INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET
APPRaisal STAGE

Report No.: ISDSA1249

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 12-Sep-2012

I. BASIC INFORMATION

1. Basic Project Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country:</th>
<th>Albania</th>
<th>Project ID:</th>
<th>P121186</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project Name:</td>
<td>Water Resources and Irrigation Project (P121186)</td>
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<td>Task Team Leader:</td>
<td>IJsbrand Harko de Jong</td>
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<td>Estimated Appraisal Date:</td>
<td>29-Aug-2012</td>
<td>Estimated Board Date:</td>
<td>27-Nov-2012</td>
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<td>Theme:</td>
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Financing (In USD Million)

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Environmental Category: B - Partial Assessment

Is this a Repeater project? No

2. Project Objectives

The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to (i) strengthen the Government's capacity to manage water resources at both the national level and in the Drin-Buna and Semani river basins and (ii) sustainably improve the performance of irrigation systems in the project area.

3. Project Description

The proposed project consists of the following components:

(i) Dam and I&D Systems Rehabilitation
(ii) Institutional Support for Irrigation and Drainage
(iii) Strategic Framework for Integrated Water Resources Management
(iv) Implementation Support
Component 1: Systems Rehabilitation (total US$36.7 million, of which US$36.7 million IBRD). This component will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection (MAFCP). The objective is to rehabilitate (and, where possible, modernize) irrigation, drainage and dam infrastructure in 15 irrigation schemes. The intermediate results indicators include the area with rehabilitated/modernized I&D infrastructure (ha), number of dams rehabilitated in compliance with international dam safety standards, number of dams where emergency response plans have been prepared and disseminated to the population.

The component will finance the following sub-components:

(a) Dam, Irrigation and Drainage Rehabilitation. This sub-component will finance preparation of all feasibility and detailed design studies, and all rehabilitation and modernization works of irrigation, drainage and dam infrastructure in the 15 irrigation schemes, as well as the supervision of the works. Investments will be mostly located in the Drin-Buna and Semani river basins, and will be undertaken in a comprehensive way (i.e., investments will be done in dams and in associated irrigation and drainage infrastructure) to maximize the returns on investments.

During project preparation, Feasibility Studies (FSs) have been conducted for 14 dams (13 reservoirs). Pre-feasibility studies have been conducted for the 14 irrigation systems associated with these dams (including one Public-Private Partnership (PPP) pilot site), and for one additional PPP pilot. Detailed design studies for the dams are being conducted and are expected to be completed before project approval. Investments during the first year of the project will focus on dam rehabilitation, and detailed design studies for the associated irrigation and drainage infrastructure will be conducted upon completion of a process for stakeholder involvement to identify the preferred rehabilitation (gravity irrigation) and modernization (pressurized irrigation) option. Investments in irrigation system rehabilitation and modernization will be done in subsequent years. Farmers will be assisted in accessing subsidies provided by the Government for installation of on-farm pressurized irrigation technologies. Each irrigation scheme rehabilitated or modernized under the project will apply for a permit for water abstraction.

(b) This sub-component will finance implementation of Environmental and Social Management Plans (EMPs) and Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs), and will also strengthen the framework for safety of agricultural dams, including institutional support to MAFCP and LGs to address the safety of agricultural dams, capacity strengthening and awareness raising, and preparation of emergency preparedness and dam safety O&M plans.

(c) Pipeline Preparation. This sub-component will finance all studies required to prepare a pipeline of shovel-ready investments in irrigation, drainage and dam infrastructure rehabilitation in a total amount of US$50m. This includes feasibility and detailed design studies, and related safeguard instruments.

Component 2: Institutional Support for Irrigation and Drainage (total US$1.4 million, of which US $1.4 million IBRD). This component will be implemented by MAFCP. The objective is to improve the performance of organizations that provide irrigation services. This includes institutional reforms and capacity strengthening of LGs, Drainage Boards (DBs) and WUOs, and piloting PPP in I&D service delivery through recruitment of third party operators to deliver irrigation services in three I&D pilot schemes. The component will also finance preparation of a National I&D strategy. The intermediate results indicators include I&D strategy prepared, operational water user organizations
created and/or strengthened, number of I&D transfer agreements signed, number of Bulk Water Delivery contracts signed between DBs and WUOs, number of farmers trained, number of PPP contracts signed, recovery of O&M costs as a percentage of those invoiced.

