

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

Report No.: PIDISDSA21003

Date Prepared/Updated: 22-Feb-2017

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Argentina	Project ID:	P162712
		Parent Project ID (if any):	P125151
Project Name:	PLAN BELGRANO WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION PROJECT AF (P162712)		
Parent Project Name:	AR Second Norte Grande Water Infrastructure (P125151)		
Region:	LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	14-Feb-2017	Estimated Board Date:	24-Mar-2017
Practice Area (Lead):	Water	Lending Instrument:	Investment Project Financing
Borrower(s):	Ministry of Finance		
Implementing Agency:	Unidad Ejecutora de Programas Hidricos - Plan Belgrano		
Financing (in USD Million)			
Financing Source			Amount
Borrower			25.00
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development			125.00
Total Project Cost			150.00
Environmental Category:	A - Full Assessment		
Appraisal Review Decision (from Decision Note):			
Other Decision:			
Is this a Repeater project?	No		

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

Despite recent progress, access to water supply and sanitation (WSS) services in Argentina remains low. Between 1991 and 2015, access to water supply increased from 77.3 percent to 84.4 percent and sanitation services from 34.3 percent to 54.2 percent, respectively. Limited access to water and sanitation services is associated with 16 million to 19 million cases of diarrheal disease annually.

Access to WSS services also shows regional inequalities. Most of the population with NBI that lacks access to WSS services are concentrated in the country's northern provinces of Catamarca, Chaco, Corrientes, Formosa, Jujuy, La Rioja, Misiones, Salta, Santiago del Estero, and Tucuman. Although important efforts have been made to increase access to WSS services in these provinces over the past few years through a series of programs supported by the World Bank and regional development banks, more remains to be done to further reduce the access gap and increase the sustainability of water and wastewater services in these areas.

The proposed Additional Financing (AF) has been designed to scale up the Argentina Second Norte Grande Water Infrastructure Project (P125151) to support the GoA Flagship Plan Belgrano and the implementation of the National Water Supply and Sanitation Plan (NWSP), both launched in 2016 by the new administration. The Project aims at addressing infrastructure gaps in the Northern provinces of the country as well as sustainability issues in order to generate long-lasting performance improvements in the WSS sector. The proposed AF will finance the scaling up of infrastructure and institutional and operational strengthening activities of the same nature as those of the original Project.

Sectoral and institutional Context

The proposed AF would also support the implementation of the NWSP, which has established very ambitious targets of providing universal access to water and 75 percent access to wastewater services for those living in urban areas by the end of 2019. These targets translate into providing access to water to 8.2 million people and access to wastewater services to 8.9 million people. The level of investments to achieve the targets set by the NWSP is estimated at US\$22 billion. The NWSP also sets an important policy change in the sector, by focusing on improving the efficiency and quality of service provision in a sustainable manner.

In addition to providing support to increase access to water and wastewater services, the proposed AF would support the newly created National Directorate of Water and Sanitation (NDWS) under the Under Secretariat of Water Resources that has as key objectives to improve sector governance, as well as efficiency and sustainability of water and sanitation services. The proposed AF would support NDWS to: (i) provide guidance and technical assistance to provincial governments and water service providers to prepare Management and Results Plans (MRPs) and to provincial regulators to establish new tariffs structure and subsidies schemes; (ii) develop a sector information system (SIS); (iii) promote best practices for improving the quality and efficiency of the provision of services; and (iv) strengthen provincial and municipal sector institutions, particularly the provincial regulatory agencies.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Original Project Development Objective(s) - Parent

The Project Development Objective is to increase sustainable access to sanitation and water supply services in the Norte Grande region of Argentina, by providing investments in infrastructure and supporting institutional development.

Proposed Project Development Objective(s) - Additional Financing

The proposed new Project Development Objectives are to increase access to water supply and sanitation services and to improve the operational and financial performance of the water supply and sanitation service providers in the project area.

Key Results

With the AF, the Project would increase the number of direct beneficiary to 450.000 people with access to improved water and sanitation services compared to about 282,500 people under the original loan. The total number of direct beneficiaries represent 30 percent of the population of the Plan Belgrano provinces currently without access to adequate water and sanitation services. The Project would also improve the operational and financial performance of the WSS service providers in the provinces that form part of Plan Belgrano, with at least five service providers are expected to achieve 90 percent coverage of Operation and Maintenance (O&M) costs by the end of the Project implementation period.

D. Project Description

Strengthening the provision of WSS services in the northern provinces of Argentina is a key priority of the current Administration. The Administration sees the AF as a key instrument to: (i) rebalance investments across the provinces of Plan Belgrano provinces and (ii) scale up the project interventions to increase financial and operational sustainability of the WSS providers in the Plan Belgrano provinces. The Government's National Water and Sanitation Plan (NWSP), adopted on February 15, 2016, provides a more conducive sector policy environment for the Project, on which the AF would capitalize by increasing the focus of the Project on the promotion of the sustainability of WSS service providers.

The AF would scale-up the activities of the original three components, with no changes to the overall project design. Similarly to the original Project, the AF has been designed as a framework project. While there is a tentative list of pre-identified WSS infrastructure and institutional and operational development sub-projects, decisions about sub-projects to be financed would be made during the implementation, based on clear eligibility criteria (for the list of pre-identified sub-projects refer to Annex 3). The AF is expected to improve the Project coverage of the Plan Belgrano provinces by financing additional activities particularly in provinces that were underrepresented under the original loan.

Component Name

Water Supply and Sanitation Infrastructure

Comments (optional)

Component 1 of the AF would finance additional infrastructure in the Plan Belgrano provinces of the similar to those that have been so far successfully implemented by the Project, mostly in the Province of Chaco, to support part of the ambitious investment program of the Government, such as the construction, rehabilitation and expansion of water and sanitation networks in several provinces and the construction of water and waste water treatment plants.

