



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 02/06/2021 | Report No: ESRSC01796



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Gabon	AFRICA WEST	P175987	
Project Name	Digital Gabon		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Digital Development	Investment Project Financing	4/5/2021	4/29/2021
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		

Proposed Development Objective

To improve the delivery and access to selected government services delivery using digital technologies and strengthen the enabling environment for digital technology adoption

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	62.00

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 project is designed to scale up the digital transformation process started through other World Bank initiatives: Central African Backbone (CAB4) project (P122776) and eGabon (P132824) operations. Gabon has the potential to accelerate the digital transformation of government beyond the health sector tackled in eGabon. The project is focused on: (1) strengthening the enabling environment for accelerated digital transformation (the strategic, legal, regulatory and institutional framework and the technological foundations); (2) Completing and modernizing the foundational ID system, and digitalizing the civil registration system; (3) digitizing and improving selected public services (Fiscal Registration System, Public Procurement System, Human Resource Management Information System), empowered by the ID system, interoperability, and made easily accessible through a one-stop platform.



D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

Overall, the project activities to be implemented within the framework of the Digital Gabon project cover the entire country, including rural areas as well as urban and peri-urban areas. In particular, the activity of e-ID targets among others, anyone residing in Gabon, including nationals, expatriates, indigenous peoples, vulnerable people, children, women, nondocumented, etc.

The proposed activities under the project include mainly technical assistance, capacity building and institutional reform in several domains such as land registration, e-procurement, Civil Service Human Resource Management, e-ID and Social Registry. There will also be investments such as equipment acquisition of software and hardware and small work (e.g. Sub-component 3.3). Therefore, the potential environmental and social impacts of the project remain low to moderate.

The salient characteristics relevant to the Environmental and Social (E&S) Assessment may cover points such as:

- Management of electronic/electric waste or e-Waste which will be generated by the project through the acquisition of digital equipment and their wear. This includes among others handling, transport and disposal;
- the environmental and social baseline: information on any external e-waste management facilities, existing service providers. The PRODECE project (P146152) financed the business plan which aimed to collect IT waste in Gabonese territory. However, this business plan is slow to really take;
- the project is likely to shape the potential for changing the way in which citizens experience public services and participate in the civic space;
- it is likely to increase demand for transparency and accountability. Online Citizens participation and digital government are likely to enhance citizen experience, and their civic engagement and citizens are likely to expand their online engagement into the offline, physical involvement;
- may require building and earning trust will be key to garnering citizen support. GoG will have to demonstrate its readiness to guard the digital government users that it could guard against digital security threats in order to secure citizens and the services they require as well as safeguard their well-being;
- the relationship between GoG and its citizens in the design and delivery of ongoing public services, with experience of digital government advanced by the project, is likely to change for better. Huge opportunities for the GoG to fundamentally rethink the way in which policies are approached, institutions are repositioned and, services are delivered by engaging citizen, embedding digital data and technology practices throughout government and project cycles;
- ensure the effective and inclusive participation of all stakeholders including vulnerable people, rural women, indigenous peoples of Gabon and people with total or partial physical disabilities; issues of universal access to the project's service including e-identification, access to smaller-scale incubators in Port-Gentil and Franceville, business plan competitions for digital start-ups and training;
- non-discrimination, the protection of individual data during e-identification operations, gender equality, information security and communication during implementation of the various project activities;
- ensure that children or adults who do not have official documents such as birth certificates are eligible to receive an identity in Gabon (Unique ID);
- labor conditions of project's workers and operators (service delivering and contractors) will be closely scrutinized to avoid workers' exploitation (including Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH) within the workplace or by project workers towards community members), discrimination or child labor;



- community health and safety in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic; measures will be put in place to ensure that project’s activities don’t exacerbate the Covid-19 contagion and that key safety measures are applied.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

The institutional arrangement of the Digital Gabon project draws its inspiration from the experience of the mid-term review of the e-Gabon project. It is expected that:

