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COMBINED PROJECT INFORMATION DOCUMENTS / INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET (PID/ISDS)

Additional Financing

Report No.: PIDISDSA23255

Date Prepared/Updated: 24-Jan-2018

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Congo, Republic of	**Project ID:**	P162345
		Parent Project ID (if any):	P133731
Project Name:	Additional Financing - RoC - Statistics Capacity Building Project (P162345)		
Parent Project Name:	CG-Statistics Capacity Building Project (P133731)		
Region:	AFRICA		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	31-Oct-2017	**Estimated Board Date:**	02-Apr-2018
Practice Area (Lead):	Poverty and Equity	**Financing Instrument:**	Investment Project Financing
Borrower(s)			
Implementing Agency			

Financing (in USD Million)

Financing Source	Amount
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development	25.00
Financing Gap	0.00
Total Project Cost	25.00

Environmental Category:	
Appraisal Review Decision (from Decision Note):	The review did authorize the team to appraise and negotiate
Other Decision:	
Is this a Repeater project?	No

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

The Republic of Congo (RoC) is a lower-middle-income country in Central Africa with an undiversified oil-dependent economy. Congo achieved lower-middle-income status in 2006, and until

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2011 it had stable economic growth averaging 4.8 percent per year. Nevertheless, over the past five years, Congo's economic performance has fallen short of the target growth rate needed to achieve the 2025 Sustainable Development Goals. Between 2011 and 2015, the economy grew at a rate of 4 percent, compared to the projected growth rate of 8.5 percent set forth in the country's National Development Plan (NDP). The failure to meet the projected growth rate can be partly attributed to the poor performance of the oil sector, where production fell by 5.4 percent over the same period. The non-extractive sectors' good performance (9.7 percent) depended on mixed effects from activities in the manufacturing, electricity, gas, and telecommunication sectors, and public investments in infrastructure. The economic growth is expected to remain moderate, with a projected annual average growth rate of 3 percent over the 2016–2018 period. This growth is expected to be driven by the extractive sectors, as a strong increase in oil production is expected. Nevertheless, the economy remains vulnerable to exogenous shocks such as the volatility of oil prices, and mining production delays. Internal risks also remain, but have been taken into consideration in the government's economic strategy.

The country is ranked 33rd out of 47 countries in SSA in per capita GDP based on purchasing-power-parity, and its statistical capacity score is only 50 out of 100, which puts RoC in the 38th position in the region. This relatively poor score reflects not only the inability of the statistical system to provide reliable, timely, and accurate data over time but also the fact that coverage is far from meeting the basic requirements for an operational and effective statistical system. The overall score also shows that on various quality dimensions, performance has been insufficient, and there are concerns about methodological inadequacies underlying data production and the accountability and efficiency of resource utilization (e.g., surveys are not coordinated).

Sectoral and Institutional Context

The government of the Republic of Congo remains committed to supporting statistics, as evidenced by (i) the signing in July 2014, of the Statistics Capacity Building Project (PSTAT); (ii) the creation of a Ministry of Planning, Statistics and Regional Integration; (iii) the approval of a decree authorizing the organization of the Population and Housing Census; and, (iv) the request for an additional financing for the PSTAT to fund ongoing statistical operations and to construct a new building for the National Institute of Statistics (INS). However, key challenges remain to the development of statistics in the Republic of Congo.

Since September 2016, the INS does not have an office; the work equipment is disassembled; the staff are scattered, mostly working from home. The government has started the demolition and reconstruction of the current building of the Institute. The construction of the new building, which was announced in September 2016, was planned to last three years but there were no alternative office premises to house INS staff. Therefore, INS teams working on activities financed by the project faced either lack of work space or work under difficult conditions, which led to delays in the implementation of the planned activities.

The lack of facilities for the INS hampers data dissemination. The INS was relocated twice in the past three years and currently has no premises. Because of the relocation, the server of the INS has been uninstalled and the website is not updated. While waiting for the construction of a new building, the PSTAT temporally rent offices building for the INS.

The reform of the national statistical system (NSS), which started in 2009, is still not completed. The reform aims at making the system more efficient and enabling it to produce and disseminate quality statistics. In this context, a new statistical law was adopted on 28 October 2009. This law states the creation of a National Institute of Statistics (INS), a public administrative institution with management

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autonomy. This law also states the establishment of a Statistics Committee (CSS) for the coordination of the production of official data by the national statistical system. However, the INS continues to function without staff regulations and autonomous budget, and does still not fully exercise its role as NSS coordinator.