Component Name

Institutional and Operational Development and Technical Assistance

Comments (optional)

Component 2 of the AF would finance additional activities to improve operational, commercial, and technical capacities of the WSS with a focus on increasing the sustainability of investments. Additional activities financed would aim to increase macro- and micro-metering; reduce non-revenue water; and improve WSS services provided to poor and dispersed communities. The AF would increase the relative weight of this kind of activities, which represent 37.6 percent of the AF loan proceeds compared to 7.5 percent for the original loan.

Component Name

Project Management and Supervision

Comments (optional)

Component 3 of the AF would finance the additional coordination activities needed throughout the proposed longer implementation period. The AF will also finance the additional technical studies needed to support the preparation of the new subprojects to be financed, as well as independent technical, environmental, and social supervision of sub-projects during implementation.

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

The Project is expected to finance a series of sub-projects to expand existing networks to provide access water and sanitation that will be selected during implementation through a set of eligibility criteria, in an area comprised by ten northern Argentine provinces (La Rioja, Catamarca, Tucumán, Salta, Jujuy, Santiago del Estero, Chaco, Formosa, Corrientes, and Misiones). This region covers about 760.000 km², has a population of around 7 million people, and represents about 11 percent of the National GDP. It spans a wide topographic and climatic range, from high altitude areas in the Andes mountain range, through to the low lying floodplains of the second largest river basin in South America (the Parana river basin) and its tributaries; from lush tropical rainforests, through to salty deserts (including some endorheic and arheic basins). Parts of the Project area (the Andean provinces, to the West) are subject to seismicity. The Project area involves six eco-regions, for which there is baseline information available on the location of critical natural habitats, such as terrestrial protected areas. Three of them have been subject to comprehensive eco-regional planning exercises, to identify biodiversity conservation priorities. They also comprise the largest share of natural forests in Argentina, for which the National Forest Law (#26331) promoted the mapping, and put in place a system to oversee any land use change plans that might involve deforestation. However, when it comes to the freshwater ecosystems, the scientific knowledge is considerably less and the legal framework for their management and protection is considerably weaker. The development of a wetlands inventory was announced by mid-2016 and is expected to be concluded in three years. The West of the Project area span many different archaeological sites (such as the Ruinas de los Quilmes, Pucara de Tilcara, Pucara de Andalgalá, Shinkal de Londres, and Ruinas de Tastil), some of which are World Heritage Sites. In addition to that, present days structures with cultural or religious significance (such as "Gauchito Gil" or "Difunta Correa" altars, etc.) are widespread across the whole Project area, both in rural and urban settings. There are more than a dozen large and small dams currently operating across the Project area, and at least half a dozen more are planned to be constructed in the future. It is likely that any of the sub-projects would rely on the performance of a dam.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists

Graciela Sanchez Martinez (GSU04)

Pablo Francisco Herrera (GEN04)

II. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

The Borrower is the GoA. The proposed AF activities would be implemented by the existing well-established institutional implementation structure of the Project, the UCPyPFE under the NWSD within the Public Works Secretariat of the Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MIOPyV).

At present, the NWSD and UCPyPFE are coordinating several programs financed by multilateral development banks, including the Water Infrastructure Project in the Norte Grande Region co-financed by the IADB, and Norte Grande Water Infrastructure Projects I and II.

Although the UCPyPFE has successful experience and capacity in the implementation of similar projects, its capacity will be reinforced under the proposed AF, in particular to provide technical assistance and capacity building to NDWS, water service providers and regulators.

At the provincial level, water service providers are responsible for preparation and implementation of the MRPs with assistance from the NDWS, under a framework agreed upon for the proposed AF. All the investments proposed under the Management and Results Plans (MRP) will have to be carried out within the service provider's concession area.

Provincial regulators and water authorities are expected to play an active role in the preparation of the MRPs by helping establishing mechanisms that ensure the economic and financial equilibrium of the services and endorsing the final versions of the MRPs. This endorsement will be acknowledged in formal agreements between the NDWS and the provincial governments.

The regulators will also play a role in the validation of the annual progress reports of the MRPs. Through the key role assigned to the provincial regulators in the determination of the economic/financial equilibrium of the services, as well as in validation of the MRP annual reports, the program is expected to contribute to reestablishing and strengthening the water sector institutional system at the provincial level.

III. Safeguard Policies that might apply

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	<p>The AF would not raise new safeguards issues or trigger any new safeguard policy. At present, the environmental and social dimensions of the original Project are being managed in a satisfactory manner.</p> <p>The original Project was assigned an environmental screening Category A and this would remain unchanged under the AF.</p> <p>The Environmental and Social Management Framework</p>

		<p>(ESMF) for the AF is the ESMF prepared for the Water Supply and Sanitation Development Program-Plan Belgrano (P159928), which was disclosed in country on September 16, 2016 and in the Bank's external website on September 27, 2016. An updated version of the ESMF and the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) and Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) were disclosed in country on February 3, 2017 and in the Bank's external website on February 1, 2017.</p> <p>The Original Project and consequently the AF has been classified as a Category A following the Environmental Assessment safeguard policy (OP4.01), in consideration of the impacts and mitigation programs needed as part of the construction and rehabilitation of large scale wastewater treatment systems which could potentially be funded under the project. In addition to this, the categorization process takes into account: (i) the social and environmental sensitivities of the project area, (ii) the types of proposed investments, (iii) the weak provincial, municipal or utilities capacities; and (iv) the unknown scope and precise location of future investments.</p> <p>Sub-projects would prepare ESIA and ESMPs that include consideration for potential cumulative impacts based on the procedures and criteria included in the updated ESMF.</p> <p>Sub-projects will incorporate the Bank EH&S General and sector specific guidelines for water and sanitation as well as national water quality and discharge standards.</p>
Natural Habitats OP/ BP 4.04	Yes	<p>The screening process and environmental analysis undertaken highlighted that discharges from new wastewater system sub-projects could occur in wetlands or important riparian areas, and that new or expanded water supply system sub-projects could put some water sources under considerable pressure. That would require careful design accounting for cumulative impacts, contingencies and links to important natural habitats. The Environmental and Social Management Framework prepared for the Project includes provisions to understand the applicability and ensure compliance with this policy.</p>
Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	<p>Some sub-projects could affect small fractions of native forest in the proximity of infrastructure to be built (particularly riparian forests are usually deemed as high conservation value forests in local legislation). In these cases the EA to be undertaken for each future subproject will analyze this issue in depth, and the EMP will determine the specific management measures and eventual compensation measures following the ESMF guidelines. If the relevant forest were to involve natural habitats, these would be analyzed as per the requirements of</p>

