capacity strengthening; (4) Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC).



Component 1: Integrated Investments for Water Security and Services (USD 120 million). The component will support integrated development of water resources, watershed and irrigation infrastructure and practices, consistent with the preservation of ecosystems and renewable water resources potential. This component will support the construction of fit for purpose water harvesting and storage facilities and abstraction infrastructure such as catchments, ponds, and aquifer recharge measures; and shallow wells). It will also support establishment of community-based mechanisms for sustainable operation and management of these assets, in line with the sub-basin development action plans. This component will support fish farming through the rehabilitation/construction of infrastructure (ponds, conservation centers, dryers) and training of fishermen. This component will focus on providing reliable access for cattle to water points (ponds, wells and reservoirs from seasonal water catchment and storage facilities) without compromising other water uses (water supply and sanitation, irrigation). Such activities (better defined during project design) may include cattle waterers, cattle corridors activities, and construction/rehabilitation of wells.

Component 2: Expansion of Water supply and Sanitation Services and Behavior Change (USD 125 millions). This component will support the construction, rehabilitation, and effective management of water supply infrastructure to increase access to safe and reliable drinking water services in selected semi-urban and rural zones. Provision of water supply services to health centers and schools will be included to improve community health through the prevention of water born disease, cholera, COVID 19, etc. Component2 will finance drinking water supply infrastructure, including measures for water quality, such as systematic water treatment and the installation of concrete slabs, fencing and drainage systems, construction of new deep wells equipped with submersible electric pumps, rehabilitation of water points, installation of solar power systems, construction of overhead water tanks for network storage and supply, construction and installation of water treatment systems, construction of water supply network and water distribution points (standpipes, water troughs, connections to public institutions and households). This component will respond to the government’s request to finance the implementation of the Niamey water master plan. The master plan includes: (i) a third water treatment plant for the city, (ii) an elevated water tank, (iii) the discharge line to the tank, and (iv) expansion and improvements to the distribution network. The Bank has been requested to finance the gap of the multi-village system of Gotheye-Tera, currently supported by EBI.

Component 3: Project management and capacity building (USD 5 millions) will finance the operational costs of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU). While Component 4: Contingency Emergency Response Component - CERC (USD 0 millions).

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

The borrower's environmental and social capacity is good because at this stage, the project intends to use members of an existing PIU of the Urban Water and Sanitation Project - P117365 (soon closing) for the new PIU. The performance of the PIU is good and the activities in water supply and sanitation are similar, for the planned activities that are new the team will be reinforced. However this has yet to be discussed and validated with Government. If this happens, the environmental and social specialist would have some level of experience with Bank projects, as well as environmental and social risk management, though not directly with the new ESF. Some additional training will be given on the new ESF.

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC) Substantial

Environmental Risk Rating Substantial

Public Disclosure



The environmental rating is substantial based on the following reasons: (i) the scope and scale of the project is large e.g., the financing package is large (approximately \$ 400 million), as are the number of infrastructures to be put in place (boreholes, wells, both shallow and deep, water distribution points for urban and rural areas, reservoirs and troughs for human and livestock, aquifer infrastructure, etc). While on one hand this means that significant environmental monitoring would have to occur with minimal staff, on the other hand, the Government team has already garnered experience in managing E&S risks through another project (P117365 Water and Sanitation Project). If the same PIU and environment and social specialists are used, with additional support from BNEE to effectively help in the field monitoring, there is already inbuilt capacity to manage most of the environmental concerns related to this project. However, at this moment, it is not certain whether the PIU will change or remain the same; (ii) Another concern is that additional training to understand the new ESF will be needed (particularly as relates to ESS 4 and 6) given that the previous project operated under the old safeguard policies. Training takes time and it might take some time for the PIU to come up to speed. For a completely new PIU, the learning curve will be very steep; (iii) Another other key risk is that the project may draw upon water supplies that are not sustainable and may actually contribute to water scarcity. To mitigate against this, and to properly assess aquifer capacity, and therefore the draw rate, prior to use, the project will finance hydrological studies that pinpoint where there are large and sustainable aquifers and use these to ensure that there is water available year round, and also to assess the renewal of these aquifers. These hydrological studies should form an important part of the Bank's teams review to ensure that the project is indeed sustainably managing water resources; (iv) There is one additional area of increased risk that may not be fully assessed until appraisal and this is that some of the project activities may be conducted within the area of a Ramsar site. Currently it is unclear what activities are envisioned to pass through that area or indeed whether the Ramsar site is intact and whether it constitutes modified, natural or critical habitat. While the project will not intervene in critical habitat, further assessment will be needed to determine the potential impact of the project in a natural habitat (see ESS6) for more detail.