The INS did not receive its operating budget in the last three years. Several public institutions in the RoC do not have operating budgets and the INS is one of them. Although, the operating budgets of the INS have been included in the government budget, they have not been released for the last three years. This makes it difficult to pay for daily activities including the premium payment for staff working on specialized projects. This demotivates INS staff, especially those who work with international consultants hired by the project to support them in the implementation of the activities. The lack of operating budget has also negatively affected routine statistics activities such as production and publication of consumer price index and national accounts.

The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) identifies the need to build up HR capabilities as one of four strategic themes supporting development of RoC statistics institutions. However, the NSS has no HR policies to support management in attracting, retaining, and motivating qualified staff. In addition, the "Statuts de l'Institut National de la Statistique" (decree 2010-805, Dec 31 2010), which clearly mandates that management set transparent and efficient HR policies and procedures, that has not yet been done. A comprehensive draft collective labor agreement covers all aspects of the employment lifecycle but has not yet been approved by management and staff representatives. Now, several of its elements need to be revised to better reflect current and future market realities and governance simplified to ensure that it will be effective. As part of this work, HR guidelines ("reglement interne") must be elaborated to complement the collective labor agreement.

Inadequate compensation and benefits packages make it difficult for management to attract and retain the best people. Currently, staff wages are aligned with public pay lines that do not reflect the actual value of statistical skills in the local labor market. A complex job evaluation and related salary scale has been drafted and is an essential element of the proposed collective labor agreement, but it is not clear if they have been benchmarked against market data and other organizations, public and private, where similar skills are in demand. The suggested pay lines are also more closely linked to tenure and academic backgrounds than to what is produced. If implemented as is, that could slow the potential growth of new staff and create a major gap between staff based on qualifications rather than contributions to the performance of the institution. In time, the impact on staff motivation and productivity will affect the quality of the work. It is also not clear that current financial and budgetary arrangements will ensure that the compensation system is sustainable over the long term, especially since they do not yet account for typical benefits, such as medical coverage, vacations, and pensions.

The supply of certified statisticians to fill NSS technical positions is very low. The Center for Applied Statistics and Planning (Centre d'Application de la Statistique et de la Planification – CASP) is the only local school that trains statisticians, but the CASP current curriculum and infrastructure do not appear to meet the needs of RoC employers, public or private. There is a need to reassess the country's approach to statistical certification.

Some ministries lack functional statistical units either because current laws are not being enforced or there is a shortage of qualified people. The NSS is tasked to provide other ministries with qualified statisticians. Since there was nearly no prospect of public employment of statisticians between 1986 and 2010, very few were trained. The CASP only certifies undergraduates with a generalist profile; the NSS is not yet equipped to train specialists on the job; and even if it were, the slow pace of decision-making does not allow enough staff to be trained in time to meet current and future government

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statistical needs.

Sectoral departments depend on their line minister, and their budgets are underfunded. With few exceptions, statistical departments in sectoral ministries lack the financial means to get their work done properly. The 2011 NSS diagnostic found that only one-third of ministry statistics departments manage their own budgets for statistical operations (line ministry budgets are centralized in the Cabinet Office). Among services that do not have their own budgets, 80 percent say that the way their budget is managed makes it impossible to meet statistical needs.

The NSS statistical products do not meet the demand, and the methodologies underlying data production need to be strengthened. For instance, the 1996 census was invalidated, and most of the publications from the 2007 census have not yet been completed. The Cartography of the 2007 census was not successfully implemented and the enumeration of the population was not successful. This hampered the quality of subsequent households surveys as the master sampling frame from the census was not reliable. In general, external trade statistics, enterprises and agricultural production data, and social statistics are not reliable, are published late, or are not available at all. External trade statistics have not been published for many years.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Original Project Development Objective(s) - Parent

The objectives of the project are to (i) strengthen the National Statistical System in the production and, dissemination of timely and robust statistics relevant for policies and decision making, and (ii) promote the demand for statistical information.

Proposed Project Development Objective(s) - Additional Financing

The objectives of the project are to: (i) strengthen the NSS in the production and dissemination of quality statistics relevant for policies and decision making; and, (ii) promote the demand for statistical information.

