

**INTEGRATED SAFEGUARDS DATASHEET
APPRAISAL STAGE**

I. Basic Information

Date prepared/updated: 10/19/2006

Report No.:

1. Basic Project Data

Country: Georgia	Project ID: P083110	
Project Name: First East-West Highway Improvement		
Task Team Leader: Olivier P. Le Ber		
Estimated Appraisal Date: September 27, 2006	Estimated Board Date: December 5, 2006	
Managing Unit: ECSIE	Lending Instrument: Specific Investment Loan	
Sector: Roads and highways (100%)		
Theme: Infrastructure services for private sector development (P);Other public sector governance (S);Regional integration (S)		
IBRD Amount (US\$m.):	0.00	
IDA Amount (US\$m.):	20.00	
GEF Amount (US\$m.):	0.00	
PCF Amount (US\$m.):	0.00	
Other financing amounts by source:		
<u>BORROWER/RECIPIENT</u>		8.77
		8.77
Environmental Category: B - Partial Assessment		
Simplified Processing	Simple <input type="checkbox"/>	Repeater <input type="checkbox"/>
Is this project processed under OP 8.50 (Emergency Recovery)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

2. Project Objectives

The project development objectives are:

- (i) to contribute to the gradual reduction of road transport costs and improve access, ease of transit, and safety along the central part of Georgia's East-West corridor, through upgrading a segment of the East-West Highway from Tbilisi to Rikoti; and,
- (ii) to strengthen the capacity of the government, RDMED and the local road construction industry to plan and manage better the road network.

3. Project Description

Upgrade the Agaiani to Igoeti section of the E60 Highway from two lanes to four lanes. The existing highway traverses rolling terrain throughout its entire length running between KP 43 and KP 55. This is a significantly transformed landscape. The existing road is paved with a width varying between 7 and 9 m, and a parallel embankment has already been prepared for an extension on the right hand side of this road (completed during the soviet period). Several intersections are proposed with a new overpass and existing underpasses. There are no design issues that would impact built up areas although some kiosks may need to be relocated.

4. Project Location and salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis

The project involves the expansion of the existing 2 lane road to a 4 lane road between the villages of Agaiani and Igoeti with the large majority of works being conducted within the current Right of Way.

This project has been classified as a Category B project for Environmental Assessment purposes due to the fact that the project is proposed in a significantly transformed landscape with no significant or sensitive environmental receptors, in addition there is an existing embankment for the extension that was completed in the soviet period. There will be limited social impacts and no relocation of people is proposed.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists

Ms Jane Olga Ebinger (ECSIE)

Mr Satoshi Ishihara (ECSSD)

6. Safeguard Policies Triggered	Yes	No
Environmental Assessment (OP/BP 4.01)	X	
Natural Habitats (OP/BP 4.04)		X
Forests (OP/BP 4.36)	X	
Pest Management (OP 4.09)	X	
Physical Cultural Resources (OP/BP 4.11)	X	
Indigenous Peoples (OP/BP 4.10)		X
Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12)	X	
Safety of Dams (OP/BP 4.37)		X
Projects on International Waterways (OP/BP 7.50)		X
Projects in Disputed Areas (OP/BP 7.60)		X

II. Key Safeguard Policy Issues and Their Management

A. Summary of Key Safeguard Issues

1. Describe any safeguard issues and impacts associated with the proposed project. Identify and describe any potential large scale, significant and/or irreversible impacts: An Environmental Review of baseline information, key environmental sensitivities and an analysis of alternatives has been conducted for this project as well as for potential future projects (Igoeti By-pass and the highway between Igoeti and Sveneti) to assist in planning and scheduling. The Environmental Review also identified mitigation measures.

A section specific Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to mitigate and manage impacts associated with direct or indirect impacts of construction is currently under preparation for section I (Agaiani to Igoeti) and a draft will be completed by October 25, 2006. There will be subsequent consultation and disclosure of this EMP in line with OP/BP 4. 01.

There are no geo-hazardous processes or areas of active erosion in this section and no protected areas or sites of extreme value or sensitivity are crossed by the highway. No sensitive surface water resources or dry gorges have been identified that could impact the road during flash flooding.

The highway crosses several areas where the archaeological sites and monuments are located within the zone of the project impact including the areas surrounding the villages of Agaiani and Okami where 11 monuments and archaeological sites have been identified during the desk-studies and site visits. In line with OPN 4 11.03: Cultural Property the EMP currently under preparation will outline measures to avoid and/or minimize project impacts on identified cultural properties and will include procedures for managing chance finds during construction works.

Plants in the strip of greenery that align the road are expected to be impacted during construction and the number of parasites and diseases may increase due to a decrease in plant resistance during construction. Highway construction could also lead to a spread of pests, parasites, diseases, weeds or harmful microorganisms to adjacent orchards, crops, wind breaks or fragments of woods without proper management. Mitigation and compensation measures will therefore be developed and outlined in the section specific Environmental Management Plan (EMP) that is currently being prepared.

The Phase 1 of the Project will require the acquisition of 3ha of private land, which consists of 25 plots. Most private land to be affected is not used for productive purpose, other than for grazing of domestic animals and for agricultural production of minor scale. No physical relocation of households or demolition of structure is expected. The exact number of households whose land will be affected will be determined when the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) is developed.

