



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

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BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Cote d'Ivoire	AFRICA WEST	P175982	
Project Name	Forest Investment Project, phase 2		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Environment, Natural Resources & the Blue Economy	Investment Project Financing	3/22/2021	5/31/2021
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Adama Coulibaly	Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development		

Proposed Development Objective

The Development Objective is to conserve and increase the forest stock and improve access to sources of income from sustainable forest management for selected communities in target zones.

Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	100.00

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 will contribute to the implementation of the new Strategy for Forests Preservation and Extension as well as to the implementation of the Cocoa and Forests initiative in tandem with the integrated cocoa development project, through the following components:

Component 1: Sustainable Management of the Gazetted Forests which aims to achieve sustainable management of selected Gazetted Forests (GFs) through: (a) Development of Participatory GFs Management Plans and their adjacent forests in the rural domain; (b) support to the implementation of the management plans in synergy with the PDIC and private sector in selected GFs in the cocoa belt; and (c) support to the establishment of production forests for timber



and fuelwood in selected GFs in partnership with forest-dependent communities and the private sector in the Center region (former cocoa belt).

Component 2, the objective which is to support sustainable management of national parks and reserves in the cocoa belt, which are currently under high pressure for illegal gold mining and agricultural encroachment (both drivers of deforestation and degradation), through: (i) restoration of access roads, old gold mining sites, acquisition of remote sensing equipment, restoration of park rangers quarters to facilitate parks surveillance; and (ii) development and implementation of alternative income generating activities to reduce human pressure on the targeted protected areas.

Component 3 which supports the overall daily administration of the project to ensure that regular M&E is carried out and that results are fed back into decision making on project implementation.

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 four-high priority “landscape sites” Cavally, Guemon, San Pedro-Nawa and Indenie-Djuablin over several gazetted forests and the Tai National Park (TNP), the Mount Peko National Park and the N’zo Natural Reserve which together constitute the largest remaining West African primary tropical forest under protection.

The gazetted forests and national parks are areas that are subject to threats posed by illegal activities within these protected areas e.g., gold mining, cocoa production, as well as poaching. The initial screening of the proposed project activities and a preliminary assessment of the general baseline characteristics of potential project sites indicate that attention should be paid to (i) the maintenance of the biodiversity contained in the ecosystems and an ecological balance beneficial to better cocoa productivity on the farms in its vicinity; (ii) the use of local species or non-native species resulting from conclusive experimentation (fish, plant material); (iii) the reduction of possible sources of pollution, particularly those related to dust rising during the construction/rehabilitation of rural roads, (iv) to the possible use of fertilizers and chemicals in associated agriculture activities, and (v) issues related to cultural heritage activities in GFs. Accordingly, tight management should be required for activities that might be associated with water and soil resource pollution.

The project will assist the government in developing and implementing management plans for gazetted forests (GFs) of category C1 (75% pristine forest), C2 (degradation between 25%-75%), and C3 (degradation of more than 75%). The project will also help support the implementation of reforestation gazetted forests C4 (completely degraded) in the center of the country in a total surface area of 143,579 ha.

The primary beneficiaries of the project are cocoa farmers and local forest-dependent communities, an estimated 1.732 million people. The secondary beneficiaries are the institutions responsible for GFs and National Parks management: namely Forest Development Corporation (SODEFOR) for the forest inventory, Ivorian Parks and Reserves Office (OIPR), as the project will enhance their capacity to manage protected areas; the ministries in charge of Forests and Water, Environment, Agriculture; the Cocoa Board (Conseil Café-Cacao); and the CFI institutions for capacity building in agroforestry schemes.



The project will intervene in 3 C1 GFs (Cavally, Mont Tia and Bossématié). Based on the preliminary information provided by the client, there seem to be no settlements in the C1 forests; however, there are adjacent populations of around 125,000 people, will lose access to their cacao farms and forest resources, as per the new government's Strategy for Forests Preservation and Extension. The precise number of economically and physically displaced will be determined in the social studies that will feed into the management plans for C1 forests. In addition, the project will update the Process Framework (PF) and the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), developed for the Emission Reduction Park Tai project (P170309) to take into consideration the potential resettlement impacts and access restrictions.