Social Risk Rating

Substantial

The project's Social Risk is rated as Substantial, given the planned activities in the regions and mainly due to the security conditions in Niger. Niger is confronting a number of major security threats, including increasing criminal and terrorists' activities, violent crime, and armed robbery in Tillabéri, Tahoua, and Diffa regions. For example, a number of jihadists attacks occurred during the last two years in Niger, most notably: (i) numerous attacks on government, military and civilian targets throughout 2019 in Niger's western regions of Tillabéri and Tahoua; (ii) the May 2019 attack on a Nigerien Army unit near Tongo Tongo, in which 29 soldiers died; (iii) October 2019 attacks at several schools in the western Tillabéri region; (iv) the massacre of August 2020 of French tourists in Koure (giraffes park) near Niamey. In addition, Niger is confronting a number of major security threats, including increasing criminal and terrorist activity in the Tillabéri and Tahoua regions, which border Mali and Burkina Faso; spillover terrorist activity in the Diffa region from Nigeria due to Boko Haram and Islamic State in West Africa; threats from ISIS elements from Libya; and growing regional instability in the Sahel. Moreover, the Agadez region is a major corridor for the illicit trafficking of goods, weapons, and people between Europe, North Africa, and West Africa; criminal elements, armed groups, and terrorists operate in this area.

Proposed project activities will support the construction of many water infrastructure such as boreholes, shallow wells and irrigation development under Component 1. Some of these interventions are expected to result in new land acquisition. However, the potential for physical displacement is substantially limited. Given the relatively small



footprint and the small land-take involved in boreholes and the role of the government in irrigation land management in Niger, only economic displacement is expected during civil works due to splintering, disruptions on people's livelihoods, impacts on income-generating activities, and restrictions of access to resources. Labor influx into communities for the civil work is expected to be minimal as contractors will mostly utilize local workers from the sub-project locations. Putting in place measures to protect the health and safety of workers during the construction is critical as are the operational health and safety guidelines that will help prevent accidents during the implementation and operational phases.

It is equally important to ensure the safety of communities from vehicular accidents during haulage of construction materials. In addition, dust, noise, and improper waste disposal pose a risk to worker safety and occupational health and safety guidelines should be followed. Increase in commercial sex as a result of construction workers' disproportionately higher wages within low income communities could lead to the spread of HIV and other diseases including Covid-19. In addition, the draw of jobs and recruitment opportunities could result in sexual harassment and exploitation of girls and women in rural areas. The project's RPF and other instruments of social risk management will assess these social risks and preventive measures in line with World Bank good practice notes. In addition, the social risks management instruments will assess all social risks, including SEA/SH risks assessment, in detail. They will also propose adequate mitigation measures. Critically, the project will also seek to mitigate the risk of exclusion of persons with disabilities, ensuring that they are not excluded from project consultations and planning designs of civil works to enhance water accessibility in poor areas. In order to mitigate and manage these potential social impacts and enhance the benefits for local communities and vulnerable groups, particularly rural women, a Social Impact Assessment (SIA) will be prepared prior to project appraisal.

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

B.1. General Assessment

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

This standard is relevant for Component 1, Component 2 and Component 4 (CERC). Component 3 relates to project management and has no safeguard risk.

The project will fund, through component 1, restoration of watersheds (positive benefit), small scale irrigation, construction of water harvesting (ground water) and storage facilities, construction of ponds, and so on. The project will, by appraisal, determine whether any of the abstraction methods for surface water require building barriers across streams, tributaries, to provide catchment and storage areas and if so, any associated risk will be further assessed in the appraisal ESRS. However, no large dams will be financed by the project.

Component 2 will support the construction, rehabilitation, and effective management of water supply infrastructure to increase access to safe and reliable drinking water services in selected semi-urban and rural zones. Specifically, In terms of infrastructure, the project will fund (a) discharge and distribution pipes of 106km long between Gotheye and Tera; (b) pumping stations (at least 2); (c) Reservoirs and Ponds; (d) additional distribution networks(e) latrines and septic tanks. The project will not fund a water treatment plant. The European Investment Bank(EIB) will be independently supporting a water distribution network in the Gotheye-Tera area, as well as a water treatment plant.



However these EIB funded activities are not associated with the world bank's activities, and are totally independent. The Bank investments will follow the PROSEHA planning process and will focus on multi-village type infrastructure.