Key Results

Keys results include:
- Completion of the Population and Housing census
- Completion of a Master Sampling Frame
- Completion of the enterprise census
- Building a Business Register
- Completion of the Households and Budget Survey
- Completion of Agricultural surveys
- Training and hiring trained statisticians for the National Statistical System
- Construction and equipping of a new building for the National Institute of Statistics
- Completion of the reform of the National Statistical School

D. Project Description

Component 1: Institutional Development, Human Resources and Organizational Structure

The additional financing will continue to: (i) support improvement of the organizational structure of the National Statistics System (NSS); (ii) strengthen the capacity of the NSS to attract and retain qualified staff; and, (iii) update the statistical technological infrastructure. Some key activities that will

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be conducted under the AF to achieve those three goals include: (a) development of data production manuals and protocols for major statistical outputs; (b) development and implementation of training programs; (c) build up INS' statistical and IT infrastructure and data management systems. For the AF, the following subcomponents and activities under this component have been dropped: the Technical mentoring program; the creation of an internship program; the labor market competitiveness approach; and the design and implementation of an information system strategic plan (ISSP). Added to this component is the construction and equipment of a building for the National Institute of Statistics (INS) and the Center for Statistical Planning and Application ("Centre d'Application de la Statistique et de la Planification" - CASP)

Component 2. Improving the Production, Dissemination and Use of Statistics

Under the additional financing, the project will continue to implement a program of activities designed to (i) improve the quality of statistics produced by the NSS; (ii) support the development of new statistical products; and (iii) support the dissemination and use of statistical information. Among specific activities to be supported are: (a) production of demographic and social statistics including population and housing census, business census, household and agricultural surveys; and, (b) production of statistics on economic and financial activities including price statistics and national accounts. The AF will put a stronger focus on the use and dissemination of statistics, and add new activities such as technical assistance for the elaboration of a national development plan and to strengthen the macroeconomic framework committee capacities for budget planning and economic policies analysis.

Component 3. Project Management

The National Institute of Statistics is the Project Implementation Unit (PIU). Under the additional financing, this component will continue to support activities to strengthen the capacity of the PIU for the day to day coordination, implementation and management of the project.

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For the additional financing, the project will reduce the scale of certain activities to prioritize new activities requested by the Government. While still supporting the Demographic and Health Survey, the project will reduce its commitment to other health sector statistics and education sector statistics that are financed with other World Bank projects. Regarding the new activities, the AF will support: (i) the construction of a new building for the INS-CASP; (ii) the implementation of a general enterprise census; and, (iii) Technical Assistance to support the macroeconomic framework committee and the development of a National Development Plan.

Component Name:

Comments (optional)

E. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

The activities funded by the initial project were limited mainly to data production, dissemination and use as well as to strengthening the National Statistical System institutional framework. The additional financing will fund the construction of a building for the National Institute of Statistics which might have environmental or social impacts. This project is classified as Category B due to construction works. The project site is not known yet, but the project will not require any land acquisition leading to involuntary resettlement nor does it provide financing for activities that result in restriction of access to resources or livelihoods.

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F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists

Aurelie Marie Simone Monique Rossignol, Environmental Safeguards Specialist

Grace Muhimpundu, Social Safeguards Specialist

II. IMPLEMENTATION

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements remain the same as for the parent project.

The National Institute of Statistics (INS), the main executing agency of the NSDS, is responsible for project coordination. The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will be located in the INS if possible, and will be responsible for day-to-day project management. The PIU team will be the same as for the parent project which consists of staff from the INS and consultants.

The Project Steering Committee: The PSC is the same as for the parent project. It is headed by a representative of the Ministry in charge of statistics and consists of representatives of the INS and key ministries, development partners, and data users; it will oversee, promote, coordinate, support, monitor, and evaluate progress. The PSC and the High Commission of Statistics will identify the goals and the NSS mission and promote awareness of these throughout the INS, emphasizing shared values that should be reflected in achieving the goals.

Work program and budget allocation: The PIU will prepare an integrated multi-year work plan based on activities planned under the proposed project. Each year the budgeted work plan will be derived from the multi-year plan and submitted for PSC review and then World Bank approval.

