Appraisal Environmental and Social Review Summary

Appraisal Stage

(ESRS Appraisal Stage)

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This document provides basic information about the Chad Local Development and Adaptation Project (P171611). The project aims to improve the management of natural resources and the livelihood of populations in selected climate vulnerable areas in and around the Ouadi Rime and Ouadi Achim (OROA) reserve in Chad. The proposed development objectives include strengthening resilience of community livelihoods around protected areas, promoting sustainable and integrated agro-sylvo-pastoral production systems, improving access to drinkable water and sanitation services, and supporting income-generating activities in the hotspots area. The project is estimated to cost USD 54.45 million. It is not being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints. The project will support activities that will help in conserving biodiversity and reducing the impact of climate change.
It will address the following constraints and issues: (a) the lack of sound practices in using natural resources sustainably; (b) the limited livelihood options of the most vulnerable communities; (c) the vulnerability of communities to climatic shocks; and (d) the inadequate management of protected areas.

It comprises four components:

- Component 1. Sustainable Natural Resources Management and Protected Areas: This component aims to support the improved management of Ouadi Rime Ouadi Achim reserve as well as support national effort to fight against poaching and promote conservation of biodiversity. Main activities include (a) developing basic infrastructure and strengthening capacity, (b) regional dialogue to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services; (c) community participation in sustainable natural resources management including the establishment of local community management committees; (d) and citizen engagement and capacity building.

- Component 2. Promote Sustainable Natural Resources’ Management and Conserve Protected Areas: Under this component, the project supports the creation of necessary conditions for communities in the hotspots area facing climatic impact to strengthen their resilience through (i) income generating activities and integrated agriculture production, and (ii) water supply and sanitation.

- Component 3. Project Management, Coordination, and Monitoring: This component would finance the operational costs of the Project Implementation Unit.

- Component 4. Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC): This zero-funded component will allow the governments to quickly mobilize funds in the event of an emergency that will require immediate recovery and reconstruction response.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

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

The project will be implemented in and around the Ouadi Rime Ouadi Hachim Reserve and will focus on five hotspots—Arada, Kalait, Djadda, Salal et Kouba—in five provinces that include Batha, Wadi Fira, Ennedi West, Borkou, and Bahr Elgazel, which share the reserve. Together these provinces cover 636,173 sq km and are located in the center and north/northeast of the country. These areas are sparsely populated and were recently ranked as among the least developed in terms of access to basic services and governance under the Local Development Index (LDI; an index that the World Bank has been calculating in many countries). In particular, Borkou ranks significantly lower than the national average in terms of Human Capital Index points that include indicators relating to child mortality, education, and access to health. Food insecurity and long-term low level conflict—especially in the border areas with Libya, Sudan, and Niger—have contributed to deepening and entrenching poverty in these regions.

The impact of climate change has been profound on the entire country. The project area is considered to be a buffer zone against desertification (i.e. a transition zone) that and is also home to several endangered species of animal, such as the oryx, Dama, and Dorcas gazelles. It is a refuge for species critical to the existence of the Sahelo-Saharan zone, such as the great bustard, vultures, and a diverse range of birds and small and medium-sized carnivores. Climate change is exacerbating existing conflicts between human resource users and contributing to inter-community violence in several provinces, including those covered by the reserve. This was the case with the inter-communal violence that occurred in Ouaddai, Sila, and Tibesti in 2019 and led to the establishment of the state of emergency in these provinces.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity
The project will be implemented by the Ministry of the Environment, Water and Fisheries (MEEP). Its mandate includes the design and implementation of strategies, policies and programs that ensure the sustainable use of natural resources and the protection of the environment. The Ministry has several technical directorates and specialized agencies, including those focused on combatting desertification, conserving biodiversity, enforcing environmental regulations, preventing pollution and fighting wildlife poaching. The Direction d’Évaluation Environnementale et de Lutte Contre les Pollutions et Nuisances (DEELCPN) is responsible for providing environmental permits for any kind of investment in Chad and for validating Environmental and Social Impact studies (including the safeguard instruments prepared for World Bank-financed projects). While the Ministry has some experience implementing World Bank projects under the Bank’s operational safeguard policies (OPs), it has very limited capacity regarding the new Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). Given the expanded scope of the ESF, capacity building and training will be needed throughout the life of the project and is outlined in the ESCP. A project implementation unit (PIU) will be created and placed under the supervision of the MEEP. It will have the overall responsibility for project oversight and coordination. A two-person team of Social and Environmental specialists will be established at the PIU to adequately handle the implementation of social and environmental aspects.

II. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC) Moderate

Environmental Risk Rating Moderate

The environmental risk is considered to be moderate at this stage, as project activities are limited in scale and site-specific, with minimal adverse impacts (mainly climate-smart, agro-silvo-pastoral activities, protected-area, basic small-scale infrastructure, small-scale water and sanitation infrastructure, and soil restoration and natural regeneration activities. The project activities are designed to improve the sustainable management of natural resources and promote diversified and resilient livelihoods. These activities are expected to have very limited, site-specific environmental negative impacts. However, it is important to take all the necessary precautions to put certain provisions in place to mitigate potential risks and impacts, including those that may arise when CERC will be executed.

Social Risk Rating Moderate

The social risk is considered moderate at this stage as any negative impacts related to the implementation of project activities are considered minimal and can be managed with mitigation measures. The main social risks are related to: (i) the impact of potential restrictions on access to use of natural resources in the protected areas for the local population; (ii) possible land acquisition issues, which could lead to physical and/or economic involuntary displacement, the loss of property and/or loss or disruption of income or livelihood activities as a result of infrastructure work financed by this project; (iii) risk of Sexual Abuse and Exploitation and Harassment (SEA/H) of local communities by workers financed by the project; (iv) the carrying out of effective consultations and information sharing with a widely dispersed and geographically remote population; and (v) challenges for supervision given the insecurity in the project area.

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:

An assessment of environmental and social risks and impacts of the project has been conducted. Potential negative environmental and social impacts and risks are associated with the implementation of components 1 and 2. These include dust surges, loss of vegetable species, production of waste, risks of erosion and water pollution, risks of accidents at work and traffic, social conflicts between local populations and construction site staff, potential restrictions on access to protected areas, risks of sexual abuse, loss of crops. Most of them are expected to be site specific, primarily associated with the construction/rehabilitation of small infrastructure in the OROA reserve (including outspots, offices, the rehabilitation of small roads, and bush firebreaks) as well as in each hotspot (including a training center and a small-scale agriculture production storage facility), water access and sanitation infrastructure, as well as income generating activities, such as agro-silvo-pastoral activities. In addition, if the CERC will be implemented, the project can further induce some effects that entail environmental and social concerns.

As the the exact scope and specific sites of public works and livelihood activities are not yet defined, a framework approach [Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), and Policy/Process Framework (PF)] will be used to provide guidance on the appropriate instruments to be prepared after approval, such as Environmental and Social Impact Assessments/Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESIAs/ESMPs). An ESMF has been prepared by the Borrower, consulted upon, reviewed by the Bank and is being finalized by the borrower. It makes use of the general and sector-specific EHSGs for the identified subprojects in relation to occupational and community health and safety. The ESMF provides guidance regarding mitigation and management measures during all phases of the project, including the respective roles and responsibilities, schedule, costs and implementation procedures. It also includes an assessment of the SEA/H risks, and assessment of the available SEA/H services in the project area and proposed mitigation measures, adapted to cultural context. During the implementation phase of the project, when the nature, scope and geographical location of the activities are known, site specific ESIA/ESMPs will be prepared, based on the provisions of the ESMF.

An Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), drawn and agreed upon with the Bank, has also been prepared by the Borrower. It sets out the substantive measures and actions that will be required for the project to meet environmental and social requirements. These measures shall be implemented within the specified timeframes and the status of implementation will be reviewed as part of project monitoring and reporting.

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

The Borrower has prepared a comprehensive Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) that addresses the challenges related to information sharing, communication, and participation in a very sparsely populated and widely geographically dispersed area. In addition, the SEP includes details regarding a project specific Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that will guide the management of any concerns or complaints that may arise during project implementation. Resources for implementation of the SEP and social communication and capacity building activities are included under Component 1.2.

