Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

Executive Summary

For

The Irrigation Restoration and Development Project Additional Financing (IRDP-AF)

January 25, 2016

Project Coordination Unit
Ministry of Energy and Water
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Executive Summary

1. **Project and Background:** The Government of Afghanistan (GoA) through the Ministry of Energy and Water (MEW) is implementing the Irrigation Restoration and Development Project (IRDP) with assistance from the World Bank (WB). The project became effective on June 15, 2011, and the current closing date is December 31, 2017. The IRDP will be restructured with the additional financing of US$70 million in June 2016 with an extension of the closing date to December 31, 2019. Accordingly, this Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) replaces the original ESMF dated January 5, 2011 reflecting the new activities planned under the proposed restructuring and additional financing of the IRDP (IRDP-AF or AF). With the restructuring, project development objective of the IRDP-AF has been revised as follows:

   “to improve access to irrigation in targeted areas, strengthen the capacity to plan and manage dams more safely, and to plan and implement water resources management and development at the basin-level and nationally”.

2. **Project components:** The IRDP-AF activities will be carried out through the following 4 components: (a) Component A. – Rehabilitation of Irrigation Systems and River Bank Protection (Original: US$70 million, Proposed: US$128 million), (b) Component B. – Support for Dam Development, Operation and Maintenance. (Original: US$31.3 million, Proposed: US$21.3 million), (c) Component C - Water Resources Management and Development (Original: US$8.2 million, Proposed: US$30.2 million) comprising the following two subcomponents: (i) Improvement of Hydromet Services and WRM (USD 23.2 million), and (ii) Support for Developing Legal and Institutional Framework for WRM and Strengthening River Basin Planning (USD 7.0 million), and (d) Component D. – Project Management and Capacity Building (Original: US$39.2 million, no change).

3. **Potential environmental and social impacts of the Project under IRDP-AF:** The original project is classified as Category A, primarily because of the planned construction of the dams under Component B; proposed restructuring and IRDP-AF will formally drop the construction of the new dams, and focus on the completion of the preparation works, including environmental and social impacts assessments and detailed design. In addition, the proposed restructuring and IRDP-AF will support the following physical investments: (a) continued rehabilitation works for priority irrigation schemes (Component A), (b) river erosion works (Component A), (c) minor repair works for selected existing dams (Component B), and (d) repair and establishment of hydromet data collection stations. It should be noted that these physical investments are in general of small scale and would be considered to belong to Category B. The Category A was maintained because of the continued engagement for preparation for the new dams.

4. In this sense, overall environmental and social impacts of the IRDP-AF will be positive while some minor investment-specific negative impacts may be incurred. In particular, rehabilitation works for irrigation schemes (Component A) will lead to the increase in agriculture production and subsequent increase in income in direct stakeholders. Further, the rehabilitation works will benefit environmentally as they will increase efficiency and effectiveness of water services. Erosion protection works at river banks will improve land and slope stability of the rivers in the target areas and reduce turbidity of the rivers as well as protect the livelihood of the concerned stakeholders. Completion of the remedials works in selected dams (Component B) will
strengthen stability and safety of the target dams and reduce the risk of ultimate dam failure which would cause catastrophic damages to the population.

5. On the negative side, rehabilitation works for the irrigation schemes and river bank protection may require some land appropriation, including the temporary occupancy of the working spaces. However, such negative impacts will be moderate, localized, temporary, and can be mitigated through the application of an Environmental Codes of Practice (ECOP) which will be incorporated into bidding and contract documents with close supervision and monitoring. Minor land acquisition may be required for rehabilitation of irrigation canals and river bank erosion protection works (Component A) and in such cases, the investments will be implemented in line with the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF). Consultations with various stakeholders, including vulnerable groups, especially women, will continue to be prioritised to mitigate potential impacts of project activities. Information disclosure, Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) systems have been established to ensure effective implementation of these measures.

6. One of the lessons learned from the implementation of the original project is the need for strengthen the safeguards management. This is particularly the case for the new dams proposed under the original project. As part of the restructuring associated with the IRDP AF, Component B will be restructured to drop the physical construction of the new dams but strengthen the technical assistance, emphasizing the environmental and social impact assessments for the new dams in order to ensure full compliance with the World Bank Safeguards Policy.

