Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 12/13/2019 | Report No: ESRSC00967
BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Project ID</th>
<th>Parent Project ID (if any)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>SOUTH ASIA</td>
<td>P170906</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Project Name: Agro-Water and Climate Resilience Project

Practice Area (Lead): Agriculture and Food

Financing Instrument: Investment Project Financing

Estimated Appraisal Date: 6/15/2020

Estimated Board Date: 8/26/2020

Borrower(s): Ministry of Finance

Implementing Agency(ies): Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock

B. Proposed Development Objective(s)

The Project Development Objective is to Improve Land and Water Productivity and Climate Resilience of Agricultural Systems in Selected Areas of Afghanistan.

Financing (in USD Million) Amount

| Total Project Cost | 100.00 |

C. 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 proposed Project will be an Investment Project Financing (IPF), funded by an IDA grant in the amount of US$20 million and a US$80 million contribution from the Afghanistan Reconstruction Thrust Fund (ARTF) over a five year period. It will follow an integrated landscape approach and focus on both irrigated and rain-fed farming systems while introducing improved and climate smart agriculture and water application practices and technologies. The project will build on and consolidate the successful gains of recent and on-going projects to expand the activities to more communities in priority areas of the country. These areas will be selected based on government’s strategic objectives, level of poverty and drought impact, and level of implementation readiness.
The Project will be organized around the following four components:

Component A: Support to Irrigated Agriculture Productivity. Will combine rehabilitation of irrigation schemes with provision of improved water saving technologies and production practices to increase on-farm water application efficiency, maximize yield and quality of products and allow crop diversification. This will lead to modernizing irrigation schemes, bringing currently fallow command areas, located mainly in the downstream of the selected irrigation schemes, under regulate production. Component A will build capacity of farmers and promoting best practices for on-farm water management, thereby building capacity to better address weather-related shocks and potential impacts of climate change.

Component B. Support for Dryland Farming and Watershed Management. This component will focus largely on building the resilience of communities in the water scarce areas to maintain and build their productive assets through a range of innovative and climate smart interventions. The key target group of the component are communities living in dryland or seasonally irrigated areas. The project will undertake in selected watersheds and rain-fed areas, a range of activities such as better rangeland planning and management, rain water harvesting, soil moisture control, supplementary irrigation systems through intermediate forms of water control (for example spate irrigation), and introduction of drought and heat resistant varieties of crops and grasses. It will be structured into three sub-components: (i) Watershed management planning to support technical assistance and community-based facilitation to design watershed management and dryland productivity plans following a landscape approach; (ii) Improved dryland farming and sustainable watershed management and adaptation to climate change. It aims at building capacity and supporting stakeholders within the target watershed to adopt sustainable land and water management practices and Climate Smart Technologies as determined and prioritized under subcomponent B1; and (iii) Support for Agro-Meteorology Services.

Component C: Access to Market. Will strengthen market linkages between producers and off-takers by supporting the establishment of producer organizations, including specific targeting of women groups, and linking them with input suppliers, regional and local buyers, and processing companies. It will support the diversification from staple crop production to higher-value crops, increasing farmers opportunity for income diversification and strengthening resilience to market and production shocks. It will follow a demand-driven approach, where a value chain diagnostic will identify the opportunities and constraints for promising commodity value chains and identify farmers’ constraints to participate in these value chains, as well as constraints along the enabling environment.

Component D: Implementation Management Support and Institutional Strengthening. This component will finance a need-based Project Management Unit (PMU), headed by a Project Director and staffed by national and some international staff. It will be established to execute the project and manage all components, including technical, procurement and financial management, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), communication functions. The PMU will include a core team in Kabul as well as decentralized units at the regional level. The PMU will work under the technical supervision of the relevant MAIL directorates. A high-level cross ministerial steering committee will be formed to provide necessary guidance, and strategic direction to the project and ensure coordination between the relevant ministries, and donors. This component will also support institutional strengthening and capacity development for the relevant departments in the Government.
D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1. Project location(s) and salient characteristics relevant to the ES assessment [geographic, environmental, social]