The activities will be focused in the five regions of the identified sub-basins and are structured into two main interventions: (i) increasing semi-urban and rural access to water services (basic and on premise); and (ii) enhancing service delivery management capacity. Consequently, provision of water supply services to health centers and schools will be included to further improve community health through the prevention of water born disease, cholera, COVID 19, etc. Component 2 will also finance measures for the protection of water quality, such as systematic water treatment and the installation of concrete slabs, fencing and drainage systems, including rehabilitation of water points; installation of solar power systems for water supply, including construction of overhead water tanks for network storage and supply; construction and installation of water treatment systems, including chlorination; construction of water supply network and water distribution points (standpipes, water troughs, connections to public institutions and households); and the construction of latrine infrastructure in critical public settings, (ex. health centers, schools, markets and lorry parks) to decrease the spread of Covid-19 and other such diseases.

The project is not an emergency project. However, under component 3, a contingency emergency redress component (CERC) is included to support any required government response to an eligible emergency situation. At this point it is unclear what the CERC component may be used for though it will not be used for any activities that presents risks that can be rated high for either social or environment. The ESMF will have a specific chapter on the CERC that will address the CERC in general, or specifically if further details are known at that point. In that section, a screening mechanism, if different from the main project, will be outlined, as well as a matrix, checklist or other “tool” of how to address E&S risks and impacts for the emergency actions.

The environmental impact of the project's activities may include: (i) impacts on the water table and the water demand; (ii) construction related impacts (noise, water pollution, solid and liquid waste disposal issues, worker safety issues in era of Covid); (iii) water quality related issues(possible high iron, mercury, asbestos or other contaminants), from wells and surface water and related treatment to ensure quality; (iv) international waters consideration, particularly if the surface water used draws from the Niger River or its direct tributaries); (v) possible impacts on biodiversity if water is diverted through channels, most of which must be dug for long distances from the water source to the end user; impacts on biodiversity flora and fauna if near or in a protected site (see ESS 6 for more details). (vi) Other negative impacts may result from poor drainage, such as leakage from systems (including irrigation systems) that result in pooled water leading to the proliferation of mosquitoes, and so on.

To fully assess the risks and impacts as well as the mitigation measures, the project will prepare an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) prior to Appraisal because sites are currently unknown. In addition, hydrological studies will be commissioned and the TOR related to these studies will be prepared and approved by the Bank prior to Appraisal. The project has not determined whether pesticides will be used for vector control (for irrigation), but if so, a PMP will be prepared as part of the ESMF. ESIA/ESMPs will be prepared if indicated after the screening of each sub-project. Other instruments to be prepared prior to project implementation will include RPF, SEP, and SIA. The LMP will also be prepared prior to implementation of activities.

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

The borrower framework will not be used in this project.



ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

The standard is relevant. The client will prepare a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) to ensure that a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement and information disclosure is established consistent with ESS 10. The SEP will identify and assess the level of project impact on stakeholders as well as their interest and support for the project in order to enable stakeholders' views to be taken into account in the project design and environmental and social performance; build and maintain a constructive relationship especially with project affected parties; promote and provide means for effective and inclusive engagement throughout the project life cycle; ensure that appropriate project information on environmental and social risks and impacts is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible, and appropriate manner and format; provide project-affected parties with an accessible and inclusive means to raise issues and questions, and allow the Borrower to respond to and manage such grievances effectively. Already, as part of project concept, the Bank team and the client have held several consultations with a range of stakeholders including decision-makers of the Ministry of Water and Sanitation, the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Agriculture, and the Ministry of Environment. At this stage, consultations are currently largely limited to government stakeholders at the national level. It is expected that, broader stakeholder engagement will be undertaken during project preparation in all targeted regions. These consultations will be inclusive of the the views and concerns local community members, vulnerable and commonly marginalized groups. In consultation with the Bank team, the Borrower will prepare the SEP, outlining a comprehensive list of key stakeholders and the methods that will be used to consult with them including needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups such as persons with disability, women groups, youths etc to ensure a participatory project design. It is however recognized that the outbreak of COVID-19 with restrictions in movements and physical distancing may impact the requirement for public consultations. At the time of preparing the SEP, the project will review the country COVID-19 spread situation in the project areas and put restrictions in place to design the most appropriate approach, method and forms of engagements to minimize the risk of COVID-19 spread during various engagement activities. The SEP will include a comprehensive Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) framework to monitor its implementation, as well a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) to resolve complaints. The SEP is a living document and will be reviewed during implementation. Any major revisions effected to the SEP during implementation will be publicly disclosed to stakeholders.