The project will finance the following sub-components:

(a) Institutional Reforms of Irrigation and Drainage Sector. The sub-component will define responsibilities for O&M between stakeholders (including Ministry/DBs, LGs, WUOs and private operators) and will, to that end, finance preparation of a National I&D strategy. Relationships between stakeholders including MAFCP, DBs, LGs and WUOs will be contractualized and service delivery standards will be agreed. Three pilot projects to outsource responsibility for O&M to a private operator will be initiated, either through a lease or management contract.

(b) Capacity Strengthening of Organizations that provide Irrigation Services. This sub-component will strengthen capacities of stakeholders (including Ministry/DBs, LGs, WUOs and private operators) in the delivery of I&D services. The project will train an estimated 10 civil servants from MAFCP, 15 civil servants from five DBs, staff from 15 LGs, and office bearers from 15 WUOs in a number of areas, including contract management and outsourcing, administration, financial management and procurement, water management and O&M. Decentralized WUO support staff from DBs and LGs will be trained in strengthening capacities of WUOs. Some goods will be procured for DBs and LGs.

Component 3: Strategic Framework for Integrated Water Resources Management (total US$5.0 million, of which US$4.5 million Sida and US$0.5 million IBRD). This component will be implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (MEFWA). Its objective is to strengthen capacities of institutions responsible for IWRM, including the National Water Council (NWC) and its Technical Secretariat (TS), and the Drin-Buna and Semani River Basin Councils (RBCs) and their River Basin Agencies (RBAs). Capacity strengthening activities, critical for satisfactory water sector performance, will be fully integrated into each of the subcomponents to ensure relevance and applicability of the training. During project preparation, a number of activities have been undertaken, including preparation of a draft decree defining the geographical coverage of river basins, preparation of TORs for developing a National IWRM Strategy and establishing a Water Resources Database. The recommendations of these preparation activities will be implemented once the project becomes effective. The intermediate results indicators include number of staff trained in IWRM, percentage increase of budget allocation by MEFWA to GDWA, and percentage increase of budget allocation by GDWA to RBAs. Throughout project implementation, MEFWA is expected to increasingly demonstrate leadership in the management of the country’s water resources, and to progressively show responsibility as the convener of stakeholders in water resources management.

The project will finance the following sub-components:

(a) Support for the preparation of a National IWRM Strategy. This sub-component will support MEFWA in the preparation of a National IWRM strategy. In view of EU candidate status, the strategy will incorporate the EU’s Water Framework Directive (WFD), as reflected in the Law on Water Resources (LWR, currently under revision). The project will ensure inclusiveness of the preparation process by establishing a stakeholder forum for cross-sectoral dialogue and decision making under the aegis of the NWC. As part of the Strategy preparation, the project will strengthen capacities of institutions responsible for IWRM, including the NWC, TS, and the RBCs and RBAs of
Drin-Buna and Semani basins.

(b) Preparation of River Basin Management (RBMs) Plans. In the Drin-Buna and Semani river basins, the project will support preparation of RBM Plans, including the identification of structural and non-structural measures to improve the quality of IWRM. The project will work closely with the UNECE supported Drin dialogue and will take advantage of the river characterization that is undertaken in that context.

(c) Support to the Establishment of a Water Resources Database. The project will provide support to MEFWA in establishing a consolidated water resources database within the General Directorate of Water Administration (GDWA) as basis for national water resources planning and programming. The proposed water resources database will be populated through the coordinated acquisition of monitoring data from all relevant organizations involved with water resources monitoring.

28. Component 4: Implementation Support (total US$1.8 million, of which US$1.3 million IBRD and US$0.5 million Sida). This component will be jointly implemented by MAFCP and MEFWA. Its objective is to manage project resources in accordance with the project’s objectives and procedures as outlined in the Project Operations Manual (POM). The intermediate results indicator is the number of project monitoring reports based on the established Management Information System (MIS) submitted in time.

The project will finance the following sub-components:

(a) Project Management. Project implementation will be mainstreamed into the regular functions of the implementing Ministries. Support for project implementation will include: (i) provision of technical assistance, training, office equipment and vehicles, and incremental operating costs in support of project management; (ii) overall project planning, quality oversight and evaluation of project activities; (iii) strengthening procurement and financial management capacity at all levels; and (iv) preparation and implementation of a communications strategy to accompany the investments and the preparation of the IWRM strategy.

(b) Establishment of a Monitoring and Evaluation system. The project will support the establishment of a performance based MIS and arrange for data collection and reporting on key performance output and impact indicators, through baseline surveys, one of which has been conducted during project preparation, one prior to Mid-Term Review and one at project completion.