(1) Most of the subprojects exact locations, sites, features, size and other environmental and social characters will not be known by appraisal. However, the project will select one or more watersheds in each of the geographical regions of the country according to an appropriate selection criterion for its interventions. (2) Salient physical characteristics relevant to the ESS such as: geographical, social and environmental will be assessed once the areas are selected. Since the country has so many river-basins, watersheds, valleys, plains and flat lands and mountains with high, medium and low altitudes and thus there is much variation in the country climatic conditions, e.g., temperatures, precipitation that is why it is not easy to identify clear cut agroecological zones in Afghanistan and thus it is a challenge for concrete planning purposes. The information on population and social key aspects will be provided once the project areas are selected.

For the purpose of this Project, it is important to recognize that Afghanistan has forty-one (41) watersheds delineated within five river basins and five non-drainage areas. These watersheds include serval mini watershed and the project will work on selected mini watersheds in each of the geographical regions of the country according to an appropriate selection criterion for its interventions. The project will widely support the rehabilitation of traditional irrigation schemes and soil management structures in the watershed in the target areas. The project in addition to irrigation and On-farm Water Management, e.g., rehabilitation of existing canals, community based water harvesting structures, check dams, will have land and water management; in rainfed areas, hilly, rangelands, mountainous areas and forest protection and development in the watersheds selected by the project. The project will have land-management options that enhance carbon sequestration and, concurrently, prevent erosion and land degradation. Conservation agriculture, rain water harvesting, agroforestry (especially with indigenous trees), the use of cross-slope barriers, gully plugging and using checking dams together with plantation, integrated soil fertility management, integrated crop and livestock management, sustainable forest management, and improved irrigation design can all be employed to keep the right balance. When these strategies are effectively implemented, in combination or alone, they can help conserve water, enhance soil fertility, improve crop water-use efficiency, and boost rangeland health, while preventing the unintended negative consequences associated with dryland farming.

Building on On-Farm Water Management Project Works, Irrigation Associations will be established with the farmers benefiting from irrigation schemes to improve water governance, distribution and use while ensuring equal opportunity for the water users in the project target areas. To mitigate risks of social exclusion and conflicts among project beneficiaries, the project will be designed through community participatory approach and a functional Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) will be established. The representative from IAs, Water User Associations (WUAs), Community Development Council (CDC) and other representatives from the local community would be part of the GRCs at the sub-project level. The GRM manual will include the protocol, procedures and the ToRs of the GRCs, which will clearly outline GRCs responsibility to respond to project related complaints.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

MAIL has been implementing four World Bank and ARTF funded projects, (NHLP, OFWMP, SGR and AAIP) and thus has some experience with the World Bank previous environmental and social safeguards Policies implementation with the help of Safeguards Focal Officers. The Bank has trained the current Environmental and Social Management Focal Officers (preparation and implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), PMPs) for different relevant projects implemented by MAIL and both funded by WB and ARTF. However, they are not familiar with the ESF.

MAIL is still lacking an environmental and social unit with skilled staff within the ministry. The PMU implementing the project will also have an Environmental Specialist and one Social Development specialist. The client will conduct an
in-depth capacity assessment during the preparation of the ESMF that will provide more information on the borrower’s institutional capacity and clarify roles and responsibilities on environment and social risks and impacts management. The ESMF will also identify the capacity building gap and capacity building plan proposed by appraisal. MAIL will establish an Environment and Social Management Unit lead by a senior staff reporting to a Deputy Minister and will be coordinating the work of the different PIUs Environmental and Social Focal Officers in cooperation with PIU Directors and MAIL Directorates. So far the PIU Safeguard Focal officers are junior staff and never or very rarely attend Ministry meeting and thus Ministries are not well informed on the Social and Environmental agenda and is mostly seen as Bank requirements. Establishing such a unit has been accepted by the Standards Operation Procedure (SOP) agreed upon by the WB Country CMU and the Ministry of Finance to strengthen the institutional and implementation arrangements for the Environmental and Social management concerns in the projects.