There is a total of 6 GFs C2, 8 GFs C3: Krozalie and Cavally-Mont Santé (C2) and Scio (C3) in Cavally; (ii) Haut-Sassandra and Duékoué (C3) in Guémon/Haut-Sassandra; (iii) Mont Kourabahi (C3) in Nawa/San-Pédro; and (iv) Béki, Brassué, Manzan and Songan (C2), Diambarakro (C3) in Indénié Djuablin/La Mé. Here the project will focus on implementing 150,000 hectares of cocoa-based agroforestry, coaching/mentoring cocoa farmers for tree maintenance to enhanced cocoa productivity, and monitoring and evaluate plantations.

Finally, in GFs C4 the project will support 30,000 hectares of timber plantations with teak and gmelina species and 10,000 ha of fuelwood plantations with cassia siamea, a fast-growing fuelwood species in use in Côte d'Ivoire.

D. 2. Borrower's Institutional Capacity

The Borrower has an acceptable legal and regulatory environmental and social framework, which defines that all public and private activities/projects that may cause significant environmental impacts should be subject to proper environmental licensing, including environmental assessment studies to identify possible impacts, as well management plans, aiming to minimize and mitigate the foreseen impacts. It also has legal procedures for resettlement management, public consultations, including public hearings with the participation of the affected population to validate environmental and social impacts studies.

At the institutional level, the Ministry of Environment, and Sustainable Development (MINEDD) is responsible for setting policy guidelines on environmental issues and ensuring compliance with national environmental standards. It has different departments including the National Agency of Environment (Agence Nationale de l'Environnement - ANDE) that oversees all projects in the country to ensure compliance with the various safeguards, inter alia the approvals of environmental and social studies and monitoring and evaluation of such studies at the national level. The agency is well-staffed, but its capacities are considered moderate according to the Environmental and Social Systems Assessment (ESSA) in Côte d'Ivoire, carried out as part of the preparation of the Program for Results (PforR) for the improvement of basic services for the Ivorian population (P164302), in January 2018.

The integrated project implementation unit (PIU) that oversees various Bank-financed environment sector-related projects currently has one social specialist and one environmental specialist. However, implementing agencies (SODEFOR and OIPR) do not have specialists within their ranks for environmental and social issues management. Designated persons act as Environmental and Social Focal Points, which work with the PIU as part of the project. Capacity building will be required to enable the specialists and the integrated PIU as well as SODEFOR and OIPR to fulfill their role, as this is their second experience in project preparation with the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). The Bank team has already provided some guidance to the specialists in their previous ESF experience; however, further training will be required as this operation has a higher risk profile than the previous operation.

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Substantial



Environmental Risk Rating

Substantial

This new operation aims to assist the Government with the development and adoption of management plans of C1, C2 and C3 GFs (410,726 hectares), and C4 GFs (143,579 ha). To do so, the project will support technical assistances for the development of business plans for plantation establishment and management, and elaboration of concession contracts. It is expected that the project will finance establishment of community nurseries to develop agroforestry tree species for an approximate 150,000 hectares of cocoa-based agroforestry. Likewise, it will also support the establishment of a total of 30,000 hectares of timber plantations including fire breaks.

In addition, the project will fund the demarcation of High Conservation Value (HCV)/High Carbon Stock (HCS) areas for enhanced biodiversity preservation through the placement of boundary markers or the planting of non-native trees.

The project will involve the rehabilitation of approximately 200 kilometers of degraded access rural roads to the Tai National Park and its adjacent Nzo Nature Reserve, and of 15 degraded rangers' quarters, as well as construction of boreholes for park-dependent communities.

In addition to the above, the project aims to enhance livelihoods within Park adjacent and forest-dependent communities by supporting (a) the development and implementation of alternative income-generating activities, such as organic rice production and vegetable gardening, animal husbandry, fish farming, and aquaculture, and community-based reforestation and agroforestry; and (b) the planting agricultural crops interspersed among forest plantations.