- The Steering Committee is chaired by the Prime Minister's Office with the Minister of Communication, Digital Economy and Post (MCDNP) as Vice-President and this, given the involvement of several areas, administrations, beneficiaries of the project; this will ensure an ownership at the highest levels of the government, coherence and coordination within the government for digital development;
- at the technical level, a new Project Coordination Unit (PCU) will be created to strengthen overall implementation support to the project. The new coordinating PCU will be anchored in the MCDNP and include the following six key positions and supporting staff: project coordinator, administration and financial management manager, operations and M&E specialist, procurement specialist, social safeguards specialist and accountant. Under the PCU, there will be eight technical working groups (TWG) on each area: (i) Health TWG led by the ministry of health, (ii) digital incubators TWG led by the MCDNP, (iii) e-Government platform and portal TWG led MCDNP and ANINF, (iv) e-ID TWG led by the ministry of interior, (v) fiscal management TWG, (vi) land management TWG, (vii) e-procurement TWG, and (viii) HRMIS TWG. Each TWG will be led by the responsible ministry (es)/institutions and have a responsibility in implementing a component in the respective area at the technical level. PCU shall then be responsible for procurement, financial management, monitoring and evaluation, and environmental and social (E&S) risk management.
- in this arrangement, the ANINF will have a cross-cutting role to implement the project, ensure coherence and consistency among the different components of the project.

The Directorate General for the Environment and Nature Protection (DGEPN) is the body that oversees the approvals of environmental and social studies and monitoring and evaluation of such studies in Gabon. With its collaboration with the CNTIPPEE, this institution has some experience of World Bank projects set up and implemented in line with Operational Policies (OP).

The Borrower has experience to manage the project under safeguards policies. As the proposed project will be implemented under the ESF, the PCU does not have practical experience applying the environmental and social standards (ESSs) of the new ESF requirements. Given the widening scope of the Bank's Environmental and Social Framework, the client's lack of familiarity with the new ESF and that this project involves additional new players in land registration, e-ID, e-procurement, fiscal management, etc., capacity building will be required to assist the Borrower and its agencies and Project Coordination Unit (PCU) throughout the life of the project.

A comprehensive training plan will be prepared within 60 days of effectiveness and shall be properly resourced. The World Bank will provide guidance on preparing and implementing a capacity building and training plan to help the Borrower manage environmental and social risks throughout the project timeline.

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial

Public Disclosure



Environmental Risk Rating

Moderate

The environmental risk is considered Moderate as the project's activities are not expected to directly generate irreversible negative risks or negative impacts on the environment. At this stage, impacts on the environment are not expected to be irreversible due to the current scientific knowledge and practical experience of projects implementing activities similar to those planned by this Digital Gabon project.

On the other hand, the project impacts is expected to be significantly positive through measures such as: (i) the development of the Registry of Physical Persons (RPP) to manage unique IDs, (ii) the creation of smaller-scale incubators, (iii) the business plans in digital start-up, (iv) the improvement of the service offer in the health sector, procurement, operations; etc. The project will allow the enrollment, production and distribution of the universal ID credential to all NIP holders regardless of nationality, origin or legal residency status.

The main risks identified at this stage of the project concern: (i) the risk of inappropriate management of electronic and electric waste or e-waste including handling, transport and disposal (indeed, informal disposal of waste is pointed out and includes burning or melting and dumps in combination with municipal solid waste), (ii) absence of an e-waste management facilities, (iii) the risk of not having an appropriate service provider for the management of e-waste or electronic waste that will come from the acquisition of IT and digital equipment, (iv) the risk of not taking into account environmental and social specifications in the procurement of goods and supplies, e.g. digital equipment, (iv) the ability of the PIU to meet the ESF requirements in terms of safeguard instrument preparation such as ESCP, the LMP, the IPPF, the SEP; The small works planned within the framework of this project and the installation of digital equipment that will be acquired as part of the project activities could also generate (v) occupational and road traffic accidents related to opening/closing of trenches, repair activities, work at height level, ergonomic risks associated with handling, (vi) soil and water pollution by waste such as computer anchors, (ii) soil erosion risks, (vi) water pollution may result from discharge of water containing eroded soil, spills and leaks of oils/chemical and construction waste into nearby water bodies, (vii) temporally nuisance related to air and noise emission are also expected but on a very limited scale.