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC) Substantial

Environmental Risk Rating Substantial

The team studied the relevant government papers, e.g., Agriculture Development Framework, National Natural Resources Management Strategy and other relevant Bank documents of previous projects as well as of this project. The project will have positive impacts if the integrated landscape management approach is properly applied as it will create greater awareness about a balance approach between conservation and development, biodiversity and ecosystem services conservation and will pave the way to a dialogue on sustainable development in the country. However, there is a risk if the integrated landscape management approach is not properly applied and rather be mainly a sectoral approach.

Despite the environmentally positive design objectives, and the fact that the adverse risks and impacts be expected to be preliminarily considered not significant or readily mitigable, the project risk is suggested to be substantial due to (i) Project might have subprojects and activities in some sensitive areas from the environmental standpoint and in areas where armed conflict will be ongoing; (ii) the civil works and the small scale irrigation infrastructure and possibly some office buildings to be built; (iii) the complexity of Project design, involving many different stakeholders (MAIL Departments, NEPA, MEW, MRRD, ANDMA, NGOs, Communities and etc.) engaged in the planning and implementation in multiple sites of different activities of different nature (e.g. analytical work, regulatory processes and other types of technical assistance; physical investments; set up of financial incentives; etc.); which makes difficult to assess the environmental risks and impacts and to monitor the implementation of measures to minimize adverse impacts in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy; (iv) the weak enforcement capacity in the country. Also, the physical investment in irrigation infrastructure and etc., e.g., diversion structures, canal lining, water distributors and etc. that might have impacts on the downstream flow, aquatic life and others and can cause tensions among upstream and downstream water users. The project might instigate the use of agrochemicals and if used excessively and not managed properly with the help of IPM approach then the pesticide residues will find way to Afghanistan agriculture products, harming human health and the local environment as well as can ruin the reputation of Afghanistan agriculture products in the international markets because of the potential existence of such residues.

Therefore; the project will prepare a Pest Management Plan (PMP) and IPM approach is needed to be adopted. The risk here is the country Pesticide Regulation is still pending and waiting to be passed by the government. In the absence of this regulation the Pesticide Law of Afghanistan and any Pest Management Plan (PMP) will not be very
effective as no legislation will work properly if not followed by a relevant regulation. Climate change and drought, dry land garniture, overgrazing and etc. would cause land degradation and reduce land productivity. The dry land agriculture is fragmenting the already fragile ecosystems and cause further land degradations because of plowing especially if the plowing is done against the contour line, mostly happening in sloping lands. The other risk is that during Improving land vegetative cover, land stabilization it is required to use combination structural and plantation measurements. Then the risk is to introduce any invasive species not endemic to the local area.

Social Risk Rating

Overall, the project is expected to promote socio-economic benefits for the country and extend opportunities for transformation to the wider rural population through improved agriculture land and water productivity in agriculture sector. The project activities are not expected to cause resettlement impacts; however, the proposed interventions will cause land acquisition impacts as result of infrastructure activities such as irrigation schemes, small check dams and small reservoirs. These community-based water harvest structures would provide water for few hectors of land and in this regards the land donation and community contribution approach will be followed. In cases of land donation, the project will ensure that: a) no land donation is done under coercion and pressure; b) donated land is not more than 10% of total asset of the donor and; c) the donor legally transfer the land to the project. Aside from this, the project activities may also cause the following social impacts: (i) the activities are expected to cause site-specific disputes over water distribution among the water users. Such disputes could be mitigated through well-established dispute resolution system already being practiced by Irrigation Associations (IAs) and Mirabs (Water Masters) who have been well trained under the current OFWMP and IRDP projects; therefore, the IAs have the experience to resolve such disputes at project sites; (ii) Possible Gender Based Violence (GBV) risks, (iii) labor influx risk as some of the supported activities may rely on hiring labors from outside the project' area of influence; (iv) capacity constraints of the client to develop and implement the E&S instruments under the new ESF. Therefore, considering the above social risks and impacts, the overall Social Risk Rating of the project is 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:

This standard is relevant as proposed activities under Component A, include rehabilitation of irrigation schemes which will be combined with improved water saving technologies. Thus, there will be civil works and will have positive and some adverse environmental impacts that could be mitigated with implementation of relevant mitigation measures. The activities under Component B on Support for Dry-Land Farming and Watershed Management will cause potential downstream impacts related to the technical assistance activities; Also, the physical investment in irrigation rehabilitation infrastructures under the Component A and etc., e.g., distribution structures, canal lining, , check dams, gully plugging and etc. could have potential adverse impacts on the downstream flow, aquatic life and others and can cause tensions among upstream and downstream water users. When and if such
issues emerge the Project relevant mechanisms and measures considered in the ESMF and the country traditional Water Master (Merab) system and the project social mobilizers will solve such disputes as has been the case in the current OFWMP as well as in IRDP projects and there is a well-established dispute resolution system practiced by most of the communities in Afghanistan. The NGOs and the WB funded projects have added value to this system and provided many trainings and now it is working well.

The overall all potential environmental risks and impacts could be: (i) The lack of enforcement capacity in the country, (ii) the Project complexity of Project design, involving many different stakeholders (MAIL Departments, NEPA, MEW, MRRD, ANDMA, NGOs, Communities and etc.) engaged in the planning and implementation in multiple sites of different activities of different nature (e.g. analytical work, regulatory processes and other types of technical assistance; physical investments; set up of financial incentives; etc.); which makes difficult to assess the environmental risks and impacts and to monitor the implementation of measures to minimize adverse impacts in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy; (iii) subprojects might be some sensitive areas from the environmental standpoint and in areas where armed conflict will be ongoing; (iv) the civil works and the small scale irrigation infrastructure and possibly some office buildings to be built, (iv) The project might instigate the use of agrochemicals and if used excessively and not managed properly with the help of IPM approach then the pesticide residues will find way to Afghanistan agriculture products, harming human health and the local environment as well as can ruin the reputation of Afghanistan agriculture products in the international markets because of the potential existence of such residues. Therefore; the project will prepare a Pest Management Plan (PMP) and IPM approach is needed to be adopted. The risk here is the country Pesticide Regulation is still pending and waiting to be passed by the government. In the absence of this regulation the Pesticide Law of Afghanistan will not be very effective as no legislation will work properly if not followed by a relevant regulation, (v) Climate change and drought, dry land garniture, overgrazing and etc. would cause land degradation and reduce land productivity. In order to reduce vulnerability to the foreseen impacts, the project will have land-management options that enhance carbon sequestration and, concurrently, prevent erosion and land degradation. The dry land agriculture is fragmenting the already fragile ecosystems and cause further land degradations because of plowing especially if the plowing is done against the contour line, mostly happening in sloping lands, (vi) The other risk is that during Improving land vegetative cover, land stabilization it is required to use combination structural and plantation measurements. Then the risk is to introduce any invasive species not endemic to the local area. Invasive species can cause great harm to the sustainable use of land, water and plants, (vii) The project will have positive impacts if the integrated landscape management approach that the project is adopting is properly applied as it will create greater awareness about a balance approach between conservation and development, biodiversity and ecosystem services conservation and will pave the way to a dialogue on sustainable development in the country. However, there is a risk if the integrated landscape management approach is not properly applied and rather be mainly a sectoral approach,

Other potential risks and impacts are (i) the eventual restrictions to the use of natural resources by local stakeholders; (ii) the lack of full respect to the rights of locals and Kuchies (Nomads) and other vulnerable stakeholders (e.g. in relation to the declaration of differed grazing areas, or during the formulation of their management plans); (iii) the use of resources, the generation of wastes and pollution and the health and safety issues affecting the Project workers and nearby communities (e.g. during the construction of small infrastructure for irrigation water management); (iv) the exacerbation of local conflicts (e.g. during the implementation of outreach activities).

The overall adverse social impacts of the project are not likely to be significant as the expected impact would be site-specific, without likelihood of impacts beyond the actual footprint of the Project.
The project activities may cause the following social impacts: (i) barriers of targeted vulnerable group to participate in project activities and access its benefits; (ii) site-specific disputes and conflicts over land and water resources among the water users; (ii) risks or impacts associated with land and natural resource tenure and use; (iii) barriers to develop an inclusive and culturally adequate stakeholder engagement strategy, and possible GBV risks.