		OP 4.04.
Pest Management OP 4.09	Yes	Some pesticides could be required during the opening of new work sites or during the maintenance of new infrastructure. Some aquatic weed control products might be required during operation of water and wastewater treatment plants. Products to be procured could include defoliators, soil sterilizers, herbicides, pesticides, disinfectants or polymers. The ESMF includes specific requirements to ensure that all construction contracts and infrastructure operation manuals will include measures to manage pesticides following Bank's policy.
Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	Yes	It is possible that the civil works constructed under the Project may directly or indirectly affect physical cultural property, mostly in cities. These could include known local structures or sites of historic or cultural importance. The ESMF includes specific requirements to screen for these impacts and includes mitigation measures.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	Yes	<p>This policy triggered because there are around 260,000 people who self-identify as indigenous (Census 2010) in the ten provinces of the project's area, and an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) in accordance with OP/BP 4.10 and Argentinian legislation was prepared by the GoA and approved by the Bank on January 30, 2017.</p> <p>The draft updated IPPF was first re-disclosed for consultation in country on July 7, 2016. Public consultations on the IPPF jointly with the profile of the Water Supply and Sanitation Development Program - Plan Belgrano (P159928) and the Environmental and Social Management Framework and the RPF have been held and duly documented and include: (i) a virtual public consultation (via e-mail); and (ii) two face-to-face consultation in the provinces of Chaco and La Rioja, were held on 26 and 28 July, 2016. Additionally, the IPPF received feedback from three of the four envisaged indigenous institutions of national and provincial levels: Instituto de Comunidades Aborigenes (ICA) of Province of Formosa, on September 26; Instituto del Aborigen Chaqueño (IDACH) of Province of Chaco, on October 7, 2016; Secretary of Indigenous Affairs of Province of Jujuy, on October 11, 2016. Instituto Nacional de Asuntos Indígenas (INAI) has been as well communicated on the project.</p> <p>Final version of the IPPF that reflects changes such as the name of the project was disclosed in country on February 3, 2017 and in the Bank's external website on February 1, 2017.</p> <p>More than half of the Indigenous Peoples of Norte Grande area</p>

		<p>- with the exception of Misiones and Santiago del Estero - live in cities. Norte Grande provinces remain the most lacking in terms of access to basic services over the previous decade.</p> <p>The IPPF will guide the preparation of specific Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPPs) to be implemented during project's implementation, as one of the two tools to remove barriers for their culturally adequate inclusion to the project's benefits. The other tool is at the Management and Results Plan (MRPs) of the W&S operators, which will finance strategies and projects that provide access to improved W&S services to vulnerable social groups, among them indigenous, such as those already identified in the Salta and Jujuy under preparation MRPs.</p> <p>The IPPF describes the methodology of when and how to prepare and implement culturally adequate IPPs, including institutional arrangements.</p> <p>The IPPF incorporates feedback of consultation and also lessons from the First and Second Norte Grande Water Infrastructure projects (P120211 and P125151) that have been successfully implemented through two IPPs (Pampa del Indio and Wichi) that are being described in the IPPF.</p> <p>Main inputs received during consultation that are integrated into the IPPF and subsequently in each IPP of the Project include i) ensure timely and informed participation of indigenous communities leaders from the beginning of sub-projects; ii) economic support be given to mobilize indigenous peoples from disperse locations; iii) a fifteen-day period prior to sub-projects consultation as well as the mandatory use of the indigenous language in all written and oral communication and their consultation material in line with the National Law of Education; and (iv) assign women a protagonist role during the entire process of the program.</p>
<p>Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Although the project is not expecting to have any involuntary resettlement, like the two ongoing World Bank supported Norte Grande Water Infrastructure projects (P120211 and P125151) that did not have any resettlement, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), as part of the ESMF of the project, for preventive reasons was prepared by GoA and approved by the Bank on January 30, 2017. The draft updated RPF was first re-disclosed for consultation in country on July 7, 2016. Public consultations on the RPF, jointly with the profile of the Water Supply and Sanitation Development Program- Plan Belgrano (P159928) and the Environmental and Social Management Framework have been held and duly documented</p>