Social Risk Rating

Substantial

The Social Risk Rating is substantial. Project's activities may generate risks related to the following aspects:

- **Inclusion:** It is likely that certain groups will be marginalized or excluded: Effective participation/inclusion of all stakeholders in project's activities, in particular vulnerable people and women and girls in rural areas, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities. Efforts will be made to enable universal access to project's services in terms of identification and access to incubators;
- **Labor and working conditions:** lack of (i) worker-management relationships, (ii) treating workers in the project fairly and, (iii) safe and healthy conditions will be mitigating through the Labor Management Plan. Project's workers and operators (service delivering e.g.) will be closely scrutinized to avoid workers' exploitation (including sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and sexual harassment (SH) within the workplace or by project workers towards community members), sexual and gender based violence's, discrimination or child labor; Community health and safety: laxity in implementing COVID-19 WHO's and the Bank's guidelines could lead to the spread of the virus among project's workers and to the immediate community. in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic; measures will be put in place to ensure that project's direct workers, contracted workers and primary supply works don't exacerbate the COVID-19 contagion and that every worker shall be required to adhere to key health and safety measures when implementing project's activities;



- The risk of data breach and sharing personal information: The Foundational Identification (ID) system, supported by the project, is likely to expose or put in an open. The improper use or sharing of data could lead to discrimination such as information on sexual orientation which will lead to social stigmatization and discrimination. This will require the project, first, limiting the data in the central biometric registry to a strict minimum of necessary fields, and, second, the development of a strong legal and institutional controls;
- Citizen participation in the design and implementation of digital government: There is a risk or lack of not engaging citizen in the design and implementation of the digital government project. Citizen-centered approach will be critical if the digital government to be built on strong foundations. Thus, the need to include stand alone “Citizen Engagement” component in the project and open the space for Sustainable Social Mobilization Mechanism (SSMM) technical committee to be created and work with other technical committees of the project;
- Building and cementing trust of citizen will be a difficult task: Over 95 percent of the population believes that government officials are involved in corruption and over 80 percent believe that the level of corruption has increased overtime. In this circumstances, building and earning trust of citizen is a key to garnering citizen support for the digital initiative.

To mitigate social risks, Social Risk Assessment with a specific focus on ID system was conducted and provided a concrete action plan to mitigate possible risks. Under this project, the ID system will be accessible to all persons in Gabon, regardless of nationality or legal status; documentary requirements for enrollment will be eliminated, and registration and the issuance of basic ID credentials will be free of charge to minimize exclusion risks. An inclusive and transparent communications plan, powerful public awareness campaigns, tailored outreach strategies, continuous stakeholder engagement, and a robust grievance redress mechanism, will further help manage social risks. Gender and Gender-based Violence, discrimination or child labor risks will be covered in the ESIA/ESMP. To ensure the legal groundwork for a safe and healthy work environment, the Code of conduct will stipulate that sexual harassment is prohibited in the workplace.

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. Overall, the activities funded by the project are expected to have limited Environmental and Social impacts. The potential impacts are expected to be site-specific.

As part of the eGabon project (P132824), the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) reports for digital incubator in Libreville and smaller-scale incubators in Port-Gentil and Franceville were prepared and disclosed both in Gabon and in the World Bank’s InfoShop on February 28, 2016. With the conduct (retrocession) of certain activities from the eGabon project to the Digital Gabon Project, this ESIA report will be updated to the reflect the scope of these new activities as well as the requirements of the ESF. The ESIA/ESMP will include: (i) E&S principles, (ii) provisions for e-waste or electronic waste handling, transport and disposal, (iii) the environmental and social baseline (e.g. information on any external e-waste management facilities, including existing service providers), (iv) analysis of the Legal and Institutional Framework for the project (relevant standards and new stakeholders such as Regulatory Agency for Public Procurement (ARMP), National Agency for Urbanism and Topography Works and Cadaster (ANUTTC), Conservation de la Propriété Foncière et des Hypothèques (CPFH), National School of Cadastre and