Project supported investments focus on a large-scale reforestation program, conservation activities for gazetted forests, and national parks, establishment of production forests, agricultural intensification and agroforestry activities, with some rehabilitation/construction as well as Income Generating Activities (IGAs). Although these activities are expected to have positive environmental impacts, some of them may cause some substantial environmental risks and impacts, related to the potential use of pesticides, water pollution, occupational health and safety issues, increased poaching or further gold panning encroachment; possible temporary disruption of forest ecosystems, and nuisances related to air and noise emissions. These associated project- impacts, include also possible cumulative adverse impacts. The environmental risk classification for the project is thus Substantial, as it also impacts a large geographical area, involves low effects on high-value areas (HCV, HCS) and their biodiversity, in addition to considering the disparate levels of Borrowers' capacity in the area of environmental impacts and risks management under ESF.

Social Risk Rating

Substantial

The social impacts of this project are mainly related to involuntary resettlement of communities living around the 3 GFs C1 (Cavally, Mont Tia and Bossematie) and potential access restrictions for communities living in and around 6 GFs C2 and 8 GFs C3. There are no populations living in the C1 forests; however, there are adjacent populations of around 125,000 people, who will no longer be able to exploit their cacao farms and access forest resources, as per the new government's Strategy for Forests Preservation and Extension. The precise population that will be affected, will be determined after the development of the management plans (which will include social studies), currently envisaged for year 1 or 2 of the project. Currently, it is therefore not known what physical and economic displacement impacts the project will have. Component 2 could lead to access restrictions of people living around and in the classified forests; however, the precise number of people is currently not confirmed. The social studies that will



be undertaken as part of the development of the forest management plans will confirm this. Sub-component 2.1 has been included in the project to provide measures of livelihood restoration and diversification to all people that will be physically and economically displaced. This will also be reflected in the PF and RFP.

This project and the Integrated Cacao Value Chain Project (P168499) are linked and will be implemented in the same areas at the same time, with the difference that this project will focus exclusively on the forests while the cacao project will focus on the non-forest areas. The cacao project will be scrutinized due to the fact that there are high prevalence of child labor in the cacao belt, which is where this project will be implemented, and therefore this FIP 2 project will also need to implement a rigorous approach and appropriate mitigation measures to be aligned with the measures implemented by the cacao project.

Finally, given the varied ethnic and national backgrounds (many are immigrants from Mali and Burkina Faso) of the farmers and the prevalence of illegal artisanal gold miners in the GFs, there is a potential for conflict and social tensions. The FIP 1 has already started combatting the problem of illegal miners within GFs; however, this issue persists. This will also be taken into consideration in the development of the management plans and mitigation measures and action plans will be developed similarly to the FIP 1.

For these reasons and the potential for reputational damage to the Bank due to the high visibility and linkages to the cacao project, the social risk is considered Substantial at this stage.

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

B.1. General Assessment

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

The project activities are expected to improve forest cover in the country through the conservation and increasing forest stock, as well as improve livelihoods within national park adjacent and forest-dependent communities. However, the activities may generate environmental and social risks and impacts related to the rehabilitation of rural roads, construction of boreholes, the development and implementation of alternative income-generating activities (IGAs) involving animal husbandry, fish farming and aquaculture and crops activities.

On the environmental side, these activities could lead to an increased traffic circulation, accident and OHS issues, air and noise nuisance, water pollution, and the need for waste management. Rural roads rehabilitation could also increased poaching or further gold panning encroachment. In addition to technical measures included in the project design to address this risk, related to enhancing the surveillance capacity of OIPR (Component 3), other appropriate mitigation measures will be developed in the specific ESIA to be prepared during implementation.

The interventions of both FIP2 and PDIC under the CIF as well as other underway initiatives in the cocoa and gazetted forest sector could generate cumulative impacts that should be managed.

