Combined Project Information Documents / Integrated Safeguards Datasheet (PID/ISDS)

Appraisal Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: June 21, 2021 | Report No: PIDISDSA26694

BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Project ID	Project Name	Parent Project ID (if any)
Cameroon	P168772	Valorization of Investments in the Valley of the Logone	
Region	**Estimated Appraisal Date**	**Estimated Board Date**	**Practice Area (Lead)**
AFRICA WEST	23-Jun-2021	8-Dec-2021	Water
Financing Instrument	**Borrower(s)**	**Implementing Agency**	
Investment Project Financing	Ministry of Economy, Planning and Regional Development (MINEPAT)	SEMRY (Société d'Expansion et Modernisation de Riziculture de Yagoua), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER)	

Proposed Development Objective(s)

To improve irrigation and drainage services and agricultural production in the irrigated areas of the Logone Valley

Components

Improvement of Infrastructures and Water Management
Production and Support to Agriculture Services
Capacity Building and Implementation

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	200.00
Total Financing	200.00
of which IBRD/IDA	200.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

World Bank Group Financing

International Development Association (IDA)	200.00
IDA Credit	200.00

Environmental Assessment Category

A-Full Assessment

Have the Safeguards oversight and clearance functions been transferred to the Practice Manager? (Will not be disclosed)

No

Decision

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. **A lower middle-income country of about 26 million people, Cameroon is strategically located on the Gulf of Guinea**. With a per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of US$1,518 (constant prices) in 2019, the economy is largely driven by its primary sectors, agriculture and mineral resources. Despite having one of the most diversified economies in the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa region, Cameroon's economic activity slowed in 2020 due to the COVID-19 crisis. Growth dipped to 0.7 percent in 2020, compared to 3.7 percent in 2019. Continued implementation of the Government's ambitious infrastructure plan and interventions to boost the agriculture and forestry sectors have significantly contributed to sustained, strong growth in public works, construction, and services, resulting in GDP growth of 4.1 percent in 2018. While considerable uncertainty exists in the economic outlook, the economy is projected to rebound by 3.2 percent on average per year in 2021-2022, with the fiscal deficit narrowing to 2.3 percent of GDP by 2022. The latest World Bank-IMF Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA) of December 2020 concluded that Cameroon remains at high risk of debt distress.

2. **The Government of Cameroon's (GoC) long-term vision, *Cameroon Vision 2035*, is of an emerging, democratic, and united country in diversity**. To operationalize this Vision, the Government adopted a Growth and Employment Strategy*/Document de Stratégie pour la Croissance et l'Emploi (DSCE)* in 2009 and defined specific objectives to be achieved by 2020, such as reducing the poverty rate to less than 29 percent, and then to 10 percent in 2035. The target for 2020 has been achieved, but the rate has recently remained roughly stable at an estimated 24 to 25 percent in 2020. A new National Development Strategy/*Stratégie Nationale de Développement (SND30)* for 2020-2030 has been enacted in January 2020 with specific objectives to: (i) to achieve economic growth close to double digits; (ii) to reach the 25% threshold as a share of manufacturing output in GDP; and (iii) to reduce poverty by reducing its incidence to less than 10% by 2035. The GoC has also adopted the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It has endorsed the Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and published Cameroon's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), setting out its contribution to climate change mitigation and priorities for adaptation, including in the water and agricultural sectors**.**

3. **Cameroon has been grappling with attacks by Boko Haram in the Far North and a secessionist insurgency in the Anglophone regions**. The North-West South-West crisis is a conflict between non-state armed groups and the Cameroonian army, resulting in the substantial displacement of populations. Since September 2017, more than 600,000 people have been displaced internally and close to 400 civilians and over 200 military, gendarmerie, and police officers have lost their lives. The Central African Republic (CAR) refugee crisis causes an influx of CAR refugees in the eastern façade of Cameroon and in the Eastern, Adamawa, and Northern Regions. The Nigerian refugee crisis is due to Boko-Haram attacks in the Far North of the country with numerous displacements of populations. Figures from the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) show that Cameroon is currently hosting over 400,000 refugees, primarily from the Central African Republic (290,000) and Nigeria (116,000). Protecting IDPs and refugees from the outbreak of the new corona virus (COVID-19) and ensuring minimal provision of basic services will be particularly challenging.