Geographic Sciences (NSCGS), etc.), (v) description of the proposed activities and its geographic, environmental, social and temporal context, including digital start-up business plans, business plan competition, (vi) assessing the project's impacts on climate change, knowing that the development of digital technology in the country (through various Technical Assistance to the administration, improvement of the regulatory and legal framework, acquisition of digital equipment) often has downstream impacts such as (a) the emission of greenhouse gases (CO₂ during IT equipment manufacturing and operations, travel of IT teams) and (b) energy and water consumption (use of paper, use of computers, servers and IT platforms), (vii) public consultation, the capacity building action plan, cost, implementation of the various mitigation measures, implementation procedure and incident reporting, (viii) assess the inclusion of climate co-benefit to the project, (ix) description of key measures and actions for the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), etc. In addition, the mitigation measures and ESMP sections will be prepare to set out the required technical specifications, and other relevant information on the procurement of goods and supplies.

In addition, the Terms of Reference (ToR), work plans and other documents defining the scope and outputs related to the e-procurement process and digitalization of land management system will be drafted to ensure consistency with ESSs 1-10. The Bank will ensure that the reengineering of processes, design, development and deployment of land registration system are grounded in clear and enforceable policies and regulations (not subject to political interference) regarding (i) the identification and delineation of the perimeter of public domain lands in the land registration system (sub-Component 4.4), and (ii) land regularization activities in order to test solutions to informal land occupation. The Terms of Reference (ToR) and work plans for tools such as standard bidding documents (Sub-Component 4.5), guidelines, processes, regulations and procurement manuals, etc. will include general Environment, Social, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs) requirements and Specific EHSGs related to telecommunication sector. Dematerializing procurement processes should not happen at the expense of weakening or eliminating environmental and social due diligence and beneficiaries. In terms of risks from climate and natural disasters, the wide geographical scope of the project may be exposed to erratic precipitations, flush floods and temperature variations.

The main social risk can be associated with ID reform as well as land management reform. Historically, some ID systems have been inaccessible to certain individuals or population groups because of onerous enrollment procedures, which required registrants to pay high fees and present additional documents, such as birth certificates, to obtain an ID. The practice of linking the issuance of IDs to the determination of citizenship or legal status has also led to importunately negative impacts upon marginalized groups due to exclusionary or ambiguous nationality laws and their application. Other risks are related to the (i) exclusion of Indigenous Peoples, women and gender minorities, the elderly, children, youth including adolescent girls, rural populations, persons with disabilities, (ii) lack of transparency and accountability in delivery project benefits (e-ID, digital start-up business plans, etc.), (iii) COVID-19 context.

To mitigate and manage those risks, measures will be put in place for an effective consideration. Specific instruments [Environment and social impact assessment (ESIA) inclusive of a SEA/SH risk assessment and a corresponding SEA/SH Prevention, Mitigation, and Response Plan, Labor Management Procedures (LMP), Stakeholders' Engagement Plan (SEP) including Citizen Engagement, Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and Feedback Mechanism, Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF)] will be prepare by Borrower to ensure that environmental and social risks related to the project are well identified and mitigated. The ESIA, the SEP and IPPF will be prepared early during the project preparation. An Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) will be prepared to a standard



acceptable to the IDA and disclosed both in country website and on the World Bank website before appraisal. It will also set out the required technical specifications and other relevant information on the procurement of goods and supplies

The Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) will clearly describe the supplemental instruments to be prepared and actions to be performed during project's implementation. In the context of all safeguards documents, the project will ensure adequate and appropriate consultation with different vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, women and girls, in a safe and secure location in order to ensure that their concerns are noted and subsequently integrated into project design considerations and safeguards.

ESCP, LMP, IPPF and SEP will be disclosed both in country website and in the Word Bank website before Decision Meeting (DM).