These potential activities may cause temporary disturbances to sources of income, livelihood, conflict, which may require resettlement assistance and/or compensation. Land tenure in the area of intervention is largely public since the government changed the status of the national parks and GFs for conservation purposes. However, it is possible that there is private land surrounding the GFs and national parks. This will be determined as part of the social studies undertaken as part of the development of the forest management plans. In addition to the management plans, the project will update the Process Framework (PF) and the Resettlement Policy Framework



(RPF) developed for the Emission Reduction Park Tai project (P170309) in 2020, to take into consideration the potential resettlement impacts and access restrictions in all forests. The PF will focus on the access restriction elements in C1-C3, while the RFP will focus on the compensation related to the assets and loss of crops that will likely be experienced by the farmers.

There is a large variety of ethnicities and nationalities (immigrants from Mali and Burkina Faso) present among the farmers, which could create social tensions as part of the project. Furthermore, there is also a prevalence of illegal artisanal gold miners in the GFs, who cause further conflict and social tensions. The FIP 1 has already started fighting the problem of illegal miners within GFs; however, this issue persists. This will also need to be taken into consideration in the development of the management plans and mitigation measures and action plans will need to be developed similarly to the FIP 1. At this stage, the investments could encompass multiple subprojects and the exact locations of specific sites of plantation and infrastructure are not yet known. The Borrower will prepare, disclose and implement an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to guide the preparation of Environmental and Social Impact Assessments / Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESIAs/ESMPs) for the subprojects when their exact scope and locations are known.

The ESMF will define procedures for screening and mitigating the potential risks and impacts from proposed project activities, in particular: rural roads rehabilitation, afforestation, water supplies (boreholes), and any other potential activities that could involve civil works. The ESMF would also include: (a) checklists of potential environmental and social impacts and their sources; (b) procedures for participatory screening of proposed sites and activities and the environmental and social considerations; (c) procedures for assessing potential environmental and social impacts of the planned project activities, including a section on potential cumulative impacts of FIP 2 and PDIC and SEA/SH risks; (d) institutional arrangements for avoiding, minimizing, mitigating and managing the impacts identified, according to the mitigation hierarchy; (e) typical environmental and social management planning processes for addressing negative externalities in the course of project implementation; (f) a system for monitoring the implementation of mitigation measures; and (g) the capacity building measures recommended for environmental and social planning and the monitoring of project activities; (h) project grievance mechanism; and (i) a specific chapter on cultural heritage, including "Chance Find" procedure to manage potential risks related to Cultural Heritage discovered during project implementation.

Additionally, the ESMF will also make use of the general and sector- specific EHSs for the identified subprojects in relation to occupational and community health and safety. When project sites will be identified and the screening has determined this, specific ESIAs will be prepared. Moreover, Strategic Environmental and Social Assessments (SESA) will be prepared (during implementation), as the project will develop and implement Participatory Forest Management Plans in targeted C1, C2, C3 and C4 GFs during 10 years at least. The private sector would be responsible for financing all investments related to plantation works and their long-term maintenance under the supervision of SODEFOR and in line with the management plans, that will set out the rules and requirements.

Lastly, an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) will be prepared and agreed upon with the Borrower. The ESCP will include a commitment to prepare subsequent ESIAs/ESMPs, other relevant instruments, and the associated timelines.

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



The project will not use the Borrower’s E&S Framework in the assessment, development and implementation of the program. However, it will comply with relevant national legal and regulatory requirements and will, where needed, be supplemented with provisions of the World Bank’s ESS.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

The primary stakeholders of the project will be cocoa farmers and local forest-dependent communities, around 1.732 million people for the 17 GFs. There will also be the institutions responsible for GFs and National Parks management: namely Forest Development Corporation (SODEFOR) for the forest inventory, Ivorian Parks and Reserves Office (OIPR), as the project will enhance their capacity to manage protected areas; the ministries in charge of Forests and Water, Environment, Agriculture; the Cocoa Board (Conseil Café-Cacao); and the Climate Fund Inventory (CFI) institutions for capacity building in agroforestry schemes. To plan and implement the engagement needed for such a large variety of stakeholders, the project will develop a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), prior to appraisal.

