Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 02/04/2019 | Report No: ESRSC00133
## BASIC INFORMATION

### A. Basic Project Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Project ID</th>
<th>Parent Project ID (if any)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guinea</td>
<td>AFRICA</td>
<td>P168613</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Project Name
Guinea Biodiversity Conservation Project

#### Practice Area (Lead) & Financing Instrument
- Environment & Natural Resources: Investment Project Financing

#### Estimated Appraisal Date & Estimated Board Date
- Estimated Appraisal Date: 10/18/2019
- Estimated Board Date: 12/18/2019

#### Borrower(s) & Implementing Agency(ies)
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests

### Proposed Development Objective(s)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financing (in USD Million)</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Project Cost</td>
<td>15.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### B. Is the project being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

### C. Summary Description of Proposed Project [including overview of Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to CPF]

### D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

Activities with a physical footprint will be limited in building/rehabilitating infrastructure (e.g., offices, housing, monitoring stations and trails) in the two targeted protected areas under component 2 and BGEE premises building/rehabilitating under component 3. These protected areas will be selected with the authorities during the project preparation. There are communities living in the buffer zones of the protected areas and this is facilitating...
some encroachment into the protected areas due to natural population growth. The Environment and Social Assessment will examine the potential risks and impacts of restricting the access of these communities to the targeted protected areas.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

The environmental policy framework is rooted in the provisions of the Constitution through Art19 (3) that states: "the People has the right to the preservation of his heritage, culture and of its environment ". The Environment code was published on May 28, 1987. In November 8, 1989 the government published a Decree regulating Impact Studies. In Guinea, the Environmental and Social Assessment and ESIA review process is under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment through the Guinean Bureau of Studies and Environmental Assessment (BGEEE). In general, however, human and logistical resources within the Ministry of Environment remain limited. In theory, BGEEE implements its mandate through five main phases: (i) validation of the terms of reference; (ii) the admissibility review; (iii) the receipt of the ESIA draft reports submitted to the Minister for the Environment; (iv) review and judgment on the environmental acceptability of the project by the BGEEE; and (v) environmental monitoring of the project. This is a process parallel to that of the Bank. The Environmental and Social Impact reports review requires the participation of other relevant ministries. Since March 2013, the Government adopted a General Environmental Assessment Guide that defines the methodology and procedure for conducting environmental and social impact assessments. This guide is currently under revision. Few other sectoral guidelines are under preparation and the current project will provide additional resource to prepare additional sectoral guidelines. As of July 2018, BGEEE staff number was 85 on which 32 were recruited during the last 12 months by the government. This new staff will need training to strengthen capacity in this institution. The BGEEE is poorly equipped (one four-wheel vehicle, analysis kits (noise, air quality, water, soil), four offices for 85 staff). Several technical trainings on ESIA review and ESMPs monitoring were provided to limited number of staff. The Ministry of Environment which will host the PIU has never implemented World Bank financed projects. Based on the country experience, the environmental and social management system and procedures within the Ministry of Environment (including BGEEE) will need to be enhanced to fully comply with ESF requirements. The Project will address the gaps under component 3. Capacity building activities relevant to the preparation and implementation of specific instruments for compliance with the WBG’s ESSs will be reflected in the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) to be prepared by the Government of Guinea and agreed with the World Bank.

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

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Environmental Risk Rating

Despite the fact that the project activities will have positive impact in the selected protected areas due to the improvement of their sustainable management, the Environmental risk rating is Moderate due to the fact the Ministry of Environment which will host the PIU has never implemented World Bank financed projects. In addition human and logistical resources within the Ministry of Environment remain limited. The two main beneficiaries agencies, namely BGEEE and OGUIPAR, have also limited experience in implementing the Bank environmental and social framework. To mitigate the risk, one skilled environmental specialist will be hired to ensure the environmental and social standards compliance during the project lifetime. The Project Safeguard team will provide targeted training on relevant ESSs to select specialists. The ESCP will capture all relevant actions that will ensure ESS compliance. All relevant instruments that are required prior project appraisal will be prepared, reviewed and disclosed in the country and at the World Bank website.
Social Risk Rating

Moderate

Social risk is considered to be moderate. The social impacts are site specific and are not anticipated to be large scale although they will affect the access of local communities to natural resources in two protected areas. To mitigate these risks and to ensure a strong engagement with the affected communities, a skilled social development specialist will be hired by the PIU under the PPA to support ESS planning and compliance and to provide guidance regarding the identification and management of other social risks during project implementation.