		<p>and include: (i) a virtual public consultation (via e-mail) on the draft terms of reference to update the current Second Norte Grande Project (P125151) RPF and IPPF for the Belgrano Project; (ii) two face-to-face consultation in the provinces of Chaco and La Rioja, were held on 26 and 28 July, 2016. Final version of the RPF, which incorporates changes was disclosed in the GoA's website on February 3, 2017, and the Bank's external site on February 1, 2017.</p> <p>Indeed, the RPF will cover direct economic and social impacts caused by a subproject for the involuntary taking of land resulting in relocation or loss of shelter; loss of assets or access to assets; or loss of income sources or means of livelihood, whether or not the affected persons must move to another location.</p> <p>The RPF will guide the Borrower to prepare involuntary resettlement plans (RAPs) as required, and it is based on principles of the Bank's OP/BP 4.12 and the national legislation as well as lessons of the current WB supported NGH Projects. Provisions of OP/BP 4.12 will cover gaps between the national legislation in issues such as eligibility of squatters, replacement costs and types of assistance.</p> <p>Also, the RPF foresees suitable redress and monitoring mechanism and institutional arrangements.</p>
Safety of Dams OP/ BP 4.37	Yes	<p>This policy is triggered as the Project may finance projects that could rely on the performance of an existing dam or a dam under construction (DUC) such as water supply systems that draw directly from a reservoir controlled by an existing dam or a DUC; hydraulic structures downstream from an existing dam or a DUC, where failure of the upstream dam could cause extensive damage to or failure of the new Bank-funded structure; and water supply projects that will depend on the storage and operation of an existing dam or a DUC for their supply of water and could not function if the dam failed. The ESMF includes appropriate guidance to identify and manage impacts when identifying these types of sub-projects during implementation.</p>
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	Yes	<p>This policy is triggered as the sub-projects to be considered for funding may be located on waterways that form part of the La Plata Basin river basin, which originates in Argentina, Bolivia and Brazil, and flow through Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay.</p> <p>Following the OP/BP 7.50 requirements, a formal notification of the Water Supply and Sanitation Development Program -</p>

		Plan Belgrano (P159928) and its elements was sent by the Bank to Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay on November 3, 2016. Bolivia replied to the Bank's notification on January 12, 2017 requesting information on sub-projects location and impacts. On January 25, 2017 the Bank notified Bolivia that information on sub-projects would be submitted once it became available.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	There are no disputed areas in the project area.

IV. Key Safeguard Policy Issues and Their Management

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

<p>1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:</p> <p>Overall the works associated with the construction and rehabilitation of the water and sanitation facilities in the possible sub-projects to be financed under the Project are expected to be environmentally and socially beneficial, if they are properly managed, using good practice standards.</p> <p>The AF would not raise new safeguards issues or trigger any new safeguard policy. At present, the environmental and social dimensions of the original Project are being managed in a satisfactory manner. The original Project was assigned an environmental screening Category A and this would remain unchanged under the AF.</p> <p>The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the AF is the ESMF prepared for the Water Supply and Sanitation Development Program - Plan Belgrano (P159928), which was approved by the Bank and was disclosed in country on September 16, 2016 and in the Bank's external website on September 27, 2016. An updated version to reflect changes, including the name of the project, of the ESMF, the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) and the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) was disclosed in country on February 3, 2017 and in the World Bank's site on February 1, 2017.</p> <p>Impacts during the construction phase: From the environmental standpoint during construction the main potential environmental impacts will be temporary and typical of the construction of large-scale civil works such as the expansion of sanitation systems. Possible impacts and risks include the following: (i) temporary disruption to local traffic flows; (ii) temporary loss of access to recreational, residential and commercial areas during the construction period; (iii) dust and noise; (iv) production of waste and construction debris; (v) occupational emergencies; (vi) erosion and siltation; (vii) chance archeological finds; (viii) alteration of the topography and the hydrologic cycles; (ix) soil compacting; and (x) accidents with heavy construction equipment.</p> <p>With appropriate prevention, mitigation and supervision measures, these impacts are considered moderate and temporary and readily manageable. The management of construction impacts will be the responsibility of contractors and specific environmental measures will be specified within the construction contract.</p> <p>Impacts during the operational phase: During the operational phase, the main environmental</p>
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impacts and risks relate to: (i) the risk of poor operation resulting in environmental and human health effects from the wastewater discharges (e.g. potential localized impacts on fisheries caused by effluents); (ii) the potential environmental and human health risks associated with the management and disposal of continuously generated bio-solids and sludges; (iii) odor and noise nuisances; and (iv) health and safety risks.

From the social side, this framework project anticipates an overall positive social impact by directly benefiting the targeted ten provinces of the Northwest region - NOA (Catamarca, Jujuy, La Rioja, Salta, and Santiago del Estero) and Northeast region - NEA (Formosa, Chaco, Corrientes, Misiones and Tucuman). These provinces concentrate the largest share of the national population with NBI, where W&S coverage is the lowest, including increased urban poor affected by damage from environmental health problems associated with urban and indoor air pollution, noise, inadequate water supply, and sanitation and hygiene that are equivalent to about 3 to 4 percent of GDP.* Main outcomes of the Social Analysis (SA) of the project are:

General social positive impacts include: (i) better environmental health and sanitation conditions for poorer families due to less exposure to multiple disease vectors; (ii) increased savings in treating these waterborne diseases contributing to decreased morbidity and mortality; and (iii) increased income through job creation in W&S infrastructure construction and its supply chain provision of goods and services, contributing to growth of local economies.

To ensure that these general positive social impacts will include the most vulnerable social groups, the project will benefit from two tools: (1) at subproject level, through the project's SA provisions as reflected in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), both related to infrastructure works and activities conducting to them for the access and/or improvement to WSS services; and (2) at policy level, by means of the Social Provisions included in the MRPs of the Services Providers - whose adoption will be a minimum requisite for any eligible investment of the project.

*Country Partnership Strategy for the Argentine Republic - Period FY15-18. August 7, 2014.

2. Describe any potential indirect and/or long term impacts due to anticipated future activities in the project area:

Cumulative Impacts: The Project is expected to contribute to significant improvements in water quality and the quality of life of the population living in targeted areas. However, the cumulative benefits to the region will depend on the combined effectiveness of all the various programs, the growth and development trends in the different basins as well as other development projects currently being developed or planned in the Plan Belgrano region.