The project will update the SEP previously developed for the Parc TAÏ Emission Reduction Project (P170309) to reflect the previous consultants undertaken as part of the REDD+ and FIP 1 projects and include any new stakeholders, project areas and consultations that will need to be undertaken. The SEP should outline the different forms of engagements to be undertaken with all the various project stakeholders going forward, including women and vulnerable people. Given the participatory nature of the project, the SEP will emphasize the heavily participatory approach with communities involved in the development of management plans for their areas and the subsequent conservation and livelihood activities. The SEP will also need to include COVID-19 prevention measures as part of the consultation process. The SEP will update the existing Grievance Mechanism (GM), already established for the REDD+ and FIP 1 projects, to include the new project beneficiary and stakeholders in the additional project locations. The GM will include various levels of grievance resolution, including those SEA/SH related, and will be accessible to all project affected people. The project will also have local community committees to interface between villages and the project, which will enable the stakeholder engagement to be strengthened.

Given the context of the varied ethnic, nationality and socio-economic backgrounds in the area of intervention, the SEP will consider these dynamics and the varying levels of vulnerability of the stakeholders and foresee specific consultations with vulnerable people.

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

Based on the previous REDD+ and FIP 1 projects, for this project, there will be the workers of the Integrated Project Unit (IPU) that already exists, workers of SODEFOR and OIPR who are already executing activities, consultants to undertake studies and provide ad hoc support and community workers hired as part of for example reforestation activities.



The project will meet the requirements of ESS2 for terms and conditions of employment, non-discrimination and equal opportunity, worker’s organizations, child labor, forced labor, the grievance mechanism (GM) and occupational health and safety, for which a Labor Management Plan (LMP) will be developed prior to appraisal.

Based on the fact that agricultural activities are prevalent in the area of intervention and there are high incidences of child labor in the cacao sector, which is prevalent in all 4 territories of the project, the LMP will include specific measures on child labor and align itself with the cacao project that will be taking this issue into account.

Moreover, the project aims to prioritize youth and women and will therefore need to make sure that working conditions for them are adequate and that any incidences of Sexual Harassment Abuse / Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) are mitigated.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Energy and Water Use Efficiency: under project’s activities, energy use is not expected to be significant during the establishment of boreholes. Furthermore, irrigation of nurseries and community fish farms and aquaculture activities, as well as boreholes operation will need rationalization measures on water use and the maintenance of its quality. To ensure efficient energy and water use, rationalization measures will need to be determined and implemented throughout the project. It is also important that measures that adequately deal with wastewater are put in place to ensure that there is no water contamination. This should also be in compliance with national or local standards for the effluent discharges or, in their absence, the indicative guideline values applicable to sanitary wastewater discharges as defined in the World Bank Group EHS guidelines.

Air emissions: During the project implementation phase, air emissions and increased dust are expected to be moderate, e.g. generated by heavy vehicles and machinery related to rehabilitation of the rural roads and boreholes establishment. To reduce the impact of dust elevation and smoke, adequate measures need to be taken upstream to meet emissions norms requirements. Among other appropriate measures, continuous sprinkling and vehicle maintenance will need to be conducted to minimize dust emission and exhaust from heavy vehicles and machinery around construction sites, so as not to cause adverse impacts on neighboring communities.

Raw materials use: The rehabilitation, of rural roads and degraded rangers’ quarters, could involve construction materials and other raw materials extracted from the natural environment. It is not expected the project uses potentially significant construction materials. However, Borrowers will ensure that an efficient extraction and use of raw materials is carried out and appropriate measures, as specified in the EHSs and other Good International Industry Practices (GIIPs), are included in the ESAs and specific ESMP for this purpose.

Noise: The nature of certain works could result in noise impacts and nuisance for the riverside communities. These include rural road rehabilitation and boreholes construction, as well as plantation works done mechanically, if needed. The noise disturbance could negatively affect the surrounding communities. However, the ESMF will include mitigation measures to minimize and ensure acceptable noise levels, such as not working at night and minimizing the use of noise-intensive machinery. These measures will be detailed in ESAs to be prepared later, as necessary.