Areas where "Use of Borrower Framework" is being considered:

N/A

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Stakeholder engagement will be important to ensure consensus and timely implementation of the project. Key stakeholder includes: (i) the Prime Minister's Office, (ii) the relevant ministries (ministry in charge of the digital economy, ministry in charge of the economy , ministry in charge of 'employment, civil service, labor and vocational training, ministry in charge of social affairs and women's rights, ministry of health, ministry of interior, ministry in charge of town planning), (iii) certain state agencies such as National Agency for Digital Infrastructure and Frequencies (ANIF), National Agency for Urbanism and Topography Works and Cadaster (ANUTTC), Directorate General for the Environment and Nature Protection (DGEPN), National Council for the Protection of Personal Data (CNPDCP), National Health Insurance and Social Welfare Fund (CNAMGS), Conservation de la Propriété Fonctière et des Hypothèques (CPFH), (iv) the Project Coordination Unit (PCU), (v) the Civil Society Organizations and NGOs working in the defense of the rights of indigenous peoples, (vi) local communities (Governorates, Prefectures, Sub-Prefectures, Town Halls, Departmental Councils, etc.), (vii) Gabonese populations including young people, women, foreigners, vulnerable or marginalized people, indigenous peoples, etc.

Stakeholder engagement is a critical tool for social and environmental risks management, project sustainability and success. Given the multisector nature of this project, stakeholder engagement will be designed to facilitate wide range of public agencies, private sector entities and citizens from all walks of life and will include the preparation and implementation of a robust Citizen Engagement plan. In consultation with the Bank, the Borrower will prepare by decision meeting a draft inclusive Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) proportional to the nature and scale of the project and associated risks and impacts. The SEP should outline the different forms of engagements to be undertaken with all the various project stakeholder or potential digital government users going forward, including women, vulnerable groups (e.g. women, persons with disabilities) and Indigenous People (IP).

The SEP will also include a comprehensive Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM). The Borrower will engage in meaningful consultation with all stakeholder and seek stakeholder feedback and opportunities for proposed future engagement, ensuring that all consultations are inclusive and accessible (both in format and location) through channels suited to the local context. The SEP will also set appropriate measures on how to engage all key



stakeholders' in the context of COVID-19 without spreading the disease amongst them. Specific communication techniques will be proposed to ensure that social interactions are minimized. In view of the global and national context relating to the Corona Virus pandemic, these consultations and information on environmental and social safeguard instruments should:

- Use traditional communication channels (TV, newspapers, radio, dedicated phone lines and mail as well as social media) when stakeholders do not have access to online channels or do not use them frequently);
- avoid public gatherings (taking into account national restrictions), including public hearings, workshops and community meetings;
- to do in small groups or so via online channels including, webex, zoom and skype;
- diversify the means of communication and rely more on social media networks and online channels;
- be done through dedicated online platforms and focus groups tailored to the objective, depending on the type and category of stakeholders;
- identify the channels of direct communication with each affected group via a contextual combination of electronic messages, online mail platforms, dedicated telephone lines.

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. This standard will focus on ensuring adherence to ESS2 requirements including: i) ensuring working conditions and management of workers relationship, ii) protecting the workforce, iii) establishing and operationalization of Workers' GRM, iv) ensuring compliance to ESH requirements, v) ensuring contracted workers are protected, vi) ensuring community workers involvement where needed and justified. It covers workers involved in the project include the following categories: direct workers, contracted workers and primary suppliers. At this stage of the project, Community workers within the meaning of ESS2 are not envisaged.

Direct workers are those employed by the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) whose number is currently estimated at 18 or by Incubators and smaller-scale incubators team or computer emergency response team (CERT) and/or security operations center (SOC) ; Contracted workers will likely include service provider workers , contracted departmental workers and Consultants team. There will be primary suppliers of goods and services (e.g. IT equipment, software and hardware) and these workers must be treated in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 39 to 42 of ESS2. Employees of the public sector such as ministries, ANIF, ANUTTC and CPFH will remain subject to the terms and conditions of their existing sector employment. If the additional staff will be hired to support the Project, they will also be subject to normal terms and conditions of employees unless their employment is by the Project in which case they will be subject to the full requirements of ESS2: appropriate terms and conditions of employment, non-discrimination and equal opportunity (which includes a safe work environment free from violence and sexual harassment), workers' organizations, restrictions on child and forced labor, and Occupational Health and Safety. Likewise, any technical consultants contracted by the Project will also need to adhere to such standards.