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

As already indicated, it is anticipated that the project's footprint is likely to involve limited labor influx of skilled and unskilled labor in the sub-projects' communities. The project will involve direct workers including civil servants from the implementing agencies and possibly, some individual consultants. Contracted workers will be hired for the civil works. The project will mainly use local labor within the communities for essential non-technical tasks. No voluntary labor from the community is expected and the establishment of workers' camps and migrant labor is not expected. The probable labor risk may include health and safety of workers during the construction and operational phases, general labor working conditions, community grievances over recruitment processes and selection, and protection of female and other vulnerable workers. The project will prepare a LMP prior prior to implementation of activities. In addition to the project GRM, workers' GRM will be implemented in construction sites. With uncertainties around COVID-19 and when the pandemic will be over, workers mobilized for construction works could be a source of



transmission of the virus. At this stage the number of workers required in each group is unclear. It is expected that the direct workers will be civil servants and therefore subject to their existing contracts. ESS2 requires the client to promote sound workers and management relationships and enhance the development benefits of the project by treating workers fairly and by providing safe and healthy working conditions by ensuring adequate supplies of PPE (particularly facemask, gowns, gloves, helmet, handwashing soap and sanitizer); adequate OHS protections in accordance with general Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs) and industry specific guidelines and follow evolving international best practice in relation to protection from COVID-19; prohibition of the use of forced labor or conscripted labor, Sexual exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH); inclusion OHS code of conduct (CoC) and CoC for SEA/SH prevention in workers contracts; provision of ongoing training on the procedures to all categories of workers, and post signage in all public spaces mandating hand hygiene and PPE; development of a basic, responsive grievance mechanism to allow workers to quickly inform management of labor issues, such as a lack of PPE and unreasonable overtime. These provisions will be incorporated into the ESMF and contractor ESMPs.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

The construction under the the project will involve consumption of energy, water and raw materials. The Borrower will develop, as mentioned earlier, a hydrological study to assess the water reserves. It is anticipated that during the project implementation water quality will be assessed to ensure that tests are carried out for mercury, lead, excessive iron, and other contaminants that may render water less potable for communities. Activities will generate solid waste which will primarily include excavated soil and solid wastes. The civil works will require the mobilization of equipment and may generate waste, pollution and traffic congestion that will need to be managed appropriately. Site specific ESIA/ESMPs to be done prior to the start of works will include appropriate mitigation measures to minimize and manage potential risks and negative impacts associated with construction waste and the use of heavy equipment. The ESIA/ESMP will also make use of the General and Industry-specific Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines. Energy and raw material use are expected at a very low level. The waste generated by the construction/rehabilitation works will largely be disposed of at approved sites in accordance with national laws and regulations.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

The water and sanitation activities may take place in urban and rural areas where the communities have access to the site. The contractor is expected to, as part of their C-ESMP, provide a plan of how they intend to ensure safety of workers and of the community. This may include cordoning off the area, back filling borrow pits to reduce falls, particularly for children, adequate signage, locking entrances to construction site and so on. Consultations with the community will be key to assess how to manage risks and ensure that information on site safety can be adequately passed along to the community. A Health and Safety plan will be integrated in the overall ESMP process. Community health and safety will include general security, individual protection equipment and road safety/security from trucks unloading equipment. The risks of SEA/SH related to labor influx are expected to be low. The ESIA/ESMPs will include measures to address SEA/SH and road security risks and all employees will sign Codes of Conduct that include SEA/SH provisions to prevent and protect local communities and women. It is likely that the Borrower or the contractor will deploy security personnel to safeguard their personnel and property given the current security conditions in many of



the project areas. The recruitment, rules of conduct, training, equipping, and monitoring of these workers will be done in accordance with international standards and different approaches may be required for different parts of the countries in which the project will be implemented and their related regulations. In terms of Covid-19, strict measures, outlined as part of the World Bank guidelines on working during Covid-19 should ensure that workers are not allowed to wander into the community and that community members are kept safe from workers by requiring them to be masked and socially distance if they interact with any community members. These should be part of the code of conduct for workers.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Planned activities and civil works could lead to possible involuntary resettlement due to land acquisition, and negatively impact the livelihoods of people living in the project if not properly managed. While project interventions could be expected to result in new land acquisition, the public assets or physical investments that are planned are expected to be on lands which may be owned by the Government or local communities. However, the potential for physical displacement is substantially limited due to the relatively small footprint, the small land-take involved in boreholes and the role of the “Office National des Aménagements Hydro-agricoles-ONAHA” in irrigation land governance in Niger. This means that expected displacement will mostly be economic in this project, including under Component 2. At this stage of the project design, activities and locations are not yet determined, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) will be prepared, to help screen for potential land needs and guide the preparation of Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) if necessary.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