Negative cumulative impacts should be carefully considered, particularly in those sub-projects constructed in arid or semi-arid areas, as well as in endorheic and arheic basins, where water sources and receiving bodies (such as aquifers and wetlands) can be subject to multiple competing uses, and particularly vulnerable to pressures, not only from the works to be constructed under the current operation, but also from other existing and/or planned stressors. The interaction of these various factors may have an important regional or cumulative impact, which cannot be addressed by a single project entity.

Climate Change: Wastewater treatment plants emit methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change, the abatement of the emission is necessary to achieve a more

sustainable wastewater management. During subproject preparation greenhouse gas emissions will be estimated, the possible sources and sinks of methane on the plant will be identified, and the viability of capturing biogas for energy use in wastewater treatment plants will be explored. The eventual savings from the utilization of biogas can contribute to reduce the O&M costs.

From the social standpoint, as mentioned, the project's social assessment (SA) built a macro baseline information that will serve as the entry points for specific SA at policy or subproject level during project's implementation that will deal with possible risks and impacts.

Specific SA will have the aim of removing obstacles posed by the existing water and sanitation (W&S) governance framework for differentiated social groups needs in access or improvement to W&S infrastructure and services so appropriate measures and resources are put in place. Particularly, SAs will search for a better understanding of key issues such as: (i) existence of social groups - and their differentiated needs - that have suffered systematically W&S services access or improvement exclusions; (ii) conflict-resolution mechanisms in areas where safe water is used for multiple purposes; (iii) differences in the patterns of water access and uses between men and women; (iv) patterns of availability of public information on W&S infrastructure and services and communication needs per social group - including gender specifics - and their relevance for informed participation in activities such as public health/hygiene education; and (v) types of capacity building needed to ensure and sustain women participation at different levels and phases of WSS sector development, among others.

Related to the potential downstream negative impacts already identified such as i.e. micro metering, tariffing and/or increase of tariffs of the services provisions, the MRPs of the Service Providers will support W&S operators' strategies and projects to proactively tackle any potential barriers for most vulnerable social groups - with a differentiated gender perspective - access to project's benefits because of, among others, their geographical location, ethnical or poverty situation by: a) financing strategies and plans that include most vulnerable social groups such as those already identified in the Salta and Jujuy MRPs; (b) providing capacity building for the increased institutional expertise to assess and address this type of need; (c) conducting tailored analysis regarding these potential social negative impacts such as affordability for payment of services; and (d) enabling the environment for informed social participation through a citizen engagement system for improving service access and delivery including communication plans, public commitments agreement with users and relevant stakeholder, and feedback and claims redressing mechanisms.

Other temporary negative impacts during W&S infrastructure works such as public safety, noise, traffic disruption and other social risks will be managed according to the sub-project's environmental and social management plans as foreseen in the ESMF.

Gender. The project is gender-informed as (i) the social analysis of the project include patterns of women in access and uses of W&S services, and (ii) includes assessing this macro trend in the specific social assessments per sub-projects from their screening for eligibility and monitoring of their progress throughout the project cycle.

Citizen engagement. The project will actively engage citizens by enabling beneficiaries and stakeholders to provide feedback and by integrating their feedback to improve results throughout the project cycle through the project's public citizen engagement system and its specific tools, as mentioned in Section III.A and further described in the project's M&E system.

3. Describe any project alternatives (if relevant) considered to help avoid or minimize adverse impacts.

The environmental and social analysis of technical alternatives for sanitation and water supply in sub-projects to be selected during implementation will be part of the environmental assessment process of sub-projects and will be carried out based on the guidelines contained in the ESMF. In particular, the environmental assessment (EA) prepared under the ESMF principles, will analyze the sites selection processes in order to determine the nature of risks and to avoid potential conflicts. While in some cases (e.g. expansion or revamp of existing systems) sites are pre-existing and that the option of selecting alternative sites may be constrained, sites will be carefully analyzed in order to determine the relevant environmental and social management measures.

4. Describe measures taken by the borrower to address safeguard policy issues. Provide an assessment of borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described.

The parent project (P125151) has been executed in full compliance with the environmental and social safeguards policies. At the time of Additional Financing (AF) preparation, Overall Safeguards performance ratings, as well as all the safeguards policies sub-ratings, have been consistently rated as Satisfactory over the most recent 12 months, and no pending issues that are reflected in the original Project ISRs. With regard to the OP 4.01, the PIU has properly addressed the environmental and social issues identified during the preparation of the ESIA for the construction of the waste water treatment plant (WWTP) and sanitation main collectors. These included the implementation of a reforestation plan to compensate the impact of the cutting of palm trees on the construction site of the WWTP, the regular monitoring of the water quality of the river at the level of the current point of water discharge and consultation with a group of fishermen potentially affected by the change of the discharge outfall. The PIU has regularly presented to the Bank the environmental and social management progress reports and implemented satisfactorily some institutional environmental and social strengthening activities to develop the capacity of the service provider (SAMEEP) in the Province of Chaco. The decommissioning of the existent wastewater treatment lagoons will be undertaken once the WWTP starts its operation. The PIU has been pro-active in preparing and sending to the Bank the ToRs for the rehabilitation of the wastewater treatment lagoons, once decommissioned.

In relation to the OP 4.04, although the works site is located in the vicinity of a RAMSAR site (high conservation value wetlands), the EMP originally prepared for the sewage treatment plant at Gran Resistencia lacked considerations related to the protection of biodiversity. However, standard mitigation measures to protect fauna and flora were included in the EMP and the bidding documents. With regard to the OP 4.09, 4.11, 4.36, 4.37, given the nature of the investments actually financed, no specific pest management, physical cultural resources forest management, neither dam safety plans were prepared. When it comes to the OP 7.50 during the preparation of the parent project (P125151) the Bank considered that the rehabilitation and upgrading of the sanitation system for Gran Resistencia fell within the exceptions set forth in paragraph 7 (a) of OP 7.50. Therefore, no notifications were issued to riparian countries.