Project policies and procedures will be published in an implementation manual, which will be adopted by the Project Steering Committee.

III. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	Due to new activities related to the construction of INS facilities, the AF triggered OP 4.01. To ensure that any environmental and social issues caused by the project activities are appropriately addressed, the client has prepared and disclosed the ESMF. Based on the project characteristics, complex land tenure issues, and limited borrower and PIU safeguards implementation capacity, the project is categorized as EA Category B. Once the site is known, the government will prepare and disclose a detailed Environmental and Social Management Plan prior to construction activities taking place. This plan will also outline issues related to OP/BP 4.11 which will include provisions to manage chance findings.

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		The ESMF is finalized and was disclosed in country and on the World Bank's external website in December 2017.
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	No	This OP is not triggered, as there will be no potential impact on natural habitats.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	The proposed project will not affect forests, nor will it involve reforestation.
Pest Management OP 4.09	No	No use of pesticides or health-related concerns with respect to vector management are expected.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	Yes	In anticipation of the potential impacts on cultural resources due to the construction of the INS facilities, the detailed Environmental and Social Management Plan to be prepared by the project before construction will also outline issues related to OP/BP 4.11 which will include provisions to manage chance findings.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	This policy will not be triggered as the Project activities will be implemented in Brazzaville, in an urban area where there are no Indigenous People.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	Because of new activities related to the construction of INS facilities, and as the site is not yet known and to manage potential risks related to resettlement of populations, the AF will trigger OP/BP 4.12 (Involuntary Resettlement) in anticipation of any resettlement activities. Since the exact geographic location of the proposed building is still to be determined, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) has been prepared by the Borrower for the project to clearly outline the basic principles and guidelines for mitigating any potential impact that may require compensation in the event of land acquisition resulting in economic or physical displacement. The RPF also puts in place measures to provide livelihood restoration in case of loss of income or resources. The RPF was published in country and disclosed on the World Bank's external website in January 2018.
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	No	The Project will not finance any dam construction or rehabilitation.

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Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	The project will not affect any international body of water.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	None of the intervention sites are in disputed areas.

IV. Key Safeguard Policy Issues and Their Management

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:
The construction of a building for the INS is included in the AF activities with related changes to safeguard and environmental category and ensuing safeguards instruments preparation. The proposed additional financing includes the slight restructuring of the project which includes: (i) a revision of the results framework (changes to some of the indicators to better capture project results); (ii) an extension of the closing date by 22 months from June 30, 2019 to April 30, 2021 to allow sufficient time to complete all remaining project activities; (iii) reallocation of funds between and within project components to ensure sufficient funding for the construction of the office building for the INS and CASP; and (iv) triggering of OP/BP 4.01 for the construction this new building as it might have potential environmental and social negative impacts; OP/BP 4.11 in anticipation of potential impacts on physical cultural resources due to the demolition/construction; and OP/BP 4.12 as the site is not yet known and to manage potential risks related to resettlement of populations. To ensure that any environmental and social negative impacts caused by project activities are addressed appropriately, the INS has prepared (i) an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and (ii) a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF). Both the ESMF and the RPF have been disclosed in country, on the website of the Ministry of Planning as well as on the World Bank external website.
2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:
No major impacts are anticipated. However, once the project site location is known, a detailed Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) will be prepared. The latter will include specific elements related to OP / BP 4.11 including chance find procedures along with guidance on sensitization. A Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) will be also be prepared to put in place mitigation measures should involuntary resettlement take place. All prepared documents will be made available in-country and on the World Bank external website.
3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.
The project will to the extent possible avoid land acquisition by seeking land that is already Government owned and enclosed.
4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.
The project is not expected to induce any major environmental impacts that would trigger a full environmental impact assessment (EISA). The borrower has carried out an environmental and social assessment of the project and has prepared an Environmental and Social

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Management Framework (ESMF) and Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), both of which have been publicly disclosed on the borrower's and World Bank's websites respectively.

Borrower's safeguards management capacity is limited and has previously relied on the Bank's expertise to address potential safeguards issues. However it's capacity is being strengthened over time with support from the Water Electricity and Urban Development Project (Projet Eau Electricite Et Developpement Urbain, PEEDU) as well the Bank environmental and social safeguards team in Brazzaville to build capacity of the PIU.