In order to manage the environmental and social risks, the client will prepare an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) which will include TORs for ESIA, ESMPs (with relevant plans) prior to project appraisal. The required E&S instruments will be clearly outlined in the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) which will be also prepared prior to project appraisal. The ESMF, TORs and ESCP will be subject to meaningful consultation and the WB clearance. These documents will also be disclosed in-country on MAIL website and in the WB website by appraisal. Other E&S plans when needed will be prepared during the implementation stage. It is obvious that, in addition to reviewing general TORs for ESIAAs and ESMPs prior to Appraisal, the WB will also review the actual ESIAAs/ESMPs prepared during project implementation (if the quality is consistently good, the Bank can shift from prior review to selective post-review of these documents).

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

Use of borrower’s framework is not being considered for this project. The project will comply with the Bank’s new Environmental and Social Framework and its Environmental and Social Standards, as well as with the applicable WBG EHSGs. The Project, however, is also subject to the national and local permits and clearances as per the existing legal-institutional framework. The exact requirements to obtain such permits and clearances will be recorded in the ESCP.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

The project will design a detailed stakeholder engagement plan (SEP), information sharing mechanism and the Project Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) which will be disclosed and consulted with key stakeholders from the project preparation throughout implementation. These instruments will have to be tailored for the local peoples and Kuchies (Nomads) that will aim to design culturally appropriate processes that are respectful to their traditional mechanisms. Consultation activities will be held with project affected and interested parties in locations that will be identified in consultation with the communities and the local authorities. Other relevant stakeholders will include, the Project’s Steering and Technical Advisory Committees, production unions and cooperatives (e.g. cattle, rice, forestry, etc.) and protected areas’ sponsors and managers, representatives from departments and municipalities, Kuchies representatives’, Mirabs, Water Associations, Irrigation Associations, Provincial Department of Energy and Water, NEPA, and Balkh university, Community Development Councils (CDCs) NGOs, local communities, media, etc. The SEP will also include how engage with vulnerable and disadvantages sections of the population in the project area. The vulnerable and disadvantaged stakeholders such as landless, IDPs, ethnic minority and etc will be further identified during the project preparation and the specific measures for their participation in consultation process will be addressed in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. The project will include measures to strengthen the social accountability, citizen engagement and customer responsiveness. This will include: (i) effective consultations, (ii) establishing a functional grievance redress mechanism (GRM), (iii) and establishing a substantive interaction between beneficiaries and the government on issues of project design and choice of options. The project will include Citizen Engagement Indicators in the project documents. During the implementation stage, it is envisioned that the client will carry out beneficiary satisfaction surveys in the selected sites to evaluate public satisfaction through phone surveys,
workshops, and community score cards. The SEP with consultation strategy will be prepared, consulted and disclosed by appraisal. The SEP will address timing and methodologies for meaningful and participatory consultations, including arrangements for information disclosure to all stakeholders. The SEP is a living document which will be updated throughout the project cycle.