The AF does not trigger any new safeguards policies neither raises any major safeguard-related issues that were not covered in the original Project's most recent ISDS. However, the ESMF has been revised and slightly adjusted to reflect the latest lessons learnt during the original Project implementation, and the new definition of the AF Project area (La Rioja Province was added to the original Project area).

The safeguards approach for the AF was developed to take advantage of the analysis done under

the original Project, the Second Norte Grande Water Infrastructure (P125151). In particular, the preparation of instruments to address safeguards policies issues included four key aspects: (i) scoping of potential sub-project issues through an update of the rapid social assessment and an environmental analysis undertaken by the previous Project (adding La Rioja Province, which was incorporated to the Project area); (ii) adaptation of a tested Environmental Social Management Framework (ESMF), considering lessons learned; (iii) update of the institutional assessment and capacity building program, and (iv) and including meaningful consultations (The development of the ESMF based on the adaptation of the previous one was subject to one virtual consultation, during July 7-21, 2016. Two face to face consultations in Chaco and La Rioja provinces, including participants from neighbor provinces, were conducted on July 26 and 28, respectively).

Given the framework nature of the Project, in order to be approved, all sub-projects without exception would need to comply with the eligibility criteria established for inclusion in the project; such as being identified in the Management and Results Plans prepared by the service providers, though for example, sub-projects must benefit low income populations; and comply with Bank environmental and social policies. No individual subproject has been identified nor approved for financing under the AF, yet.

A scoping process was undertaken to identify the main potential environmental and social issues and the potential applicability of the World Bank's safeguards policies to the Project. The scoping activities included a Social Assessment of the Project (updated of the SA of projects P120211 and P125151) that reviews the overall social context, and included: (i) diversity and gender; (ii) analysis of main stakeholders; (iii) institutional framework, including formal and informal rules; (iv) culture of participation; (v) social opportunities, risks and impacts, among them those related to social safeguards; (vi) mitigation and compensation measures and (vii) impacts on indigenous peoples.

Eligibility and Readiness Criteria: Sub-projects to be designed during project implementation will need to meet eligibility and readiness criteria - such as being included in the MPR and having gone through environmental and social assessments as well as other safeguard policies requirements of the Bank In addition, each subproject must comply with the applicable environmental and social laws in the relevant province, which will be set forth in the Project's Operational Manual (OM). Specifically, future sub-projects will comply with the following criteria:

- i) The subproject must provide an ESIA acceptable to the environmental authority of the relevant province and the Bank. The ESIA will incorporate the results of public consultations, prepared following the guidelines of the ESMF of the Project.
- ii) The ESIA must include mitigation measures and programs for the construction and operation phases.
- iii) In the case of sub-projects involving involuntary resettlement or affecting indigenous peoples, specific Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) or Indigenous People Plan (IPP) will be prepared, disclosed and consulted following the Project's RPF or IPPF.
- iv) All costs associated with the implementation of the subproject ESMP, RAP and/or IPP and any mitigation measures and monitoring programs must be budgeted for.
- v) The subproject must demonstrate sustainability from an environmental and social standpoint, which entails preventing: (i) permanent negative impacts on protected areas or cultural heritage; (ii) negative impacts on species threatened by extinction; (iii) negative environmental impacts that cannot be mitigated to acceptable levels; and (iv) social costs deemed unacceptable and/or unable to be mitigated by the affected communities.

Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF): The GoA has developed an ESMF, which covers the Environmental and Social Assessment process and includes an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), and a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), hereafter ESMF. Once specific investment proposals are firmed-up, the sub-projects will be required to follow the procedures outlined in the ESMF to ensure they meet eligibility criteria and are compliant with safeguards policies applicable to the subproject.

The ESMF addresses several goals, including: (i) ensuring the environmental and social sustainability of the sub-projects; (ii) complying with national environmental legislation; (iii) complying with the Bank's environmental and social safeguards policies; (iv) defining institutional responsibilities for the environmental and social management instruments; and (v) setting a preliminary Institutional Strengthening Plan for the management of social and environmental aspects of water and sanitation projects.

The ESMF comprises a methodology for subproject screening and consultation, including a Screening Datasheet with criteria to guide the environmental and social classification of potential works and a negative list of actions/activities to allow exclusion of works. After the screening stage, the Borrower will ensure that an environmental and social assessment is performed to analyze specific environmental and social impacts and identify additional studies and consultation processes required to follow ESMF requirements (e.g, local regulations and Bank safeguard policies). The ESMF also contains tools and procedures for carrying out preparation, implementation and monitoring of environmental and social management plans associated with the sub-projects. In particular, as stated above, the EA prepared under the ESMF principles, will analyze the sites selection processes in order to determine the nature of risks and to avoid potential conflicts.

The ESMF contains procedures for undertaking consultation and public disclosure as per World Bank safeguards policies and Policy on Information Disclosure. Disclosure requirements for category A will follow a rule of having the documents available for meaningful consultations and to ensure the time required for the consultation of TOR of the ESIA of category A sub-projects.

The ESMF also includes specific requirements for monitoring compliance with environmental and social requirements for both the construction and operational phases in sub-projects. Any associated costs would be incorporated in the relevant contracts when applicable. Service providers will have the primary responsibility for establishing baselines and monitoring specific activities under construction and plant operations, under the supervision of the UCPyPFE.

For sub-projects, the ESIA process will solicit stakeholder concerns and provide an open process of debate and discussion about the subproject objectives and goals. Other stakeholder consultation events to disseminate information on the Project and gather stakeholder views will be planned during implementation as part of the specific sub-projects EMPs. Previous, open and informed consultations to the indigenous communities will follow specific provisions that are respectful of their culture as foreseen in the IPPF. This process will include measures such as works announcements in the language of each ethnic group and utilization of disclosure materials considering the cultural diversity of indigenous peoples.