To mitigate its limited safeguards management capacity, borrower will hire an environment specialist and a social specialist as part of its PIU. The specialists will work closely with the World Bank to support the implementation of the ESMF and RPF. The new environment and social specialists will also coordinate and liaise with other relevant ministries and agencies, organize various capacity building initiatives for government and municipal staff, and facilitate regulatory and statutory clearances as required. The Framework documents further indicate a series of trainings on related issues to build capacity of the borrower, project team and other relevant stakeholders to understand and address environmental and social issues related to the construction.

ESMF and RPF implementation has been estimated to cost CFAF 141.5M (approximately USD 264,600) and CFAF 142M (approximately USD 265,500) respectively. These costs are included in the project budget. Activities under ESMF implementation include: preparation of an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), technical support, training and awareness-raising actions, together with other activities to prepare and implement the ESMP with a snag list. The snag list will also be part of the contract document. Activities under the RPF budget include preparation of a possible Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) which will determine the compensation costs after surveys and socio-economic studies. The RPF budget also includes public awareness, consultation as well as monitoring and evaluation directly related to resettlement. All land acquisition related expenses will be funded by the Borrower.

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.

The key stakeholders outside of the NSS (staff) and central government (ministries) structures include civil society, local communities and associations, and the private sector. The project will be implemented with the participation of local stakeholders. Overall, preparation of the projects safeguards instruments (ESMF and RPF) has been participatory at various levels, through consultation with the different stakeholders in Brazzaville. During the preparation of the ESMP and RAP, the project will conduct additional consultations with all stakeholders to ensure their full participation, especially communities that might be adversely impacted by the construction activities.

B. Disclosure Requirements

Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other	
Date of receipt by the Bank	15-Dec-2017
Date of submission to InfoShop	29-Dec-2017

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For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors	
"In country" Disclosure	
Congo, Republic of	27-Dec-2017
*Comments:*See link: http://actualites.agencecongoinfo.net/2017/12/27/projet-de-renforcement-des-capacites-statistiques/#more-8518	
Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Policy Process	
Date of receipt by the Bank	15-Dec-2017
Date of submission to InfoShop	22-Jan-2018
"In country" Disclosure	
Congo, Republic of	23-Jan-2018
*Comments:*See link: http://actualites.agencecongoinfo.net/2018/01/23/congo-cadre-de-politique-de-reinstallation-involontaire-des-populations-cpr/#more-9 073	
If the project triggers the Pest Management and/or Physical Cultural Resources policies, the respective issues are to be addressed and disclosed as part of the Environmental Assessment/Audit/or EMP.	
If in-country disclosure of any of the above documents is not expected, please explain why::	

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C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level

OP/BP/GP 4.01 - Environment Assessment						
Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?	Yes	[X]	No	[]	NA	[]
If yes, then did the Regional Environment Unit or Practice Manager (PM) review and approve the EA report?	Yes	[X]	No	[]	NA	[]
Are the cost and the accountabilities for the EMP incorporated in the credit/loan?	Yes	[X]	No	[]	NA	[]
OP/BP 4.11 - Physical Cultural Resources						
Does the EA include adequate measures related to cultural property?	Yes	[X]	No	[]	NA	[]
Does the credit/loan incorporate mechanisms to mitigate the potential adverse impacts on cultural property?	Yes	[X]	No	[]	NA	[]
OP/BP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement						
Has a resettlement plan/abbreviated plan/policy framework/process framework (as appropriate) been prepared?	Yes	[X]	No	[]	NA	[]
If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for	Yes	[X]	No	[]	NA	[]

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safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan?						
Is physical displacement/relocation expected?	Yes	[]	No	[]	TBD	[X]
Is economic displacement expected? (loss of assets or access to assets that leads to loss of income sources or other means of livelihoods)	Yes	[]	No	[]	TBD	[X]
The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information						
Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank's Infoshop?	Yes	[X]	No	[]	NA	[]
Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs?	Yes	[X]	No	[]	NA	[]
All Safeguard Policies						
Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes	[X]	No	[]	NA	[]
Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?	Yes	[X]	No	[]	NA	[]
Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes	[]	No	[]	NA	[X]
Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?	Yes	[X]	No	[]	NA	[]

V. Contact point

World Bank

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

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Implementing Agencies

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VII. Approval

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Safeguards Advisor:	Name:	Date:
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