4. **The aforementioned Government growth strategy (the SND30) identifies inadequate infrastructure and an unfavorable business environment as the main factors impeding economic growth and employment creation**. The agriculture sector, which represented about 43.5 percent of jobs in Cameroon in 2019, is regarded as a potential engine for economic growth and job creation if it can be transformed from traditional

farming to diversified and commercially viable farming. The SND30 recognizes the need for agricultural diversification, increased productivity, and large-scale public investment projects in the sector. Currently, notwithstanding Cameroon's abundance of natural assets and tremendous climatic and land potential, the primary sector's contribution to GDP growth was very limited at about 0.4 percentage points per annum, and is dominated by food crops grown by smallholder farmers.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

5. **Agriculture remains the backbone of Cameroon's economy, employing 70 percent of its workforce, while providing 42 percent of its GDP and 30 percent of its export revenue**. Food crops contribute 64 percent to agricultural GDP, followed by livestock (13 percent), forestry (9 percent), industrial and export crops (8 percent), and fisheries (6 percent). About 54 percent of all households have at least one member who owns a crop field of about 2.4 hectares (ha) as documented in the DSCE. **Yet, a series of constraints have led Cameroon's agriculture sector to be characterized by low productivity and low-production subsistence farming, especially in the North and Far North.** Declining soil fertility, limited use of fertilizer, low adoption of high yielding varieties and improved farming techniques are among the core reasons for constrained yields. Techniques and approaches to address these constraints exist, and Cameroon actually has several high-quality agricultural research institutions. Nevertheless, the adoption of improved practices remains limited, as no functional extension system is in place, as evidenced by the size of the yield gaps.

6. **Irrigation is fundamental to ensuring regional food security in the Far North**. The Sudano-Sahelian agro-ecological zone is the most environmentally fragile and vulnerable to climate shocks of the five zones in Cameroon. The Far North region has an average annual precipitation (P) of 600 mm, June to September, and the potential evapotranspiration (EPT) is 2,400 mm per year (P/EPT<0.33). This permanent EPT deficit translates into water stress and reduced photosynthesis and therefore lower yields. This high level of EPT is reflected in higher climate risks. In the absence of other natural resources, the Far North is not surprisingly the poorest region in the country. Poverty increased from 56 percent in 2001 to 76 percent 2014, indicating both the severity and a worsening trend of poverty.

7. **A new National Agricultural Water Policy is being implemented by the Government along 5 main axes:** (i) improving the legal and institutional framework; (ii) capacity building of actors in the agricultural water sector; (iii) rehabilitation of agricultural water infrastructure; (iv) development of the hydro-agricultural potential of irrigable land; and (v) strengthening action research in the field of agricultural hydraulics. Under axis one, the policy calls for a review the role of the Government in the agricultural water sector, particularly as regards the existing parastatal agencies, such as the Corporation for the Expansion and Modernization of Rice Cultivation in Yagoua/*Société d'Expansion et Modernisation de la Riziculture de Yagoua (SEMRY).*

8. **SEMRY is a parastatal agricultural support and irrigation and drainage agency** established in 1971 with the construction of the SEMRY I scheme at Yagoua (5,300 ha: 1972-1977) and SEMRY II scheme at Maga (6,200 ha: 1978-1986). The construction of the 27 km long earthen Maga dam on the upper part of the Waza-Logone floodplain started in 1974 to provide water for the SEMRY II scheme (also called Maga scheme) and for fish farming. The Maga dam remains the largest piece of infrastructure in the Logone-Chari River system, with a maximum capacity of 620 million m^3. When SEMRY was established in 1971, the operation and maintenance of the hydraulic infrastructure of the Logone dike and the Maga dam was its core mandate. During the 1990s, the mandate to operate and maintain the large infrastructure (flood dike and dams) was transferred to the Government, under the *Ministère de l'Economie, de la Planification et de l'Aménagement du Territoire (MINEPAT*; Ministry of Economy, Planning, and Regional Development). SEMRY has since primarily focused on the operation of the irrigation system, along with agricultural support and land preparation services.