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

Assessment of risks will also include Occupational Health and Safety risks, labor and working conditions - particularly those related with child and adolescent labor in productive activities, disability constraints and special needs of gender and age per each of the foreseen activities as well as on (OHS) measures. Additionally, in Project management, communications, monitoring and implementation arrangements there are some labor management related risks, such as the potential discrimination and the occupational health and safety issues affecting the workers of the executing agency or PMU; contracted workers and primary supply workers; as well as community workers (those might be involved in the restoration of ecosystems), in the implementation of activities related to the sectoral production-conservation plans among others. In accordance with the requirements of ESS2, MAIL will commit (through the ESCP) to develop Labor Management Procedures (LMP) applicable to the entire project before appraisal. According to project LMP, LM plans will be prepared by the contactors through C-ESMP and the preparation of LM plans through C-ESMP will be indicated in the bid documents. Child labor will be prevented in consistent with the requirements of ESS2 during the life of the project in project areas and activities. Particularly, during construction, the project will involve civil works activities which will pose additional safety issues for the laborers as relevant to the context. The LMP to be prepared by appraisal will cover all types of labor (i.e. direct, contracted, primary supply, community workers and migrant workers). The labor management procedures will also include GRM for workers so that they have an official way to communicate complaints or other issues to the management.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Since the project will be national in scope and in each region will select at least one watershed and the water is a scarce resource and a limiting factor for agriculture production in most part of Afghanistan because there is very little water storage and management capacity in the country therefore more and more efforts will be undertaken in managing water and increasing its conveyance and application efficiencies and to protect its quality. The ESS3 is relevant as the proposed activities are expected to cause; (i) the potential increase in the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides to increase agriculture production; as well as (ii) other risks and impacts related to other eventual physical investments to support the piloting of Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) approaches in crop production, forestry and livestock and rangeland management, producing various ways of energy production including biogas, solar panels, wind turbine and other aspects of integrated landscape management approach; (iii) the unsustainable use of living natural resources (e.g. as a consequence of the implementation of a fishery management with the help of fish ponds; or as an undesired downstream effect of the formulation of management plans for the use of priority
species and the definition of conservation guidelines for hydro-biological resources); regarding pollution, within the framework of “conservation plans for resilience opportunities will be explored for reduction of agricultural discharge to surface water through runoff of pesticides, fertilizers and manure, or leaching of nitrogen into groundwater. As the project will contribute to water use efficiency the farmers might increase use of fertilizers and pesticides, the ESMF will define institutional responsibilities and guide IPM and preparation of management plans at the level of each “Watershed Level or Agro-ecological Level” as needed, including enough budget. Minimizing GHG emissions will be considered at “sectoral production-conservation plans for connectivity and resilience” level, and (iv) the Project will assess and develop site specific watershed management plans following a holistic approach. The project ESMF will also provide relevant appropriate specific guidance for preparation of Pest Management Plan for the project.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety
The ESS4 is relevant as the proposed activities are expected to cause labor influx risk –The ESMF to be prepared by appraisal will include assessment of labor influx risks with appropriate mitigation measures. The ESMF will also include labor influx risk mitigation plan. The ESMF will include identification of necessary measures to improve community health and safety in financed “sectoral production-conservation plans for connectivity and resilience” and define mechanisms to monitor their implementation. Due consideration will be given to promotion of and training on IPM to secure prevention of negative health impacts among producers, their families and the adjacent communities. The Project expected impacts on provisioning and regulating ecosystem services are expected to be positive, as the Project activities are designed to support environmentally friendly landscape and species management through planning and capacity building for the relevant stakeholders including but not limited to NRM, Livestock and Irrigation Directorates of MAIL as well as NEPA. The infrastructure to be built to improve water use efficiency, e.g., diversion structures and etc. will be considering community safety and security, water distribution and the local water rights and allocation and arrangements not to damage downstream aquatic life and farming communities in consultation with WUA/Irrigation Water User Association and Mirabs when relevant. Adequate safety training and safety gears will be provided for workers by the relevant contractors with whom they are working with. The concern related to Security personnel, road safety will be assessed during the project preparation, relevant guidelines will be prepared the ESMF and site specific mitigation measures by the EMSPs. Though the project might not build large scale reservoir and dams to worry about their safety but the project ESMF will discuss and mention relevant precautions about climate change impacts on the local hydrology, rivers, springs and Karizes (under ground water channel) and the relevant adaptation measures, e.g., water saving, drought resistant varieties of crops and etc. as well as about possible landslides, earthquakes and other hazards according to the history and geophysics of the area and propose relevant mitigation measures to be strengthened by the later on actual Environment and Social Assessment documents for the subprojects to be selected during implementation.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement
The ESS5 is relevant as the project activities are expected to involve minor land acquisition impacts for irrigation schemes, small check dams and small reservoirs. Since the exact location and details of all activities are not expected to be known by appraisal, therefore, a framework approach will be followed. The client will develop a stand-alone Resettlement Framework (RF) by appraisal. The RF will include comparative analysis between the relevant national framework and the WB ESS5. The RF will also include the procedures and approaches for land acquisition/land donation, community contribution and related impacts under various phases of the project and will provide guidance
for preparation of Resettlement Plans (RP), if required. In cases of land donation, the project will ensure that: a) no land donation is done under coercion and pressure; b) donated land is not more than 10% of total asset of the donor and; c) the donor legally transfer the land for investment under the Project. The land donation criteria and steps will be clearly reflected in the RF which will be reviewed and cleared by the World Bank. The RF will cover the potential temporary and permanent impact on such land and assets and propose appropriate mitigation measures. The client will also conduct meaningful and participatory stakeholder consultations in the project areas to prepare such instruments. The RF will be reviewed/cleared by the Bank and publicly disclosed in English and local languages before project appraisal.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