If the project employs Security personnel as part of mass identification operations, the employment of such personnel should comply with the provisions of paragraphs 24 to 27 of ESS4.



The project presents Occupational Health and Safety risks that may arise from installation, inspection or repair of IT equipment and optical fiber cables such as permanent eye damage due to exposure to laser during it equipment connection and inspection activities, likely exposure of workers to microscopic glass fiber shards/glasses that can penetrate human skin, eye and can be inhaled and associated hazards like fire risks due to presence of flammable materials in high-powered laser installation areas. There are also occupational risks and safety from working at elevation/ overheads, confined space entry when trenching, the electrical risks associated with the installation of IT equipment. The risks of registering non-descending working conditions (e.g. absence of an employment contract in accordance with Gabonese legislation, problem in health care and periodic medical check-up , problem in compliance with salary scales, problem in social security, absence of real OHS measure (training, PPEs , etc.) should not be neglected in this project, in particular with IT service providers and their sub-contractors.

The project will need to develop and implement written Labor Management Procedures (LMP) that will set out the ways in which project workers will be managed, including consultants, suppliers and contractors. The project's LMP will also establish labor guidelines for all categories of workers; and will include a Code of Conduct and functional GRM.

The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be available for all direct and contracted workers on all project-related matters, including terms and conditions of employment; non-discrimination and equal opportunity; workers' organizations/unions ; child labor; forced labor; harassment (sexual or not) and other behavioral complaints.

For labor grievances, drawing on national laws and regulations and international best practices, as well as ESS2 to manage employment-related complaints will be a requirement. Measures will be included in the LMP to ensure no child or forced labor will be used by any category of project workers, including suppliers and administration, and measures for entitlement to equal treatment in recruitment, working conditions, promotion, equal pay.

Sexual harassment in the workplace is a form of sex discrimination which negatively affects the working environment, undermines gender equality at work, creates unfair practices in employment, and adversely impacts the dignity and well-being of workers. The Project will prevent it by Providing information and awareness about harassment (sexual or not) to all staff on a regular basis.

Codes of Conduct will be required and will contain labor-related clauses and preventive measures that intend to prevent gender-based violence (GBV) as well as manage risks from labor influx.

Occupational health and safety measures and traffic risks will be described in the legal agreement, the LMPs and ESMP. Training and awareness-campaign in the project should include modules such as: (i) prevention and management of work accidents including Risk Assessment (RA) or Job Safety Analysis (JSA), (ii) Accidents Root Cause Analysis (RCA) together with a Safeguard Corrective Actions Plan (SCAP), (iii) Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) measures, (iv) Gender-Based Violence issues (GBV),(v) Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/sexual harassment and (SEA)/SH, (vi) codes of conduct, (vii) Hazardous Waste Management, (viii) environmental protection (soil, water, air noise pollution for example).



ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

The project will mainly finance Technical Assistance and acquisition of equipment in the digital field, in particular for e-ID (including Id deduplication), Interoperability between certain services, Cyber Security, Data Protection, Civil Registration, Land Registration, e-Procurement, Human Resource Management, etc. In principle, these activities are not expected to generate directly substantial impact on use of resources such as water and raw materials. However, it is important to note that the manufacture of IT equipment, their transport, use and maintenance consume these natural resources, use electrical energy and are sources of greenhouse gas emissions such as CO₂.

On the other hand, the project may undertake small work related to installation of IT equipment and smaller-scale incubators that may need to manage localized issues such as pollution, noise, dust, erosion, vibration, storm water etc.. Electronic and electric waste management will be a particularly important activity under the Project. Electronic waste and installation waste will need to be safely stored, transported and disposed according to the national law and regulations, WBG Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines –EHSGs both General and Specific and GIIP.

