



Updated Environmental and Social Management Framework and Management Plan 2021

Green Climate Fund Government of Samoa Vaisigano Catchment Project (GCF-VCP)

Final Draft (V.9) 30 Dec 2021

SUMMARY VERSION FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

The Integrated Flood Management to Enhance Climate Resilience of the
Vaisigano River Catchment in Samoa (GCF-VCP)

- for -

Strengthened adaptive capacity and reduced exposure to climate risks of
vulnerable livelihoods and infrastructure in the Vaisigano River Catchment.

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ACRONYMS

AE	Accredited Entity
COEP	Code of Environmental Practice
CSEPAP	Community and Stakeholder Engagement Procedure and Action Plan
EA	Executing Agency
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESMF-MP	Environmental and Social Management Framework and Management Plan
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GCF-PM	Project Manager
GCF-PMU	Green Climate Fund Project Management Unit
GCF-VCP	Green Climate Fund Vaisigano Catchment Project
GoS	Government of Samoa
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
IA	Implementing Agency
IR	Inception Report
LARAP	Land Acquisition and Resettlement Action Plan
LTA	Land Transport Authority
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoH	Ministry of Health
MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MWCSD	Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development
MWTI	Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure
PUMA	Planning and Urban Management Agency
RIA	Responsible Implementing Agency
SES	Social and Environmental Standards
SESP	Social and Environmental Screening Procedure
SGS	Safeguards and Gender Specialist
TAG	Technical Advisory Group
TA	Technical Advisor
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
VRCA	Vaisigano River Catchment Area

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1. INTRODUCTION

1. This is the updated Environmental and Social Management Framework and Management Plan (ESMF-MP) of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Government of Samoa (GoS) project “The Integrated Flood Management to Enhance Climate Resilience of the Vaisigano River Catchment in Samoa” (GCF-VCP).
2. The GCF-VCP was approved by the GCF in 2017 together with the project’s initial ESMF-MP. The GCF-VCP provides for a range of activities designed to strengthen the adaptive capacity and reduce exposure of vulnerable livelihoods and infrastructure in the Vaisigano River Catchment. The Project has a value of USD \$67.5m and an implementation timeframe of 6 years from 2017 to 2023.
3. The key institutions involved in the project include the Ministry of Finance (MoF) as the Executing Agency (EA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as the GCF Accredited Entity (AE) and the implementing agencies of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), Ministry of Works, Transport and Infrastructure (MWTI), the Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Land Transport Authority (LTA).
4. As this project is supported by UNDP in its role as the GCF AE, the project has been re-screened using UNDP’s Social and Environmental Standards Procedure (SESP) and has been deemed to be of moderate risk. The SESP is attached as Annex 1.

1.1 REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE ESMF-MP

5. The initial ESMF-MP was reviewed against key environmental and social policies of the UNDP and the GoS including the operational documents of the project. With the GCF-VCP mid-way through its implementation phase, the MoF as the EA, sees the need to review and update the ESMF-MP to ensure that the document is still relevant in terms of information and usability, and taking into account any changes to relevant mandates and policies, community and stakeholder needs and the scope and design of project activities.
6. UNDP’S Social and Environmental Standards (SES 2014) acknowledges that potential changes to activity scope of a project may occur during implementation and that it may potentially affect the projects risk profile. To verify any new or unanticipated risks therefore, the project needs to be re-screened for environmental and social risks. In addition, the initial ESMF-MP of the GCF-VCP emphasizes the need to review the document every two months to reflect new knowledge gained during project implementation including any changes to community standards and values.
7. In light of the above, the initial ESMF-MP was reviewed, informed and updated using (a) UNDP’s Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP), (b) GCF-VCP project documents including specific environmental impact assessment reports, (c) technical studies and designs undertaken for project activities, (d) information collated from public consultations undertaken by the project and (e) information from stakeholder meetings with key responsible implementing agencies. As such, while the information in the updated ESMF-MP has been updated to reflect these (a-e), the initial ESMF-MP contains background information about the planning and design phase of the project.
8. It must be highlighted however that the initial environmental and social screening process that was undertaken in 2016 using UNDP’s SESP, found the project to be of ‘Moderate Risk’. For this updated ESMF-MP, the on-going and planned activities of the project were also re-screened using the SESP

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and where the risk categorization is still considered 'Moderate'. This is clarified further in Section 3 of this document, including the updated SESP (Annex 1).