Waste management: Project activities, in particular rehabilitation of rural roads and degraded rangers' quarters including the boreholes construction and nurseries activities will require solid waste management. Notwithstanding this, waste is also expected to come from the activities related to the agriculture, fish farm and aquaculture activities. Based on the nature and the small-scale of activities to be implemented on the ground, no significant quantity of solid waste will be generated. It is anticipated that most of the solid waste will be composed of demolition debris, grass, woods, leaves which are biodegradable. Plastics used for nurseries are also expected but not a lot. However, a system that will help to collect plastics will be set up for their proper management and specific measures will be indicated in the ESIA reports of the subprojects and the Specific Waste Disposal and Management Plans (WDMP) that will be prepared before the execution of subprojects.

Pest Management: The project will pilot the use in agroforests of two biopesticides (Astoun and Néco) tested by the Obsolete Pesticides Management project (P131778) in a cocoa farm in Azaguié (southeast of Côte d'Ivoire). The association of agroforestry and this biopesticide developed with local plants, showed spectacular yields. However, crops as maize, cassava, peanut and soya could also necessitate potential use of pesticide. Thus, the project's support for agricultural intensification through income-generating activities will likely result in an increase of agrochemicals use. Based on this, the project will develop an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) to manage the potential risks and impacts of phytosanitary use.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

The project activities include the potential use of agrochemicals used as part of the agricultural intensification and agroforestry activities, which could increase the community's exposure to hazardous materials depending on the nature and quantities of chemicals used. The project will promote the use of environmentally-sound cocoa production methods by building on the experience and lessons learned from the Obsolete Pesticides Management Project (P131778), which successfully supported the promotion of alternatives to chemical pesticides. Two biopesticides called Astoun and Néco were tested on cocoa agroforestry farms in Azaguié (southeastern Côte d'Ivoire). Therefore, in addition to the ESMF, an Integrated Pesticide Management Plan (IPMP) will be developed for the project to outline the required mitigation measures to be applied. This includes measures regarding proper management, store, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials and waste, as well as minimizing community exposure. The specific risks in relation to each subproject will be analyzed in the ESIA reports, and the specific measures for their prevention and management will be defined and applied during the implementation of these subprojects.

Otherwise, the program activities are not likely to cause any serious health and safety impacts on the communities and due to the fact that most of the labor is likely to be community workers, there is no labor influx foreseen, which significantly reduces the risk of disease, SEA/SH risks and exploitation of women.

The project will make payments transfers to beneficiaries in line with the Benefits Sharing Plan arrangements that will be developed as part of the project and the wider REDD+ strategy and is already being implemented as part of the FIP.

There are a couple of important aspects to consider in relation to benefits sharing, namely transparency, governance and under/non-performance. Transparency and governance are key to ensure that benefits are correctly distributed



and provided to the direct beneficiaries of the project. The process for payments should also be completed in a timely manner to avoid frustrations and grievances from beneficiaries. For transparency, it is also recommended that Benefit Sharing Plans include information on the selection criteria for governance structures, the make-up of stakeholders in these structures (including e.g., local communities, government, Civil Society Organizations, private sector, etc.) and responsibilities of each member to be able to communicate these clearly to the beneficiaries. Finally, there is also a risk of under-performance or differential performance of beneficiary groups. Therefore, the Benefit Sharing Plan should include a contingency plan to address these circumstances throughout the lifetime of the project, including identifying alternative sources of finance and establishing a buffer reserve from generated ERPA Payments to address potential future ER Program under-performance or non-performance. Finally, stakeholder management and managing beneficiary expectations are also key to avoid frustrations and grievances. This should be done through the community committees.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

The precise number of people that will be economically and physically displaced, will be determined as part of the social studies that will feed into the development of the management plans for the forests, which are currently envisaged for year 1 or 2 of the project. In addition to the management plans, the project will update the Process Framework (PF) and the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) developed for the Emission Reduction Park Tai project (P170309) in 2020 to take into consideration the potential resettlement impacts and access restrictions in all forests. Should the government decide to enforce its strategy, then economic and physical displacement will be required and the project will need to develop resettlement action plans (RAPs) based on the outlines provided in the RFP.