4. Project location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)
Albania - investments in the rehabilitation and modernization of dam and irrigation infrastructure are located in 15 irrigation schemes that are located in the Drin-Buna and Semani river basins. One I&D scheme is located in an area that falls within the mandate of the Vjosa river basin.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists
Bekim Imeri (ECSS4)
Nikola Ille (ECSS3)

|-----------------------|------------|------------------------|

| Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01 | Yes | The project encompasses rehabilitation and modernization of 13 agricultural reservoirs and 15 I&D schemes (including three PPP pilots), some of them over 50 years old. The sites are located throughout Albania, belonging to districts of Kukes, Tropoja, Korça, Berat, Fier and Vjosa, where agriculture remains the most important source of income and economic output. The associated I&D schemes are in very poor shape, with only 44 percent of the original command area still operational. The project is classified as Category B under the World Bank Operational Policy 4.01 due to the nature of project activities and the fact that there will be no new reservoirs or expansion of the irrigation schemes, compared to the originally designed schemes. |
| Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04 | No | OP/BP 4.04 on Natural Habitats is not triggered because available information shows that there are no areas of natural habitat which would be affected by these works. |
| Forests OP/BP 4.36 | No | OP/BP 4.36 on Forests is not triggered because available information shows that the project-specific investments will go into areas of already altered environment, specifically designed for more intensive agricultural productions. |
| Pest Management OP 4.09 | Yes | OP 4.09 on Pest Management is triggered, as rehabilitation and modernization of the irrigation schemes will likely lead to growth of intensified agriculture, which could lead to increased use of agrochemicals including pesticides. The awareness raising activities and promotion of IPM approaches in pesticide handling will be part of the site-specific EMPs for irrigation system rehabilitation and modernization. Additionally, the project will work with MAFCP in strengthening its internal capacity for pest management. |
| Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11 | No | The project will not affect physical cultural resources. OP/BP 4.11 will not be triggered. |
| Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10 | No | The project will not affect indigenous peoples. OP/BP 4.10 will not be triggered. |
| Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12 | Yes | Given the nature of civil works, OP/BP 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement will be triggered. Key project features which may necessitate permanent land acquisition are: temporary or permanent |
access roads to sub-project sites, to borrow pits / quarries and disposal areas; land needed to source borrow or quarry materials (although the arrangement of willing buyer-willing seller will be the best option in this case), and land needed for modifications to the layout of the irrigation system or reservoirs. One area of special concern is encroachment over and around primary conveyance canals. This issue may be resolved by re-routing or other engineering options; however the de facto situation of people engaged in commerce or residing in close proximity to canals necessitates remedies which are in accord with OP 4.12.

| Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37 | Yes | OP 4.37 on Safety of Dams is triggered. All dams are pre-existing and hence fall under paragraphs 7-11 of OP 4.37 (existing dams and dams under construction). With the exception of Tregtan 2 Dam (which is 10 meters high) all other dams fail under classification of “large dams” as they are higher than 15 meters. In case of Koshnica 1 Dam, which needs complete reconstruction, it also falls under paragraph 2-6 of OP 4.37. Compliance with this OP is ensured during preparation of the feasibility and detailed designs for each reservoir by the independent consultant. For each of the dams, an Emergency Preparedness Plan, and O&M and Instrumentation Plan, and a Supervision and Quality Assurance Plan will be prepared before tendering of the dam rehabilitation works. For Koshnica, these plans will be prepared by appraisal. |

| Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50 | Yes | OP 7.50 on International Waterways is triggered, since the rivers where some of the reservoirs are located are international. Out of the 14 dam rehabilitation sub-projects identified for implementation during the first year of WRIP, four sites lie within the Drini catchment, namely Tregtan 2, Tregtan 3, Vranisht 2 and T’Plan. The Drini River has two tributaries - the Black Drini and the White Drini. The Black Drini originates in Macedonia and flows into Albania, while the White Drini originates in Montenegro and flows into Albania, before joining with the Buna River, which flows from Shkodra Lake (an international lake shared between Albania and Montenegro) to |
the Adriatic Sea. The remaining sites all lie within the Seman Basin which flows entirely within Albania and exits to the Adriatic. An exception to notification under OP 7.50 has been obtained for all sites, as the project (i) involves rehabilitation of the already existing dams and reservoirs (irrigation canals and pipes are not included during the first year of project implementation) and (ii) does not involve works and activities that would increase the original command area, or change the original scheme’s nature. Consequently, the project falls under the exception set forth in paragraph 7 (a) of OP 7.50 as (i) it will not adversely affect the quality or quantity of water flows to the other riparians; and (ii) it will not be adversely affected by other riparians’ water use.

Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60
No
The project will not be located in disputed areas. OP/BP 7.60 will not be triggered.

II. Key Safeguard Policy Issues and Their Management

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the Restructured project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts:

The project will rehabilitate existing dams and irrigation systems, and potentially large-scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts are minimal. Potentially irreversible impacts (and their mitigation measures) include:

1. Lowering the water table by provision of drainage to irrigation schemes with high water tables adversely affects existing users of groundwater, especially at dry times of the year. A number of negative consequences of a falling water table are irreversible and difficult to compensate for example salt water intrusion and land subsidence, and therefore groundwater abstraction needs controlling either by licensing, other legal interventions or economic disincentives.

In the long-term, one of the most frequent problems of irrigation schemes is the rise in the local water-table (water logging). Low irrigation efficiencies (as low as 20 to 30% in some areas) are one of the main causes of rise of water table. Poor water distribution systems, poor main system management and archaic in-field irrigation practices are the main reason.

It is recognized that balancing irrigation and drainage water supply to maintain groundwater at adequate levels requires enhanced management skills. In addition, those responsible for I&D management need to possess the tools for improved management. The project will therefore implement a number of mitigation measures to address these risks, as follows: (a) improving the management of I&D water, including (i) establishment and capacity strengthening of water users organizations (WUOs) and transfer to these WUOs responsibility for I&D management; (ii) closer involvement of local governments (LGs) to oversee adequate O&M; (iii) strengthening of capacities of Drainage Boards and contractualization of their relationship...
with WUOs to improve the accountability of I&D service delivery; and (iv) recruitment, on a pilot scale, of third party I&D operators on performance based contracts.

(b) rehabilitating I&D infrastructure, including the rehabilitation and cleaning of drainage canals to improve run-off, and lining selected sections of irrigation canals to reduce seepage.

In addition, it should be noted that, under component 3 of the project, support will be provided to the Government to provide a strategic framework for integrated water resources management. While this is not part of the current project, it is expected that groundwater monitoring and licensing will ultimately become part of the services that will be provided by River Basin Agencies.

2. The increased use of agro-chemicals, needed to retain productivity under intensification, can introduce toxic elements that occur in fertilizers and pesticides. On irrigated lands salinization is the major cause of land being lost to production and is one of the most prolific adverse environmental impacts associated with irrigation. The accumulation of salts in soils can lead to irreversible damage to soil structure essential for irrigation and crop production.

Mitigation measures include careful water management to reduce the rate of salinity build up and minimize the effects on crops. Management strategies include: leaching; altering irrigation methods and schedules; installing sub-surface drainage; changing tillage techniques; adjusting crop patterns; and, incorporating soil ameliorates. All such actions, which may be very costly, would require careful study to determine their local suitability. The project will therefore implement those measures that can be undertaken in a cost-effective manner. This would include, as mentioned above, installation of adequate drainage infrastructure and improved management of I&D water, leaching and modifying rotation schedules and installation of water saving irrigation techniques such as drip irrigation. Measures to avoid the improper use and to mitigate against the negative impact of agro-chemicals will be identified in the Pest Management Plan.

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

Negative environmental impacts tend to mainly occur during the construction phase and are summarized as follows:

- Reduced irrigation capacity during rehabilitation works
- Disposal of building/excavation materials
- Human disturbance during construction from noise, dust, visual, etc
- Illegal exploitation of materials (sand and gravel from rivers) or forestry
- Accidents to workers or nearby residents
- Uncontrolled generation of solid waste and sanitary waste
- Decrease in reservoir depth due to siltation
- Reduction in reservoir volume affects fish during the construction works
- Inappropriate quality of irrigation waters
- Accidental overflows
- Danger of water logging and soil salinization

Negative social impacts are as follows:

- Reduction in reservoir capacity during the construction limits agricultural production that could lead to unemployment and financial stress
- Increase in dam crest level by between 0.3 and 0.5 meters, which may have an impact on
some land surrounding these reservoirs
- Conflicts between stakeholders on use of reservoir water (i.e. fisheries, irrigation or hydropower)
- Create differences/jealousy between owners of land under irrigation and those without.
- Poor quality of irrigation waters can reduce or destroy crop yields.
- Danger to public safety with irrigation canals and pesticide residue
- Disruption to farming practices during construction.

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

The following alternatives were reviewed;
- The zero option (no investment)
- The delayed project option
- Alternative Site relocation option.

