

INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATA SHEET CONCEPT STAGE

Report No.: ISDSC6367

Date ISDS Prepared/Updated: 10-Apr-2014

Date ISDS Approved/Disclosed: 05-May-2014

I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country:	Guyana	Project ID:	P147250
Project Name:	GY Flood Risk Management (P147250)		
Task Team Leader:	Armando Eduardo Guzman Es		
Estimated Appraisal Date:	01-Apr-2014	Estimated Board Date:	04-Jun-2014
Managing Unit:	LCSDU	Lending Instrument:	Investment Project Financing
Sector(s):	Flood protection (100%)		
Theme(s):	Urban planning and housing policy (60%), Climate change (20%), Water resource management (20%)		
Financing (In USD Million)			
Total Project Cost:	11.89	Total Bank Financing:	11.89
Financing Gap:	0.00		
Financing Source			Amount
BORROWER/RECIPIENT			0.00
International Development Association (IDA)			11.89
Total			11.89
Environmental Category:	B - Partial Assessment		
Is this a Repeater project?	No		

B. Project Objectives

The objective of the project is to reduce the vulnerability of Guyana's low-lying coastal area to flooding by implementing key strategic infrastructure investments.

C. Project Description

The low-lying coastal plains along the Atlantic Ocean are highly populated and generally lie below sea level. They are bordered to the south by the EDWC and to the north by a seawall complex along

the Atlantic Ocean. Drainage in the coastal area is undertaken by a network of drainage and irrigation canals which are in need of upgrading and expansion.

The EDWC system is separate from this drainage system. It stores water inland and drains directly to nearby rivers and the Atlantic Ocean to avoid flooding in the coastal area. It includes a reservoir fronted on three sides by an earthen dam with six main drainage relief canals. Three of these canals drain into the Demerara River to the west (Kofi, Land of Canaan and Cunha canals), two drain into the Mahaica River to the east (Lama and Maduni relief structures) and a new canal currently under construction, drains north directly into the Atlantic Ocean (Hope-Dochfour canal).

The proposed USD 11.89 million IDA Credit will finance a set of priority investments to improve the EDWC and coastal system drainage. It will also finance institutional strengthening for water resources and investments planning and project management. Specifically project components include:

Component 1: Upgrading the EDWC Dam and Drainage System (USD 7 million)

This will include upgrading and reconstruction of critical parts of the EDWC dam and critical improvements to existing relief structures including safety improvements and widening of drainage canals.

Component 2: Upgrading the East Coast Drainage System (USD 3.19 million)

Investments will be made to improve the coastal drainage systems including the installation of pumps; reconstruction of culverts and widening of canals.

Component 3: Management and Planning Support (USD 0.7 million)

This component will provide planning support to allow for the identification and the preparation of further investment works and will also assist in the establishment of monitoring systems and collection of data for planning. It will also support the operating costs and specialized consultants for the Guyana Ministry of Agriculture Agricultural Sector Development Unit (ASDU) to execute the project.

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

Guyana's Region 4, an area of 1,843 square kilometers (711 square miles), includes Georgetown and is home to the majority of Guyana's population. It is bounded to the north by the Atlantic Ocean, to the west by the Demerara River and to the East by the Mahaica River and Region 5. The East Demerara Water Conservancy (EDWC), a large, shallow water storage system with a catchment area of 571 square kilometers (220 square miles), provides agricultural lands and urban areas with irrigation and drinking water. It is drained by a system of canals, sluices and pumps. This system, combined with a dense network of drainage and irrigation canals in the lowland areas along the East coast and Demerara River, provides flood control that is crucial for the protection of property, life and economy in the country.

E. Borrowers Institutional Capacity for Safeguard Policies

The project will follow the same implementing arrangements outlined under the CAP, with the Agriculture Sector Development Unit (ASDU) within the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) being the Project Implementing Agency. ASDU will also manage the fiduciary, safeguards and administrative aspects of the project and the procurement process, including issuance of the tenders, undertaking financial reporting for the project, and making payments to contractors.

The CAP program design recognized that ASDU had limited technical capacity to prepare safeguards documents and monitor implementation, and would need extensive support from the Bank. This support was received, and capacity has since increased. The Bank has taken and will continue to take measures to strengthen ASDU and its fiduciary capacities through fiduciary and financial management training, provision of advice on an ongoing basis and close monitoring and support. During Project preparation, a capacity building program and operations manual will be agreed for ASDU including staffing (technical, procurement, financial management and safeguards) and training on procurement, safeguards and financial management rules and processes.

F. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Noreen Beg (LCSEN)

M. Yaa Pokua Afriyie Oppong (LCSSO)

II. SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/ BP 4.01	Yes	<p>The Project is proposed as category B - Partial Assessment - assigned to projects that are likely to have localized, limited and reversible environmental impacts, that can be readily mitigated. The Project will have a largely positive social and environmental (health and safety) impact. Benefits that will accrue from the reduction of vulnerability of Guyana's low-lying areas to flooding include: reduced risk of flood damage to infrastructure, agricultural land, residential and commercial property; and reduced mortality and morbidity arising from flooding.</p> <p>Physical interventions resulting from the implementation of investments could have low to moderate negative impacts: primarily relatively minor air, water, and soil pollution. The most significant impacts will result from the construction and rehabilitation works (back-filling, excavation, earth-moving, dredging). These impacts will be assessed through a screening process and appropriate mitigation measures will be proposed.</p> <p>Given that the specific nature and location of all components is not going to be definitively determined prior to appraisal, a framework approach will be adopted. An Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) will be prepared, which will include an</p>

		<p>environmental baseline, a screening process for further investments, and proposed mitigation measures. The first year's investments will be fully defined before appraisal and for these Environmental Impact Assessments/ Environmental Management Plans will be prepared as appropriate.</p> <p>The ESMF will be prepared, consulted on, and disclosed prior to project appraisal.</p>
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	<p>Appropriate mitigation measures will be followed to limit the impact on local fauna, avi-fauna and to protect indigenous plant and tree species, and preserve the Demerara and Mahaica riverine ecosystems. Although the Conservancy is not a Protected Area, nor is it a critical natural habitat, it is host to several bird species and other wildlife. Unless site visits indicate otherwise, OP 4.04 – Natural Habitats – is triggered by the Project.</p>
Forests OP/BP 4.36	No	<p>It is not expected that Project investments would affect the management of forests, the use of forests for livelihoods or would support investments such as plantations or other industrial uses. As such, OP 4.36 will not be triggered. The ESMF will explicitly forbid any project activities that would lead to the destruction, degradation or conversion of forests and key forest ecosystems.</p>
Pest Management OP 4.09	TBD	<p>The Project will not finance any activities that would result in procurement or significant use of pesticides. It is not expected that there will be pesticide use in construction or rehabilitation works, but this will be confirmed during project preparation. If pesticides will be used, a Pest Management Plan will be prepared and OP 4.09 will be triggered</p>
Physical Cultural Resources OP/ BP 4.11	Yes	<p>The project is not expected to have negative impacts on cultural property. However, “chance findings” during implementation of activities could be possible. Chance finds procedures will be incorporated into EMPs and construction contracts.</p>
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	TBD	<p>The Indigenous Peoples Policy (OP/BP 4.10) is unlikely to be triggered since the project is being implemented in Georgetown and not in</p>

		the Amerindian Territories. However, and as a precaution the Bank Social Specialist will conduct a screening exercise during the forthcoming preparation mission to validate this assertion.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	<p>It is not envisaged that there will be any land acquisition or impacts during the first year of project implementation. However, investments in subsequent years are likely to entail land acquisition and resettlement including most significantly impacts on commercial activities in the Demarara drainage canals. In addition the Cunha canal land acquisition issues have yet to be resolved and these legacy land acquisition issues may be merged into this current project.</p> <p>A Resettlement Policy framework (RPF) will be prepared to allow application of the OP 4.12 policy requirements. The RPF will clarify resettlement objectives and principles, organizational arrangements and funding mechanisms for any resettlement operation that may be necessary during project implementation.</p> <p>The RPF will be prepared and disclosed prior to project appraisal.</p>
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	Yes	This policy is triggered because the project is to upgrade the EWDC Dam which meets the large dam criteria.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	No	Both the Demerara and Mahaica rivers originate in Guyana, and a third canal drains directly into the Atlantic Ocean, so OP 7.50, Projects on International Waterways, is not triggered
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	

III. SAFEGUARD PREPARATION PLAN

A. Tentative target date for preparing the PAD Stage ISDS: 01-Feb-2014

B. Time frame for launching and completing the safeguard-related studies that may be needed. The specific studies and their timing¹ should be specified in the PAD-stage ISDS:

Nov 20th 2013 – Feb 1st 2014

IV. APPROVALS

Task Team Leader:	Name: Armando Eduardo Guzman Es
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¹ Reminder: The Bank's Disclosure Policy requires that safeguard-related documents be disclosed before appraisal (i) at the InfoShop and (ii) in country, at publicly accessible locations and in a form and language that are accessible to potentially affected persons.

<i>Approved By:</i>		
Regional Safeguards Coordinator:	Name: Maria Elena Garcia Mora (RSA)	Date: 11-Apr-2014
Sector Manager:	Name: Anna Wellenstein (SM)	Date: 05-May-2014