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1. General Assessment

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

The proposed project activities under component 2 (implementing activities identified in the targeted Protected Areas management plans and building/rehabilitating infrastructures) and those in component 3 (construction of a new premises for the BGEEE central office in Conakry) are expected to generate adverse potential social and environmental risks and impacts that will be limited in scale, most of them will be site specific within the targeted protected areas, and in most cases mitigation measures can be readily designed. The potential environmental impacts caused by new construction/rehabilitation works and associated handling and storage of construction material may include waste production, excessive noise and dust levels, and disposal of asbestos containing material, if present. These type of civil works are likely to generate environmental and social impacts such as construction related health and safety concerns for both laborers/workers and surrounding local communities. The project doesn’t support any activities that would include land acquisition and as a result no permanent physical displacement is expected. Depending on the scale of the rehabilitation works, there could be clearing, site preparation and construction that could lead to loss of vegetation and associated fauna, soil disturbance and erosion. However, these potential environmental and social risks and impacts are predictable, expected to be temporary, low in magnitude, and site-specific. The scope and sites of public works and livelihood activities are not yet defined nor identified, therefore, a framework approach (ESMF, PF) will be adopted to provide guidance on the appropriate instruments such as Environmental and Social Impact Assessments/Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESIAs/ESMPs), and where necessary Resettlement Plans (RPs) to be prepared. The Environmental and Social Commitment Plan, drawn and agreed upon with the borrower, will set out the substantive measures and actions that will be required for the project to meet environmental and social requirements over a specified period of time. These measures shall be implemented within the specified timeframes and the status of implementation will be reviewed as part of project monitoring and reporting. The ESMF will make use of the general and sector-specific EHSGs for the identified subprojects in relation to occupational and community health and safety. For the selected Protected Areas and the BGEEE new premises the relevant environmental and social instruments will be prepared, reviewed and disclosed in the country and the World Bank website prior to appraisal. The other relevant actions related to this ESS will be captured in the ESCP. The project will apply the relevant requirements of the Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs) due mainly to construction or rehabilitation of infrastructure. Construction contractors will be required, as a condition of their contracts with the Project, to implement and comply with Contractor ESMP consistent with ESS1 requirements. Construction contracts will include relevant provision on procedures for handling “chance finds” during implementation of project activities. GBV relevant mitigation measures will be reflected in the bidding documents. The Borrower will monitor the environmental and social performance in accordance with the legal agreement and manage any requirements based on social assessments.
Areas where reliance on the Borrower’s E&S Framework may be considered:
The operation will not use the Borrower’s E&S Framework in the assessment, development and implementation of subprojects. The project will comply with relevant national legal requirements.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure
Stakeholder engagement is a critical tool for social and environmental risk management, project sustainability and success mainly when the activities are focused on Protected Areas. In consultation with the Bank the client will prepare and implement an inclusive Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) proportional to the nature and scale of the project and associated risks and impacts. A draft of the SEP will be prepared and disclosed as early as possible and prior to Appraisal. The client will seek stakeholder feedback and opportunities for proposed future engagement, ensuring that all consultations are inclusive and accessible (both in format and location) and through channels that are suitable in the local context. If major changes are made to the SEP, a revised SEP should receive the no objection of the Bank and then be publicly disclosed. The borrower will engage in meaningful consultations with all stakeholders throughout the project life cycle paying attention to the inclusion of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups (including the elderly, persons with disabilities, female headed households and orphans and vulnerable children). Borrowers will provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation. The borrower will maintain, and disclose, a documented record of stakeholder engagement, including a description of the stakeholders consulted, a summary of the feedback received and a brief explanation of how the feedback was considered, or the reasons why it was not incorporated. The SEP will include mechanisms for setting out a Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM). The GRM platform will seek to establish a continuous feedback and responsive platform between project-affected communities and implementing structures.

B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts
A brief description of the potential environmental and social risks and impacts relevant to the Project.

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions
The project will involve most of the workers categories’ described under para 3 of this ESS but it will not require a significant amount of labor as the civil works to be financed are limited in scale and scope. Most labor will be locally hired, except for skilled workers who cannot be found in the project location as most of the protected areas remain in remote regions. The project will therefore work with the contractors to ensure that they hire local unskilled labor to the extent possible for construction/rehabilitation of infrastructures to minimize the influx of unskilled labor and reduce the potential for harm. Experience indicates that the influx of workers and followers into a project area can lead to adverse social impacts such as gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation, communicable diseases including HIV/AIDS for local communities in remote areas. The Environmental and Social Assessment process will recommend relevant labor management measures including labor management procedures that will set out the way in which project workers will be managed, in accordance with the requirements of national law and this ESS. To ensure health and safety of workers during the construction and operational phases of the project, the PIU will develop and implement a proportional Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) plan in line with World Bank Group Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines (for construction activities). The plan will include procedures on incident investigation and reporting, recording and reporting of non-compliance, emergency preparedness and
response procedures and continuous training and awareness to workers that will be proportionate with the project scope. The Construction-ESMP will also confirm if there will be onsite accommodation of works.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