The last draft of the project concept note mentioned that the project activities may impact a Ramsar site. A thorough assessment of this will be made prior to appraisal. In particular, the project will assess whether this area is still a Ramsar site, and what activities specifically, are implicated in this zone. The project will not authorize any activity within a Ramsar site until an assessment has been made (within the ESMF) in terms of the nature of the habitat (modified, natural or critical) concerned. If this site is natural habitat, every effort will be made to find alternative options that would by-pass the site. If there is no alternative, the project will prepare a biological impact assessment to examine the possible impact of the project activities. The biological impact assessment will be required 90 days after effectiveness and before any works in the area begin. The project will not conduct any works in any area deemed critical habitat.

In general however, most of the project's activities will take place in areas of modified habitat. Where contractors have identified trees to be cut, no tree will be cut unless it is first identified (girth, use, name-common and scientific). Trees take a long time to grow in Niger, given the climate, and therefore the contractor is to look at all alternatives prior to cutting down any large tree(s). The PIU will submit the number of trees to be cut along with the relevant information to the Bank's environmental specialist prior to being given the no-objection to proceed. All trees cut must be replaced and maintained as per the ESMF guidance. The precise formula for replacement will be outlined in the ESMF.

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



The standard is not currently relevant.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

The project’s civil works on water infrastructure will take place in cities and rural communities. Therefore, these civil work are expected to have impacts on physical, cultural, or archaeological sites. The ESMF will include provisions for “Chance Finds” to ensure that these aspect will be taken into account in the preparation of specific ESIA/ESMPs then reflected in the construction companies' contracts, to ensure compliance with the procedures in the event they are discovered in the project areas. Following consultations with the Direction du patrimoine culturel of the Ministry of Culture and project affected communities, the project will consider any existing tangible and intangible cultural heritage, including potential archaeological heritage within the project areas. Relevant mitigation measures will be adopted, and implemented, in consultations with relevant stakeholders.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

This standard is not relevant at this stage given that the project will not utilize Financial Intermediaries for implementation of any the project’s activities.

B.3 Other Relevant Project Risks

N/A

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways Yes

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas No

III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered? No

Financing Partners

At this concept stage, the World Bank is the sole financier of the project and there are no other financial partners involved in the project. However, as the preparation of the project progresses, other financial partners may join the project and the ESRS-A will reflect this evolution at that stage. In any case other donors such the French Development Agency, the Netherlands, and EBI are active in the water sector in Niger.

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

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

Public Disclosure



Actions to be completed prior to Appraisal include: (i) Preparation, consultation and disclosure of Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF). LMP will be delivered after project effectiveness. The assessments will include SEA/SH and labor risk assessments; (ii) Preparation and disclosure of Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP); (iii) Preparation, consultation and disclosure of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) including a GM; (iv) Preparation of a TOR to assess the sustainability of ground water resources and recharge rates.

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

Possible issues to be addressed in the ESCP include: (i) Institutional arrangements for the management of ESSs, including the hiring of the relevant environmental and social staff in the PIU (if the previous projects staff cannot be used); (ii) development and implementation of an institutional environmental and social capacity strengthening plan; (iii) preparation of ESIA/ESMPs at the beginning of the project implementation; (iv) preparation of a biological impact assessment 90 days after effectiveness and before related works begin; (v) development and implementation of a proportional Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) plan in line with World Bank Group Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines (for construction & rehabilitation activities) right after project effectiveness (vi) preparation of a study on ground water resources: (vii) monitoring and reporting frameworks; (viii) capacity building on ESF.

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS

10-Nov-2020

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank

Contact: Taibou Adamou Maiga Title: Senior Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist

Telephone No: 5350+3214 / 227- -2073-4966 Email: tmaiga@worldbank.org

Contact: Aude-Sophie Rodella Title: Senior Economist

Telephone No: +1-202-473-4906 Email: arodella@worldbank.org

Borrower/Client/Recipient

Implementing Agency(ies)

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

Public Disclosure



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

VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s):	Taibou Adamou Maiga, Aude-Sophie Rodella
Practice Manager (ENR/Social)	Maria Sarraf Recommended on 27-Oct-2020 at 10:51:59 GMT-04:00
Safeguards Advisor ESSA	Nathalie S. Munzberg (SAESSA) Cleared on 02-Nov-2020 at 12:20:36 GMT-05:00