7. **World Bank’s safeguard policy and national environmental regulations:** Similar to the original project, the IRDP-AF is categorized as EA category “A”. The following six World Bank (WB) safeguard policies are triggered: Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01), Pest Management (OP/BP 4.09), Physical Cultural Resources (OP/BP 4.11), Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12), Dam Safety (OP/BP 4.13), and Projects on International Waterways (OP/BP 7.50). The IDRP-AF is also required to comply with the national EIA regulation (2008) and provide adequate information to the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA).

8. **The ESMF:** Since the extent and location of all investments are not known at appraisal the IRDP-AF is required to prepare an Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) in line with the WB’s safeguards policies. This ESMF updates the ESMF of the original project taking into account implementation experience to date and the activities proposed to be carried out under the AF. The revised ESMF updates guidelines and procedures set out in the ESMF of the original project and introduce specific guidelines on application of ECOP, dam safety and pest management. This revised ESMF builds on gains in the original project and mainstreams environmental and social measures into overall project planning, implementation, reporting and evaluation, and provides guidance for the preparation of Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) and Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) for individual investments under the IRDP-AF.

9. Given different types of investments being implemented under different components of the IRDP–AF, the ESMF presents a similarly structured and aligned approach in terms of the

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1 Pest Management (OP/BP 4.09) was not triggered under the original project, but should have been triggered because of the irrigation rehabilitation works.
compliance requirements for each component. For Component A, the ESMF requires the preparation of Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP’s), including the application of ECOPs for the each irrigation schemes and the river bank protection works. For Component B, for the technical assistance and studies for the priority new Dams, the ESMF requires preparation of all of the requisite plans for compliance with World Bank safeguards policies, including the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA), Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) and Dam Safety Plans (DSPs) and this ESMF contains the TORs for ESIA and Resettlement Action Framework (RAF) and TORs for DSPs. For safety repair works on the existing Dams preparation of ESMPs and ECOPs for each identified dam site are required once the dams are identified. For Component C, a simple and easy to apply ECOP is required for all minor civil works under Components C and D. Table 5.2 in the main text summaries ESMF approach for actions to ensure environmental, social and dam safety compliance requirements for each component and activity.

10. **Stakeholder Consultations and Information Disclosure:** This will continue to be central to ESMF processes throughout the IRDP-AF to ensure effectiveness and transparency of the ESMF implementation. A communications strategy and plan will be developed to help increase the overall effectiveness of the project.

11. **Institutional Arrangements:** The Head of the Program Coordination Unit (PCU) at the MEW will be responsible for ensuring effective implementation and compliance with the ESMF requirements. The FAO technical assistance team will continue to support national and regional safeguards staff to develop Environmental and Social Monitoring Plans (ESMPs) and monitor their implementation as well as ensure compliance with other ESMF safeguards requirements.

12. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Project safeguards staff together with local communities and local government staff will continue to be responsible for monitoring that the mitigation measures proposed in ESMPs are both adequate and implemented satisfactorily. Quarterly reports will be submitted to the PCU management. An External Monitoring Agent (EMA) will be appointed to conduct regular third party monitoring and compliance assessments.

13. **Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM):** To address complaints related to project activities and ensure transparency and accountability of the ESMF process; the existing GRM will be strengthened. Safeguards staff will be responsible for ensuring that affected communities have a full understanding of the GRM, and ways to access it. GRC members will be trained to enhance their capacity to resolve disputes at local level. Information on how to access to WB’s corporate Grievance Redresses Service (GRS) is also provided.

14. **Budget:** The ESMF outlines an indicative budget of approximately US$1.6 million to ensure effective implementation of the ESMF. The detailed activity would be specified in the investment-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs). All cost to implement the ESMF and ESMPs will be financed by the project.

15. **The ESMF Consultations and Disclosure:** The ESMF was consulted in the project regions as follows: (a) Mazar on December 27, 2015, (b) Jalalabad on December 30, 2015, (c) Kandahar on January 3, 2016, (d) Herat on January 7, 2016, and (e) Kabul on January 9, 2016 to confirm broad support for the proposed additional financing project of the target communities and deepen the understanding on the environmental and social safeguards procedures, including the GRM. Outcome of the consultation has been incorporated into the final version of the revised ESMF, and the minutes of these consultations are attached as Annex 9.
16. The ESMF also contains 10 annexes that have the various screening and processing documents, for e.g., the Pest Management Framework (PMF), the ECOPs, TORs, and the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) (see Table 5.1).