All sub-projects will have the required environmental permits and all studies will be conducted according to the current national requirements and approved in due course by the local authorities.

Institutional Arrangements: The ESMF, including the IPPF and the RPF, defines clear roles and responsibilities for preparing, implementing and monitoring of safeguards work.

UCPyPFE's role. The UCPyPFE (through a dedicated unit) within the MIOPyV at the federal government level will be responsible for ESMF, including the IPPF and the RPF, implementation, for safeguards compliance and supervision of environmental and social management issues. The UCPyPFE will assign qualified staff dedicated to supervise the implementation of ESMPs (and IPP and/or RP if applicable) during subproject construction and ensure periodic independent audits, and supervise environmental and social performance by contractors, the provinces and service providers. These arrangements would be complemented by specific independent inspection firms, to be hired by the UCPyPFE at the national level* to ensure proper safeguards monitoring during the implementation of all subproject. The UCPyPFE will also provide support in coordinating information disclosure and consultations and will be the main responsible for the implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Capacity Building Program.

Independent Inspection Firms role. The UCPyPFE will share the following roles and responsibilities with independent firms: to monitor specific activities under the construction and operation of the sub-projects, and to supervise the implementation of environmental and social management measures and plans, to ensure compliance with the agreed EMPs and environmental license obligations.

Independent Environmental Assessment firms role. All category A sub-project will be subject to an EA conducted by an independent firm, responding to ToRs developed by the Province and/or the Service Provider role and/or the UCPyPFE.

Contractor's role. All construction contractors will be required to assign an environmental engineer or other suitably qualified environmental specialist, a health and safety specialist, and a social specialist, to oversee compliance with the ESMP (construction phase) and IPP and/or RAP if applicable, on a day-to-day basis . The specific requirements for environmental and social mitigation measures will be included in bidding documents and as part of the construction contract. The contractors will be required to develop environmental and management Environmental and Social Management Plans, manuals or guidelines for the operation phase of the sub-projects.

Province and Service Provider role. As part of the agreement to be signed between the federal and provincial governments, the UCPyPFE will transfer to the provincial level the following roles and responsibilities: co-participation with the UCPyPFE in sub-projects' screening, consultations processes, environmental and social assessments, design and implementation of IPPs and RPs, and monitoring and supervision. The WSS service providers will have the primary responsibility for establishing baselines and monitoring specific activities under the construction and operation of the systems. This co-participated transfer of roles and responsibilities will also include coordination arrangements to ensure that local service providers internalize capacity towards the environmental and social management of the proposed works, both during the construction and operation phases. This capacity will be created in collaboration with the UCPyPFE during construction, though capacity building will continue during the operation as necessary. During the operational phase, the relevant WSS service provider in charge of operating the applicable subproject will have specific institutional responsibilities to address prevention and mitigation of operationally related environmental and social impacts.

Borrower capacity to plan and implement the measures described: The National Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development has a strong mandate for policy development and implementation, as well as management of environmental affairs in areas including 1) the environmental management of water resources and aquatic biodiversity, 2) the national coordination with regards to the environmental management of inter-jurisdictional basins, and 3) with regards to the responsibilities assumed under international environmental conventions.

However, most environmental regulatory powers are in the hands of the Provinces which, in general terms, have a reduced effectiveness due to capacity and budgetary constraints. Many provincial and municipal authorities lack the resources and technical capacity to set, monitor and reach adequate performance thresholds and enforce environmental and social standards.

The PIU has experience managing the environmental and social aspects of projects similar to the AF that is currently under preparation, following the World Bank's policies. Most of those projects have been categorized as B (P093491; P120198; P120211), with the exception of the Category A (P125151), which is currently under implementation, and to which this AF is associated. The updated ESA draws on the lessons learned from such previous experiences.

In general terms, the arrangements for environmental management, inspection and supervision of the works financed by the previous projects managed by the PIU followed similar patterns.

The safeguards performance levels and the quality of the environmental management proved highly heterogeneous among the different Provinces and contractors. There were cases of very good performance; and other cases of poorly, delayed or non-implemented mitigation and/or environmental risk management measures. This evidenced that under the described institutional arrangements the environmental management was highly dependent on the skills, capacities and political will at the provincial level.

*Hiring and administer of the environmental and social inspection contracts could be delegated by UCPyPFE if adequate capacity is identified at the province or the service provider level. The delegation of such responsibility will be subject to the Bank's explicit approval upon the review of a related capacity assessment report.

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

Key stakeholders consulted include users, local political leaders (governors and mayors), provincial and municipal WSS service providers, environmental agencies, water resources management and oversight agencies, WSS regulators, NGOs and indigenous affairs institutions, civil society representatives and local community leaders including people with improved access to WSS services and population benefiting from improved environmental conditions as a result of wastewater treatment.

This AF safeguards preparation took advantage of the work done under the original Project Second Norte Grande Water Infrastructure (P125151) by (i) scoping of potential sub-project issues through an update of the rapid social assessment and an environmental analysis undertaken by the original Project (adding La Rioja Province, which was incorporated to the new Project area); (ii) updating the ESMF, the IPPF and RPF, considering lessons learned during the original project (P125151) implementation; (iii) updating the institutional assessment and capacity building

program, and (iv) and conducting meaningful consultations.

The draft updated ESMF, IPPF and RPF were first re-disclosed for consultation in country on July 7, 2016. Once the feedback received from local stakeholders was incorporated, the ESMF was re-disclosed in country on September 16, 2016 and in the Bank's external website on September 27, 2016 (all this process was part of the preparation of the P159928, which was envisaged as a new category A water supply and sanitation investment project, but was later on dropped and replaced by this Additional Financing, which expected investments, implementation approach and Project area are the same).