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 is likely to finance short-term, unskilled workers from neighboring communities, as well as some skilled engineers who will be brought in by the contractor(s). All workers involved in project implementation will be required to adhere to the terms and conditions of their employment contracts, which will be governed by Chadian labor law but will also reflect the principles regarding conditions of employment described in ESS2. The Borrower will prepare Labor Management Procedures (LMP) that specify the terms and conditions of employment, non-discrimination and equal opportunities, workers’ organizations, measures against child and forced labor, a grievance redress mechanism for labor disputes, occupational safety and health measures for the workers (direct and contract), and provisions to prevent and manage SEA/H is currently being prepared and will be finalized prior to the start of works. 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 consistent with World Bank Group Environment, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSG). The HSE plan will include procedures for incident investigation and reporting and recording of any non-compliance, emergency preparedness and response procedures, and the continuous training and awareness of workers as required. The Borrower shall ensure that the ESS2 requirements are incorporated into: (a) the contracts between the Recipient and the Contractor and any entity (including the Owner’s Engineer) supervising the Project’s civil works; and (b) the contracts between the Contractor and any Contractors’ subcontractors. All workers will be required to sign a Code of Conduct that reflects these principles.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management
The construction and rehabilitation of the basic infrastructure in the OROA reserve and in each of the five hotspots and the water access and sanitation infrastructures are all likely to generate some air pollution and consume scarce water resources in the project areas. The construction works may also cause a short-term nuisance to the local communities. The ESMP(s) for these subprojects will outline measures to promote the sustainable use of resources (energy, water, and raw materials) and how to minimize pollution, noise, and dust. In addition, the ESMP(s) will include mitigation measures to minimize and manage the noise levels, such as applying standard restrictions to hours of work at the project sites where and when appropriate. The waste generated by the construction/rehabilitation works will be disposed of at approved sites, according to national laws and regulations. The project is not anticipated to be a significant user of water or to emit significant quantities of greenhouse gases. As part of the integrated agriculture production activities, even if the project is not expected to finance acquisition of pesticides, beneficiaries can use these types of chemicals which can cause pollution. The ESMF includes an Integrated Pest Management to prevent pollution in annex.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety
The project will finance small civil works in the OROA reserve and in each of the five hotspots and finance activities that will help with the enforcement of the reserve management plan. These activities may generate other social risks and negative effects on the health, safety and security of the neighboring communities. While most of the workers for the small civil works are likely to be sourced from the local communities, experience has shown that any influx of workers into a project area can lead to adverse social impacts (SEA/H, sexually transmitted and communicable diseases), particularly in rural areas. To manage these impacts, the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) will include protection, such as HIV and SEA/H mitigation measures, and clear procedures regarding how to
respond to accidents, especially those resulting in a fatality. The ESMP will integrate the general and sector-specific EHSGs where relevant.

The project will also implement measures to address SEA/H. The contractor ESMP prepared for each of the subprojects will include a security plan for the project sites and a Code of Conduct for all workers (long-term and temporary) during construction. The equipment and vehicles/engines will be parked and stored at the base building site at the end of each work day to ensure community and workers' safety. The contractor will make use of general and sector-specific EHSGs for the identified activities in relation to community health and safety. Training in how to engage with local communities will be provided to the park rangers and a social communication strategy will be included in the SEP to provide information to local communities regarding the project and to explain the use of resources in the reserve.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

The project will finance measures intended to improve the enforcement of regulations for conservation and natural resource management in protected areas. Some of these measures are likely to restrict local communities who have been accessing these resources. To mitigate the impact of this restriction, a Process Framework has been prepared by the Borrower. The Process Framework provides guidance regarding how to mitigate negative impacts; elements such as community engagement and social communication are cross-referenced in the SEP. In addition, an RPF has been prepared to guide the mitigation of any potential economic and/or physical displacement associated with the (a) construction/rehabilitation of priority infrastructure in the reserve (such as offices, accommodations and guard patrol out posts and others) under Component 1; and (b) the implementation of the livelihood activities and water supply and sanitation infrastructure under Component 2.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

The project is not anticipated to affect or involve activities with negative impacts on biodiversity or natural resources. Activities are intended to restore or conserve biodiversity. However, there is always a potential risk that civil works and some livelihood (agriculture) activities may lead to some encroachment on the reserve. Potential risks and impacts on biodiversity and habitats have been captured in the ESMF to ensure that these are avoided or minimized during any operations, including emergency response. In addition, the specific baseline studies that have been prepared to feed project preparation include ecological risk factors (such as making a reference to the existing wildlife corridor between countries, parks, reserves and classified forests in the project zone).