As the specific sites for the subprojects have not yet been identified, it is not possible to say at this point how many people will be impacted by physical and economic displacement. As the majority of the land in question is public, there is likely to be limited land acquisition; however, currently, it is not clear how much physical and economic displacement there will be as part of the project. Once the management plans have outlined the actual impacts, it will be evaluated if additional instruments, such as Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) will need to be developed. In addition to the management plans, the project will update the Process Framework (PF) and the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) developed for the Emission Reduction Park Tai project (P170309) in 2020 to take into consideration the potential resettlement impacts and access restrictions in all forests. The Process Framework deals with restriction of access caused by the Management Plans (and any compensation for loss of assets related to that), while the Resettlement Policy Framework deals with resettlement or other losses of assets. Should the government decide to enforce its strategy through the management plans supported by the project, then economic and physical displacement will be required and the project will need to develop resettlement action plans (RAPs) based on the outlines provided in the RFP. The PF and the RFP will be disclosed prior by negotiation.

For GFs C2 and C3, the plan is for the farmers to be allowed to remain in the forests and implement cocoa-based agroforestry in their plots in line with the management plans until their cocoa farms become unproductive. This could take up to 30 years as it is the case in Béki GF where cocoa-agroforestry has been underway under the supervision of SODEFOR for more than 20 years with no effective displacement. In the case of Beki, there was no resettlement site identified and no RAP has been developed to date. For this project and the C2 and C3 forests in question, as it will be supporting the SPREF long-term relocation agenda which will extend beyond the life, a Resettlement Policy



Framework will be developed, that would outline the resettlement program approach. There are about 800,000 people present in and around the C2 and C3 sites that have been selected for the project. There will be no resettlement related to GFs C4.

There are currently no resettlement sites foreseen and there are no details or plans from the government's side of how any physical resettlement could be implemented. GFs of all category are public land and therefore none of the farmers own the land in the GFs which their farms are on; however, they can own the land around the GFs. There is currently no additional information related to land tenure, this will be assessed as part of the management plans.

Given the geographical overlap between this project and the Integrated Cacao Value Chain project (P168499), there are resettlement impacts that will be caused within C1, C2 and C3 forests that are related to the uprooting of swollen shoot affected plants, which the Integrated Cacao Value Chain project will be responsible for. The Integrated Cacao Value Chain project (P168499) will support the government in uprooting diseased trees and support farmers in their economic and physical re-established. Farmers will be compensated under the Integrated Cacao Value Chain project (P168499) for the trees and loss of income if the loss is related to the removal of swollen shoot, whereas this project will compensate losses that are due to resource restriction and conservation needs.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

This standard is relevant since the project areas contain some forest ecosystems as well as protected areas that have rich biodiversity. In addition, the objectives and design of the project's activities have been defined in such a way as to fully meet the expectations of biodiversity conservation and sustainable natural resource management.

The application of this ESS seeks to ensure that all precautions are taken in the project to protect biodiversity in rural areas and protected areas, as some activities (namely rehabilitation work, agriculture, community fish farms and aquaculture, husbandry, reforestation and agroforestry, planting agricultural crops) could have potential adverse impacts on biodiversity and natural habitats (forest ecosystems).

Regarding vegetation loss, the clearing and loss of areas of vegetation and faunal habitat is expected to be minimal. The overall impact on vegetation are anticipated to be minimal to moderate. Moreover, project investments, including afforestation activities will contribute to improve the forest landscape and microclimate of the project intervention areas.