All three safeguards frameworks (ESMF, IPPF and RPF) have been consulted through two different channels: (i) a virtual review through communication of the documents to a variety of institutional stakeholders, including provincial environmental agencies and institutions related to water resources provision and management, NGOs and indigenous affairs institutions; and (ii) organization of focus group discussions through targeted meetings in Chaco and La Rioja provinces on July 26-28, 2016, to gather feedback from local stakeholders. This consultation approach was adopted given that the three instruments for the proposed project are largely similar to the instruments used for the original project (P125151), which have been extensively consulted.

The IPPF also received feedback from three of the four envisaged indigenous institutions of national and provincial levels: Instituto de Comunidades Aborigenes (ICA) of Province of Formosa ICA, on September 26; Instituto del Aborigen Chaqueño (IDACH) of Province of Chaco, on October 7, 2016; Secretary of Indigenous Affairs of Province of Jujuy, on October 11, 2016. Instituto Nacional de Asuntos Indígenas (INAI) has been communicated on the project.

Additionally, the Communication Framework of the ESMF (dissemination and consultation) will continue throughout Project implementation. The communication plan of the ESMF includes specific principles and measures to adequately manage broad dissemination of information on the Project and ensure an open process of discussion about the Project's objectives and goals. For the sub-projects, specific guidelines are included in the ESMF to manage meaningful consultation for relevant stakeholders of future sub-projects to ascertain their views, identify of potential adverse and positive impacts, as well as defining accordingly adequate management measures.

B. Disclosure Requirements

Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other	
Date of receipt by the Bank	20-Jan-2017
Date of submission to InfoShop	01-Feb-2017
For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors	11-Oct-2016
"In country" Disclosure	
Argentina	03-Feb-2017
<i>Comments:</i>	
Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Policy Process	
Date of receipt by the Bank	20-Jan-2017

Date of submission to InfoShop	01-Feb-2017
"In country" Disclosure	
Argentina	03-Feb-2017
<i>Comments:</i>	
Indigenous Peoples Development Plan/Framework	
Date of receipt by the Bank	20-Jan-2017
Date of submission to InfoShop	01-Feb-2017
"In country" Disclosure	
Argentina	03-Feb-2017
<i>Comments:</i>	
Pest Management Plan	
Was the document disclosed prior to appraisal?	NA
Date of receipt by the Bank	NA
Date of submission to InfoShop	NA
"In country" Disclosure	
<i>Comments:</i>	
If the project triggers the Pest Management and/or Physical Cultural Resources policies, the respective issues are to be addressed and disclosed as part of the Environmental Assessment/Audit/or EMP.	
If in-country disclosure of any of the above documents is not expected, please explain why:	

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level

OP/BP/GP 4.01 - Environment Assessment	
Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
If yes, then did the Regional Environment Unit or Practice Manager (PM) review and approve the EA report?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
Are the cost and the accountabilities for the EMP incorporated in the credit/loan?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
OP/BP 4.04 - Natural Habitats	
Would the project result in any significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats?	Yes [<input type="checkbox"/>] No [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]
If the project would result in significant conversion or degradation of other (non-critical) natural habitats, does the project include mitigation measures acceptable to the Bank?	Yes [<input type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>]
OP 4.09 - Pest Management	
Does the EA adequately address the pest management issues?	Yes [<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>] No [<input type="checkbox"/>] NA [<input type="checkbox"/>]

Is a separate PMP required?	Yes [] No [] NA [×]
If yes, has the PMP been reviewed and approved by a safeguards specialist or PM? Are PMP requirements included in project design? If yes, does the project team include a Pest Management Specialist?	Yes [] No [] NA [×]
OP/BP 4.11 - Physical Cultural Resources	
Does the EA include adequate measures related to cultural property?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
Does the credit/loan incorporate mechanisms to mitigate the potential adverse impacts on cultural property?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
OP/BP 4.10 - Indigenous Peoples	
Has a separate Indigenous Peoples Plan/Planning Framework (as appropriate) been prepared in consultation with affected Indigenous Peoples?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
If the whole project is designed to benefit IP, has the design been reviewed and approved by the Regional Social Development Unit or Practice Manager?	Yes [] No [] NA [×]
OP/BP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement	
Has a resettlement plan/abbreviated plan/policy framework/process framework (as appropriate) been prepared?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
Is physical displacement/relocation expected? Provided estimated number of people to be affected	Yes [] No [] TBD [×]
Is economic displacement expected? (loss of assets or access to assets that leads to loss of income sources or other means of livelihoods) Provided estimated number of people to be affected	Yes [] No [] TBD [×]
OP/BP 4.36 - Forests	
Has the sector-wide analysis of policy and institutional issues and constraints been carried out?	Yes [] No [×] NA []
Does the project design include satisfactory measures to overcome these constraints?	Yes [] No [×] NA []
Does the project finance commercial harvesting, and if so, does it include provisions for certification system?	Yes [] No [] NA [×]
OP/BP 4.37 - Safety of Dams	
Have dam safety plans been prepared?	Yes [] No [] NA [×]
Have the TORs as well as composition for the independent Panel of Experts (POE) been reviewed and approved by the	Yes [] No [] NA [×]

Bank?	
Has an Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) been prepared and arrangements been made for public awareness and training?	Yes [] No [] NA [×]
OP 7.50 - Projects on International Waterways	
Have the other riparians been notified of the project?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
If the project falls under one of the exceptions to the notification requirement, has this been cleared with the Legal Department, and the memo to the RVP prepared and sent?	Yes [] No [] NA [×]
Has the RVP approved such an exception?	Yes [] No [] NA [×]
The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information	
Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank's Infoshop?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
Have relevant documents been disclosed in-country in a public place in a form and language that are understandable and accessible to project-affected groups and local NGOs?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
All Safeguard Policies	
Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes [×] No [] NA []
Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?	Yes [×] No [] NA []

V. Contact point

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VII. Approval

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