ESS7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

This standard is not currently relevant. If during implementation it is found that there are Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities in the project area who may meet the criteria of ESS 7, the project will undertake a screening and, based on its findings, take appropriate measures as per the requirements of the ESF.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage
The general Ennedi area is known for the presence of rock art. The project will ensure that no rock art is destroyed during the implementation of project activities. Excavation works are expected during the construction of the basic infrastructure for the wildlife reserve (housing, latrines, offices) and water access and sanitation infrastructure and it is possible that archaeological heritage may be uncovered. Though the possibility is not considered significant in the project area, the ESMF provides guidance regarding the process to be followed for "chance finds"; and site specific ESIA/ESMPs will include an assessment of the cultural heritage sites in the subproject area. Furthermore, all construction and rehabilitation contracts will include a “Chance Finds” clause which will require contractors to stop construction/rehabilitation in the event that cultural property sites are encountered during civil works. Intangible cultural heritage is taken into account in this process. Any sites identified will be avoided as much as possible and, if not possible, the ESMP will identify, based on consultations with relevant stakeholders, including the national cultural heritage institution, measures required to address these impacts in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy.

**ESS9 Financial Intermediaries**

This standard is not currently relevant.

**B.3 Other Relevant Project Risks**

The project area covers a wide geographical expanse with high insecurity in many areas. Implementation support and compliance verification will be challenging. A strong social communication and GRM will help provide some engagement with local communities and partnerships with local NGOs and GPS monitoring will also be considered.

**C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply**

**OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways** No

**OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas** No

**III. BORROWER’S ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DELIVERABLES against MEASURES AND ACTIONs IDENTIFIED</th>
<th>TIMELINE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Actions to be completed prior to appraisal (proposed timeline: prior to May 1): ESMF (including a GRM and Pest Management Plan), Process Framework and ESCP.</td>
<td>05/2020</td>
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Recruitment of Social and Environmental Specialists no later than three months after project effectiveness;
Preparation of GBV Action Plan before start of activities;
Continuously: Submission of quarterly social and environmental risk management reports;
**ESS 10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure**

Prior to appraisal: Preparation, consultation and disclosure of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP).  
05/2020

Implementation of the GRM prior to project activities and implementation of SEP activities.

**ESS 2 Labor and Working Conditions**

Prior to the start of works and latest by December 2020: Labor Management Procedure (LMP).  
12/2020

**ESS 3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management**

ESMF including the Pest Management Plan.  
05/2020

ESMPs including mitigation measures to minimize and manage noise levels as well as waste generated by construction and rehabilitation works. Timeline: prior to the start of works; the first ESMPs are expected to be finalized by Dec 2020.  
12/2020

**ESS 4 Community Health and Safety**

During implementation and before starts of works: The ESMP will include EHSGs for the identified subprojects in relation to community health and safety and GBV risk mitigation measures and code of conducts.  
12/2020

**ESS 5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement**

Actions to be completed prior to appraisal: Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and Process Framework (PF).  
05/2020

Preparation and implementation of Resettlement Action Plan(s) and Action Plan(s) for Restricting Access to Resources (as explained in the RPF and PF) for site specific subprojects, as applicable. The first are expected to be finalized by Dec 2020.  
12/2020

**ESS 6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources**

Potential risks and impacts to habitats and the reserve have been captured in the ESMF to ensure that impacts are minimized during any emergency response and as a result of any rehabilitation or construction works.  
05/2020

**ESS 7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities**

**ESS 8 Cultural Heritage**

The ESMF includes a description of the probability of cultural heritage in the project and guidance on chance finds.  
05/2020
The ESIA will include an assessment of the cultural heritage sites in the project area and the ESMP will include a procedure for chance finds (these will also be included in work contracts). The first is expected to be finalized by December 2020.

ESS 9 Financial Intermediaries

B.3. Reliance on Borrower’s policy, legal and institutional framework, relevant to the Project risks and impacts

Is this project being prepared for use of Borrower Framework?  
No

Areas where “Use of Borrower Framework” is being considered:

The operation will not use the Borrower’s E&S Framework in the assessment, development and implementation of sub projects. The project will comply with relevant national legal requirements.

IV. CONTACT POINTS

World Bank
Contact: Taibou Adamou Maiga  
Title: Senior Water Supply and Sanitation Specialist
Telephone No: 5350+3214 / 227- -2073-4966  
Email: tmaiga@worldbank.org

Contact: Aurelie Marie Simone Monique Rossignol  
Title: Environmental Specialist
Telephone No: 5361+3043  
Email: arossignol@worldbank.org

Borrower/Client/Recipient
Borrower: Republic of Chad

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

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
VI. APPROVAL

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<tr>
<th>Task Team Leader(s):</th>
<th>Taibou Adamou Maiga, Aurelie Marie Simone Monique Rossignol</th>
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<tr>
<td>Practice Manager (ENR/Social)</td>
<td>Maria Sarraf Cleared on 16-Apr-2020 at 13:53:1 EDT</td>
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