The project activity will imply consumption of energy, water and raw material as well as generation of waste. It is anticipated that during the project implementation limited air emissions be generated due to transport vehicles, and fugitive dust generated by digging activities. Those most likely to be affected are workers and people living within the proximity of construction/rehabilitation sites. The implementation of mitigation measures such as dust suppression and vehicle maintenance will be applied to minimize the impact of air emissions during construction/rehabilitation, and residual impacts are expected to be limited in scope and duration. Noise might likely be generated from the use of construction machinery and vehicle movements. The relatively short-term and small-scale nature of the works suggest that noise levels will not be excessive or cause long-term nuisance. The construction works will however, present short-term nuisance to the neighbors to some of the project sites. The Environmental and Social Management Plan to be prepared will include mitigation measures to minimize and manage the noise levels such by applying standard restrictions to hours of site work. Construction/rehabilitation activities will generate solid waste which will primarily include excavated soil and solid wastes. The waste generated by the construction/rehabilitation works will largely be disposed of at approved sites according with the national laws and regulations. The construction ESMP will provide all relevant requirements.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

The Borrower will evaluate the risks and impacts of the project on the health and safety of the affected communities that are living within or in the buffer zones of the selected protected areas. This will include adverse social impacts such as gender-based violence (GBV), sexual exploitation and communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS on local communities and labor influx. While the civil works to be financed are limited in scale and scope, in order to ensure the health and safety of workers during the construction and operational phases of the project, the PIU will develop and implement a Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) plan in line with World Bank Group Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines (for construction activities). The plan will include procedures on incident investigation and reporting, recording and reporting of non-compliance, emergency preparedness and response procedures and continuous training and awareness to workers that will be proportionate with the project scope.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Project activities are limited to TA and the rehabilitation of park infrastructure such as housing for park wardens, offices and monitoring stations. There will not be any new construction so land acquisition is not expected. These buildings already belong to the Ministry and are inside the protected areas. The ESS is relevant for para 3(c)“ Restrictions on land use and access to natural resources that cause a community or groups within a community to lose access to resource usage where they have traditional or customary tenure, or recognizable usage rights. This may include situations where legally designated protected areas, forests, biodiversity areas or buffer zones are established in connection with the project”. To ensure ESS compliance, the borrower will prepare a process framework for each targeted protected area that describes participatory processes. These documents will be
prepared, reviewed and disclosed in country and at the Bank website prior appraisal. The ESCP will include a commitment to implement the process frameworks prepared during the project preparation.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources
This ESS is relevant as the project activities will be mainly focused in the selected protected areas. Para 6 of the ESS states that: "Based on the environmental and social assessment, the requirements of this ESS are applied to all projects that potentially affect biodiversity or habitats, either positively or negatively, directly or indirectly, or that depend upon biodiversity for their success." The Environmental and Social Assessment will provide guidance on screening and mitigation measures to ensure that project activities do not alter or cause destruction of any critical or sensitive natural habitats. The clearance and loss of areas of vegetation and fauna habitat will be minimal. Overall, the project will have positive impacts as it will promote the sustainable management of natural resources and support the livelihoods of local communities depending on those natural resources through practices that integrate conservation needs and development priorities.

ESS7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities
This ESS is not considered relevant as there are no Indigenous Peoples meeting the criteria outlined in para 8.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage
The ESS8 is relevant as the project activities will be implemented in protected areas that may be valued for their cultural heritage. The environmental and social assessment will confirm the existence of tangible or intangible cultural heritage. However, all construction contracts will include as described under ESS1, a “Chance Find” clause which will require contractors to stop construction in the event that cultural property sites are encountered during construction.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries
With regard of the nature of the project activities, this ESS9 is not currently relevant.

C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas

III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered?

No
Financing Partners
There are other donors in the sector and efforts will be made to ensure synergies and alignment where possible.

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

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:
- Preparation, consultation and disclosure of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP);
- ESMF;
- Preparation of the BGEEE premises Construction ESMP;
- Preparation of the Process Framework for each of the two Protected Areas.

Possible issues to be addressed in the Borrower Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP):
- Implementation of SEP;
- Labor Management Procedures;
- Development and implementation of a proportional Health, Safety and Environmental (HSE) plan in line with World Bank Group Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Guidelines (for construction activities);
- Development of relevant ESIA/ ESMPs/NIES;
- Implementation of the Process Framework in each Protected Area;
- Review and monitoring of Construction ESMPs;
- Preparation and implementation of the Grievance Redress Mechanism;
- Monitor the environmental and social performance in accordance with the legal agreement.

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS 26-Apr-2019

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Implementing Agency(ies)
Implementing Agency: Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests

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VI. APPROVAL
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