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

In the vicinity of the village of Agaiani in the flood plain of the River Ksani there are fragments of riparian forests that are protected under the Forestry Code including: aspen woods (*Populus hybrida*), willow woods (*Salix australior*), oak woods (*Quercus longipes*) and elm woods (*Ulmus suberosa*). Small mammal species and mustelids (including endemics of the Caucasus and 4 endangered in Georgia) as well as bats included in the Red Data Book of Georgia have been observed in these forest fragments. The River Ksani is a breeding ground for reophilous and non reophilous fish. While the riparian forests and fish breeding grounds are not in the zone of direct impact they could be vulnerable to indirect impacts connected to construction activities such as quarrying of gravel and inert construction materials. Potential impacts on areas protected under the Forestry Code will be addressed through the EMP (being prepared) in line with OP/BP 4.36 Forests.

The project (phase 1) may result in damage to private land during construction which may result in loss of income from harvest. Access to grazing land will be restricted during construction.

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

n/a

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 Ministry of Economic Development is responsible for the successful implementation of these studies and will be supported by RDMED. Within the RDMED, the Division of the Project Assessment, New Technologies and Environmental Protection within the Office of the Technical Policy is responsible for all environmental issues related to highway development. This division will oversee implementation of the EMP by construction contractors.

The capacity of the RDMED needs to be considerably strengthened to ensure adequate supervision of implementation. Specifically it is proposed that additional support and training is provided to RDMED to monitor construction and ensure compliance with agreed EMPs.

RDMED prepared the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) as per Bank OP 4.12 that set out policies and principles of land acquisition and resettlement over the entire itinerary between Igoeti and Sveneti (including the proposed Igoeti bypass). RAP will be developed during project implementation as per RPF and OP 4.12 to address social impact associated with the Phase 1 of the Project.

Acquisition of private land and development/ implementation of RAP will be carried out by RDMED. Since its capacity for land acquisition as per Bank safeguard policies is very limited, technical assistance will be provided for the capacity development of RDMED, so RDMED will be able to comply with Bank social safeguard policies.

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 include land holders and residents in the Agaiani - Igoeti area affected directly or indirectly by the project activities.

Consultation with key stakeholders on environmental matters will be held early October 2006 during the course of preparation of the EMP.

The draft RPF has been disclosed in country and Infoshop. Copies of RPF were made available in local government offices, and the availability announced in local/national media. The comments received will be incorporated in the final RPF by mid October 2006.

A public consultation meeting on land related issues will be carried out during when RAP is developed, and feedback will be incorporated into RAP. A Notice board will be put up to inform local population of the project and a communication channel will be set

up to allow those with competing claims over land to be used to build road to put forward their claims.

B. Disclosure Requirements Date

Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other:

Date of receipt by the Bank	09/01/2006
Date of "in-country" disclosure	09/15/2006
Date of submission to InfoShop	09/14/2006
For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors	

Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Policy Process:

Date of receipt by the Bank	09/26/2006
Date of "in-country" disclosure	09/26/2006
Date of submission to InfoShop	09/26/2006

Pest Management Process:

Date of receipt by the Bank	N/A
Date of "in-country" disclosure	N/A
Date of submission to InfoShop	N/A

*** If the project triggers the Pest Management and/or Physical Cultural Resources, 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:

An Environmental Review has been prepared that identifies issues and proposes management measures and a site specific Environmental Management Plan is currently under preparation that will address management of cultural heritage and pest management issues in more detail.

The Resettlement Policy Framework has been developed. Its Georgian version has been disclosed in local government offices and its availability be announced by local and national media.

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

Does the project require a stand-alone EA (including EMP) report?	Yes
If yes, then did the Regional Environment Unit or Sector Manager (SM) review and approve the EA report?	Yes
Are the cost and the accountabilities for the EMP incorporated in the credit/loan?	Yes

OP 4.09 - Pest Management

Does the EA adequately address the pest management issues?	Yes
--	-----

Is a separate PMP required?	No
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?	N/A

OP/BP 4.11 - Physical Cultural Resources

Does the EA include adequate measures related to cultural property?	Yes
Does the credit/loan incorporate mechanisms to mitigate the potential adverse impacts on cultural property?	Yes

OP/BP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement

Has a resettlement plan/abbreviated plan/policy framework/process framework (as appropriate) been prepared?	Yes
If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Sector Manager review the plan?	Yes

OP/BP 4.36 - Forests

Has the sector-wide analysis of policy and institutional issues and constraints been carried out?	Yes
Does the project design include satisfactory measures to overcome these constraints?	No
Does the project finance commercial harvesting, and if so, does it include provisions for certification system?	No

The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information

Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank's Infoshop?	Yes
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

All Safeguard Policies

Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes
Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?	Yes
Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?	Yes
Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?	Yes

D. Approvals

<i>Signed and submitted by:</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Date</i>
Task Team Leader:	Mr Olivier P. Le Ber	09/26/2006
Environmental Specialist:	Ms Jane Olga Ebinger	09/14/2006
Social Development Specialist	Mr Satoshi Ishihara	09/18/2006
Additional Environmental and/or Social Development Specialist(s):		
<i>Approved by:</i>		
Sector Manager:	Mr Motoo Konishi	09/26/2006
Comments: approved		