1.2 PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ESMF-MP

9. The ESMF-MP is a mandatory overarching framework to guide and direct the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the social and environmental safeguards requirements of the GCF-VCP. Further, it is a management tool to be used by project stakeholders to keep track of the project's potential social and environmental impacts and development outcomes to ensure it reaches a set of environmental and social objectives.
10. It describes principles, guidelines and procedures for all parties to implement, including applicable social and environmental legal mandates and policies for compliance, and contains guidance for public engagement, information disclosure, grievance redress, and institutional responsibilities for monitoring and reporting. It also provides measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate and/or offset adverse risks and impacts to society and the environment. In addition, it is guided by UNDP's SES which is committed to mainstreaming social and environmental sustainability into the project.
11. In relation to the project, the environmental and social objectives of the updated ESMF-MP are described below. These objectives include those that were identified in the initial ESMF-MP (a-j) and two new additional ones (k and l).
 - a. ensure the river bank, drainage and other construction and ecosystem works do not cause environmental and social impacts;
 - b. improve upstream sediment retention through revegetation of the catchment thus increasing water quality both downstream and entering the coastal lagoon;
 - c. reduce the impact of flooding and thus the loss of assets and social disruption from overtopping of the Vaisigano River;
 - d. enhance the existing early warning system that ensures adequate measures are undertaken prior to any rainfall and flood event;
 - e. encourage good management practices through planning, commitment and continuous improvement of environmental practices;
 - f. minimise or prevent the pollution of land, air and water pollution;
 - g. protect native flora and fauna from the impacts of flooding;
 - h. comply with all applicable laws, regulations and standards for the protection of people and the environment; and adopt the best practicable means available to prevent or minimise adverse environmental and social impacts;
 - i. describe all monitoring procedures required to identify impacts on people and the environment;
 - j. provide an overview of the obligations of project stakeholders including contractors with regards to environmental and social obligations;
 - k. provide procedures for stakeholder engagement to ensure meaningful consultations and;
 - l. provide a grievance redress mechanism to resolve any issues relating to project activities.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 OVERVIEW OF THE PROJECT

12. The GCF-VCP provides an integrated management solution to managing the flood risks and impacts of the Vaisigano River on the communities and environment of the Vaisigano River Catchment Area (VRCA). This integrated approach consists of various soft and hard interventions with supporting mechanisms and capacities strengthened to enhance the climate resilience of the VRCA.
13. The impact potential of the GCF-VCP relates to flood prevention measures and watershed management practices that would provide multiple benefits to at least 26,000 people living within 31 village communities of the Apia Urban Area. The interventions planned under the project need to achieve (a) a reduction in vulnerability of communities and their livelihoods to flood-related risks, (b) flood-resilient infrastructure in the VRCA supported by upstream ecosystem and community based adaptation measures, and (c) upgrade of drainage systems in downstream areas for regulation of water flows from the river catchment system (APR 2019).

2.2 SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

14. The GCF-VCP has 3 inter-linked outputs, 10 main activities and several sub-activities. These have been summarized below.
 - a. **Output 1:** This Output focuses on strengthening the capacities and mechanisms for an integrated approach to reduce flood-related risks. The activities include: conducting feasibility studies relating to flood mitigation options; a flood-buffering reservoir with co-benefits in hydropower and water storage; flood resilience of the Central Cross Island Road which is a main economic arterial road and evacuation route; and an Apia integrated sewage system for the whole Apia Urban Area (AUA). It will also enhance systems for improved flooding forecasting; health surveillance, early warning messaging; and the siren network in relation to floods. Trainings will be conducted for health and building practitioners, village councils and communities as well as awareness raising on climate resilient building practices and designs for vulnerable and flood-prone communities with model flood resilient buildings established and national policies developed.
 - b. **Output 2.** This output focuses on key infrastructure in the Vaisigano River Catchment being flood-proofed to increase resilience to the negative effects of excessive water. The activities include: the review of designs for the channelization of river segments; establishment of flood protection measures and flood walls; capacity building; livelihood opportunities for environmental services; ecosystem responses; participatory mapping, development of climate smart practices; enterprise development; afforestation and conservation; demarcation zones; and development of a community based adaptation strategy; replacement of existing bridge and floodwall extensions and floodwall.
 - c. **Output 3:** This output focuses on drainage in downstream areas upgraded for increased regulation of water flows. The activities include: development of a storm water master plan and the upgrade of drainage systems and outfalls to accommodate flooding events.

3. POTENTIAL SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

3.1 ASSUMPTIONS UNDERPINNING THE UPDATED ESMF-MP

15. The following assumptions have been made in the preparation of this updated ESMF-MP. These are in anticipation of certain circumstances that may have an impact on the progress and delivery timeframe of the project. As such, appropriate remedial measures or adaptive management measures should be developed in due time in the likelihood that they do not hold. Where the assumptions may not hold and have a significant impact to project progress, this ESMF-MP may need to be updated.
16. The assumptions are listed below.
- a. Any potential land acquisition, displacement and/or resettlement actions will conform to national laws and requirements of UNDPs SES;
 - b. The GoS will be able to manage and contain Covid 19 to ensure that community transmission does not occur and thereby affect project implementation;
 - c. Sufficient funds secured to implement all project activities to achieve project objectives.
 - d. All potential environmental and social impacts will be mitigated and monitored through the use of mitigation measures identified in the ESMF-MP and other supplementary safeguards documents prepared for the project.

3.2 SCREENING FOR SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND IMPACTS

17. The GCF-VCP has been re-screened using UNDP's SESP. The SESP provides the rationale for the risk categorization of the project, whether it would be deemed high, moderate or low. The GCF-VCP is currently midway through its implementation phase, however after completion of detailed design plans of project activities, it was noted that certain unanticipated risks have arisen. While the 4 risks identified in 2016 are still relevant, the updated SESP has incorporated 4 new additional risks into the SESP template. These risks are considered moderate and low therefore the updated risk categorization of the project remains the same. The GCF-VCP is still considered to be of Moderate Risk.

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