This standard is relevant as the project intends to promote the sustainable management of land, water and plants including rangeland and forests, fisheries (fish ponds quite common now in Afghanistan), medicinal plants and other resources under Component B and its subcomponents. The ESMF will provide check lists and guidelines to be considered by site and watershed specific Environmental and Social Assessment instruments to be used later on during implementation to ensure biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources in the focused areas and watersheds. The ESMF will prepare generic ToRs for all potential Assessment tools, e.g., ESIAs, PMPs, and will ensure avoiding, minimizing and mitigating adverse impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems by using relevant formats of Biodiversity Action Plans (BAP) to be applied during preparation of site specific assessments and mitigation plan preparation as well as negative lists to avoid any sensitive sites outside the scope of this project and etc. Since this project is applying Landscape and watershed approaches, improving grazing land then there might be a need to discuss livestock issues and thus animal welfare or supply chain issues would also be discussed and relevant guidelines would be prepared for by the ESMF. Since the overall all project risk is substantial and not high; therefore, the Project will not implement any activity that may have potential adverse impact on critical habitats when identified during the assessment later on during selection of sites and implementation. During the preparation of the ESMF and the management plan, a meaningful consultation process will be conducted with the key stakeholders.

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

This standard is not relevant as there are no Indigenous People and Nomads who meet the criteria of ESS7 in the country that could potentially benefit or be adversely affected by the Project’s activities. The Afghan nomads cannot meet all four criteria outlined in the ESS7. Therefore, they could not be considered as IP, but they are one of the most deprived and vulnerable groups in terms of access to social services, standard of living, access to job and employment, etc. The nomadic people as vulnerable peoples will be covered in ESS1.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

Currently there is no indication of potential impacts on cultural heritage. However, this will be thoroughly assessed as part of the ESIA process for all specific investments, covering both “man-made” cultural or archaeological resources
as well as any natural features (such as water bodies) which may hold intangible cultural or religious value to local communities. If potential impacts on cultural heritage near or on any project sites are identified, cultural heritage plan(s) will be developed in accordance with this standard and national law, including chance find procedures. The ESMF for AWCRP will include guidelines for Chance Find Procedures according to national law, which will be followed. The ESMF will also include TOR for Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) which will be used in case if any site is determined to involve cultural heritage impacts.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries
Not Relevant. The government agency (MAIL) are responsible for the project design, implementation, supervision and monitoring; therefore, this standard is not applicable.

### C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

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<th>OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways</th>
<th>Yes</th>
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<td>Some of the existing canal rehabilitation work will take place in international river basins that cover most of the country. The Project does not plan development of new irrigation canals or a significant expansion in irrigated area. Therefore, an exemption to the notification requirement will be sought.</td>
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<th>OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas</th>
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### III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

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<th>A. Is a common approach being considered?</th>
<th>No</th>
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#### Financing Partners
No Financing Partner

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

**Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:**
Prior to appraisal, the borrower will prepare, consult and disclose the following:
- ESCP
- SEP
- LMP
- ESMF with TOR for ESIA and ESMP
- Resettlement Framework

**Possible issues to be addressed in the Borrower Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP):**
The ESCP will reference a number of different E&S documents to be developed and implemented during the course of the project operations. These include:
- Full implementation of site specific ESMPs (and RPs and any other site-specific plans)
C. Timing
Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS 15-Jun-2020

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank
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Borrower/Client/Recipient
Borrower: Ministry of Finance

Implementing Agency(ies)
Implementing Agency: Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock

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Safeguards Advisor ESSA  Charles Ankiisiba (SAESSA) Cleared on 13-Dec-2019 at 11:40:35 EST