Alternative sources of water and demand reduction through conservation and re-use and water management and monitoring were considered but were found to be unrealistic and to have similar impacts to the current project under consideration.

None of the above options would be suitable; the 14 dams already exist, and have been periodically filled and emptied over a number of years. The I&D schemes are already in existence and there is no change to their existing footprint. The intended rehabilitation works on the dams for safety and on the I&D schemes will improve the reliability and efficiency of this irrigation resource.

Further details have been provided in the project’s Environmental and Social Framework Document, and will be provided in the site specific Environmental and Social Management Plans.

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 Borrower is aware of the Bank’s policies and procedures, as it has already been benefiting from Bank funded projects. However, its internal implementing capacity is still limited. The Project will engage environmental and social specialists as a part of the supervision team. An environmental specialist will be recruited to strengthen implementation capacity of MAFCP.

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

The main national stakeholders are considered to be MAFCP and MEFWA. The role and relevance of each national stakeholder will change depending on the issues to be consulted.

The main local stakeholders are considered to be Districts and the Local Governments (LGs), i.e. the municipalities and communes and their urban offices, the Regional Environmental Agencies and Local Environment Inspection offices. Other stakeholders may be identified in the design of project components and sub-projects.

The main public representatives are local NGOs active in the region, social associations, business community organizations such as local Chambers of Commerce, hoteliers associations, tourism associations etc.

The responsible LG with support of MAFCP/MEFWA will consult the project affected groups and
local NGOs about the sub-project and take their views into account. This will be done according to the procedures defined in the Albanian Law on EIA, as developed more precisely in the Public Participation Regulations Nr.1 “On Public Participation of EIA process” issued by MEFWA, dated 17.08.2004 (Nr 233 of Prot.). This Regulation is drafted to apply to Article 26 of the EIA law. Where this process is not sufficient to meet WB policy requirements they will be enhanced. Broadly these requirements are as follows:

The public consultation will occur when the ESMP is in a draft phase and the findings of the draft ESMP will be discussed. The public and stakeholder consultation and participation will be realized through:

- information to public and stakeholders about a component, sub-project or activity, including access to key data and indicators in hard or electronic copy;
- Ensuring conditions that maximize opportunities to express opinions and participate in the decision making process, though public debate and other consultative processes:
  - Public meetings
  - Workshops
  - Exhibitions
  - Individual meetings with stakeholders
  - Distribution of questionnaires
  - Advertisement, notices, media
- Consideration of any proposals for improvements and ways to make them;

Preparing and implementing the consultation process will comprise the following steps:

- Identification of national and local stakeholders and public representatives as suggested above;
- Preparation of the simple and adequate information of the activity/action to be displayed to stakeholders and information to public;
- Determination and organization of the events required;
- Facilitation of the events;
- Recording the information and opinions and advice obtained;
- Consideration of the above information in finalizing the design and the operation and maintenance arrangements, etc.; and
- Co-ordination of the time table/schedule for each of the above steps.

The public consultation process is already underway.

**B. Disclosure Requirements Date**

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For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors

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**Pest Management Plan**

| Was the document disclosed prior to appraisal? | No |
| Date of receipt by the Bank | NA |
| Date of "in-country" disclosure | NA |
| Date of submission to InfoShop | NA |

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:

The awareness raising activities and promotion of pest management will be part of the site-specific ESMPs for irrigation system rehabilitation and modernization. Additionally, the project will work with MAFCP in strengthening its internal capacity for pest management.

**C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level (to be filled in when the ISDS is finalized by the project decision meeting)**

**OP/BP/GP 4.01 - Environment Assessment**

Are the cost and the accountabilities for the EMP incorporated in the credit/loan?  
Yes [ × ]  No [ ]  NA [ ]

**OP 4.09 - Pest Management**

If yes, has the PMP been reviewed and approved by a safeguards specialist or SM? Are PMP requirements included in project design? If yes, does the project team include a Pest Management Specialist?  
Yes [ ]  No [ ]  NA [ × ]

**OP/BP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement**

If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Sector Manager review the plan?  
Yes [ × ]  No [ ]  NA [ ]

**OP/BP 4.37 - Safety of Dams**

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**

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 [ ] |

### III. APPROVALS

**Task Team Leader:** IJsbrand Harko de Jong

**Approved By**

**Regional Safeguards Coordinator:**
- **Name:** Agnes I. Kiss (RSA)
- **Date:** 12-Sep-2012

**Sector Manager:**
- **Name:** Dina Umali-Deininger (SM)
- **Date:** 12-Sep-2012