The ESIA/ESMP will (i) identify key E&S risks and impacts associated with installation of IT equipment and related wastes, (ii) set out mitigation measures and (iii) provisions for electronic waste handling, transport and disposal arising from the equipment installation. Climate change adaptation and resilience and Green House Gas will be considered during project implementation.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

This standard is relevant. Indeed, the different service providers for digital, IT etc. will hire workers, which can lead to labor influx in the concerned localities and therefore the risks of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), Sexual Harassment (SH), Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and HIV/AIDS as well as COVID-19 within the workplace or by project workers and community members including vulnerable, women and girls. With increasing of traffic, the communities may be exposed to dust emissions, noise and accidents/incidents. Digital equipment acquisition operations may generate risks related to road traffic accidents, it's being understood that these equipments arrive generally from ports and airports and is transported to administrations by crossing towns, villages, communities, schools, health centers, community markets, etc. Consultant's Travel within the framework of various Technical Assistance services may also cause traffic accidents. In a global context marked by the Corona virus pandemic, the risk of propagation of COVID-19 and any zoonotic disease among communities is real.

Measures will be put in place to ensure that project's activities don't exacerbate the COVID-19 contagion and that key safety measures are applied when implementing project's activities. Safety and mitigation measures such as SEA/SH/GBV Action Plan, Road Safety Plan, Emergency Response Plan (ERP), the Health and Safety Plan, Noise and dust management will be integrated in overall ESIA / ESMP. In case of use of security forces (e.g. for e-ID and mass identification), the Borrower will assess risks and will be guided by the principles of proportionality and by applicable law, in relation to the use of security forces.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement



There will be no land taking in the framework of this project.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Gabon is endowed with natural resources and ecological sensitive ecosystem like wetlands, forests and national parks. At this stage of project design, significant negative risks and impacts on biodiversity are not expected. If a site is opened for the work, measures will be taken so that this does not affect ecologically sensitive areas. The ESIA/ESMP will provide a screening mechanism to avoid any high-risk ecological areas and it will provide guidance to Site-Specific Plan (SSP).

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

The project will be implemented in some areas where Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local communities (IPSSAHUTLC). In order to ensure that IPSSAHUTLC have access to activities to be developed, the GoC should ensure that they are fully informed, consulted and involved during project's design and implementation phases. An Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) will be prepared, consulted upon and disclosed prior to appraisal. The IPPF will set IPs project's participation principles and provide orientations regarding specific activities to be conducted for them and guidance on consultations to be organized when preparing specific Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP). The SEP will also provide IPs consultation mechanisms to be conducted during the project's preparation phase. The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) to be developed in the framework of the ESS10 will provide specific arrangements to ensure that IPs can provide their feedback during the project's life. The GRM will be developed in such a way that it respects habits and culture of IPs and enables an efficient resolution of IPs' complaints. If necessary, guidelines to limit the spread of COVID-19 within IPs will be proposed in the IPP to be elaborated during project's implementation.

In order for the project activities to be as beneficial to indigenous people as to other majority populations, the project will propose that the project collaborate with NGOs and other operators providing advice to IPs who are working to acquire skills.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

At this stage in project preparation the presence of culturally significant sites associated with the project cannot be determined. A Chance Finds procedure will be included in the ESMP as a precautionary measure and any construction that would impact tangible or intangible cultural heritage will not be supported under the Project.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

This standard is not relevant, as the project is not an FI operation.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways

No



OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas

No

III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered?

No

Financing Partners

N/A

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

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

- Preparation, consultation upon and disclosure of the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP);
- Preparation, consultation upon and disclosure of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) including a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM);
- Preparation, consultation upon and disclosure of an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) including an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP);
- Preparation of a Labor Management Procedures (LMP);
- Preparation of an Indigenous Peoples Plan Framework (IPPF).

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

N/A

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS

20-Apr-2021

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank

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VI. APPROVAL

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