The project will develop and implement Participatory Forest Management Plans in targeted C1, C2, C3 and C4 GFs. The design of the management plans, as conducted by SODEFOR, would include a phase of basic studies, in this case the analysis of land use (land use map) and the analysis of flora and fauna (vegetation map). The presence of sites of ecological, socio-cultural, religious and historical interest, natural sites and fragile ecosystems as well as sites of technical and scientific interest serves as a guide for the identification of the type of management to be carried out, in this case, the demarcation of High Conservation Value (HCV)/High Carbon Stock (HCS) areas for enhanced biodiversity preservation through the placement of boundary markers or the planting of non-native trees to differentiate HCV/HCS areas from the rest of the GF surface areas.



These activities could raise biodiversity issues to manage. The ESMF will include a chapter dedicated to Biodiversity Management. This chapter would be a precursor to site-specific Biodiversity Management Plans (BMP) and should include (i) baseline biodiversity information for the project areas, indicating any gaps in available data; (ii) potential impacts on biodiversity over different phases of the project; (iii) corresponding recommended mitigation measures, (iv) outline of the basic principles of biodiversity management and (v) recommendations for preparing site-specific BMPs.

To promote the sustainable management of natural resources, the ESMF to be prepared will provide guidance on applying the mitigation hierarchy and the precautionary principles in the design and implementation of such activities. Thereafter, ESIA's that will be prepared during the implementation phase will provide mitigation measures to ensure that project activities do not alter or cause the destruction of any natural habitats and the biodiversity they contain.

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

None in the Project Area

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

The Emissions Reduction Program (ERP) around the Tai National Park (P170309) targets the entire Cocoa belt; which represents also the FIP phase 2 project areas. The community consultations on cultural heritage conducted for the ERP project in Cavally, Guemon, San-Pedro, Nawa and Gboklè regions (October 8-18, 2019), resulted in the identification of sacred sites by community members. These include sacred forests, sacred rivers, cemeteries, sacred woods, religious buildings, sacred mountains located in the proposed project areas. The consultation records do not list any specific locations but suggested that cultural heritage was present in the intervention areas of the ERP, of which this program forms part. Building on the existing Cultural Heritage Management Framework (CHMF) for the ERP (P170309), an inventory for the forest areas covered by the FIP phase 2 will be carried out. To this end, the CHMF of the ERP will be updated to reflect potential issues related to cultural heritage in areas did not cover such as the Indenie-Djuablin region forming part of the FIP 2 areas. This new CHMP will outline the process to follow in case any of the subprojects encounter any cultural heritage sites, both tangible and intangible will need to be developed. The sub-project specific environmental and social assessments will confirm the existence of tangible or intangible cultural heritage and the process will then be managed according to the CHMP.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

None



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

None

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

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

Prior to appraisal:

- Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)
- Stakeholders Engagement Plan (SEP)
- Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)
- Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) - TBD if exact locations of project activities are identified during the preparation phase
- Resettlement Policy Framework(RPF)
- Resettlement Action Plan (RAP), TBD if exact locations of project activities are identified during the preparation phase
- Policy Framework (PF)

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

- Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP)
- Labor Management Procedures (LMP)

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

The ESCP will be developed in close collaboration with the Bank to define the means and frequency of reporting on the implementation of measures and actions required to achieve compliance with the World Bank’s ESF, particularly as discussed in the ESRS. The ESCP will include a commitment to assess the PIU’s capacity to implement recommended mitigation measures. The ESCP will outline the Borrowers’ commitment to carry out monitoring and reporting, including incidents and accidents and contractors’ monthly reports, designate the entity(ies) responsible for implementing defined mitigation measures. The ESCPs will include commitments to prepare and disclose all relevant safeguards instruments.

C. Timing

Public Disclosure



Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS

28-Feb-2021

IV. CONTACT POINTS

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VI. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s): Salimata D. Follea

Practice Manager (ENR/Social) Aly Zulficar Rahim Recommended on 09-Feb-2021 at 11:58:29 GMT-05:00

Safeguards Advisor ESSA Nathalie S. Munzberg (SAESSA) Cleared on 09-Feb-2021 at 14:22:27 GMT-05:00

Public Disclosure