9. **SEMRY presently undertakes three main functions: (i) Irrigation, Operations, Management, and Maintenance (OMM) at all levels of the schemes; (ii) provision of land-preparation services; and (iii) post-harvest processing and marketing of rice** (milling, bagging, transport, and limited retailing). The budget for 2018 was approximately US$ 6 million. SEMRY has a substantial staff contingent of 431 personnel, of whom more than 50 percent are support personnel, such as security guards and watchmen. It also has machinery workshops and stores, new and old heavy construction machinery, and a fleet of trucks, among other assets. Many attempts have been made over the decades to strengthen and enable SEMRY to fulfill its role adequately, but with little ultimate success. Key issues remaining to be addressed include the continued bureaucratic character of the organization and a multitude of roles which have been accumulated over the years. There are shortages of key managerial staff, limited technical skills, inefficiencies, weaknesses in financial audits, administration systems, and accounting transparency, and a relatively high average age in the workforce. There also remains a severe lack of mechanized agriculture in the area served by SEMRY, and a near-complete absence of explicit rules for land access and control and for irrigation water management. SEMRY's organization structure will need a major transformation to reflect the new roles that SEMRY will be called on to play under Government's new irrigation strategy, to be supported by the project.

10. **Despite the many challenges it faces, the GoC is committed to increasing investment in the agriculture sector for poverty reduction and economic growth**. A growth strategy that focuses on products cultivated by the poorest has a greater likelihood of successful poverty reduction, and as the majority of the poor can be found in the rural areas of northern Cameroon, a poverty reducing growth strategy would focus on the value chain development of coarse grains (rice, maize, millet, and sorghum) but also livestock, beans, and cotton, the latter being the main cash crop grown in the Northern regions. In this context, the GoC's agriculture strategy is expressed in three key national strategy and planning documents: (i) «Vision 2035» envisages agricultural growth beyond 5 percent by 2020; the DSCE foresees significant productivity increases in agriculture and livestock farming; (ii) the 2009 Rural Development Strategy and its 2013 update ("*Document de Stratégie de Développement du Secteur Rural," DSDSR)* commits to a modernization of rural infrastructure, agricultural production, and sustainable management of natural resources; and (iii) Cameroon has engaged in the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP), and with CAADP support, Cameroon is currently finalizing its 2014-2020 National Agriculture Investment Program (*Plan National d'Investissement Agricole*; PNIA).

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Development Objective(s) (From PAD)

11. To improve irrigation and drainage services and agricultural production in the irrigated areas of the Logone Valley.

Key Results

12. The key results will include:

    a. Cropping intensity of developed perimeters (hectares harvested per year/hectares equipped for irrigation); from 0.8 to 1.8;
    b. Area provided with improved irrigation and drainage services (from 0 to 12,210 ha); (core indicator);
    c. Area prepared (harrowed/ploughed) by the farmers or a private provider (from 700 to 17,500 ha/year);

d. Agricultural production (of main crops such as rice and onions) in the area (e.g. rice from 50,000 ton/year to 115,000 ton/year); and
e. Direct beneficiaries (from 0 to 30,000).

D. Project Description

Component 1: Improvement of Infrastructures and Water Management (US$139 million from IDA)

13. The primary goal of this component is to contribute to a more sustainable and equitable regional water resources management in addition to an improved irrigation development in the Logone valley, building upon the work done within the PULCI project. This will be achieved by combining infrastructural, institutional, and informational activities so that SEMRY becomes a modern water institution (such as *the Société d'Aménagement et d'Exploitation des terres du Delta et de la Vallée du fleuve Sénégal (SAED)).* The component is organized in three subcomponents: (a) upstream water resources monitoring and coordination as well as operation and safety of the main hydraulic infrastructure, (b) rehabilitation of irrigation and drainage infrastructure as well as irrigated perimeters, and (c) irrigation and drainage management.

14. **Subcomponent 1.1: Security and Operation of Main Hydraulic Infrastructures** (US$10.1 million from IDA)**.** The project will build on what has been done by PULCI project, namely helping to rehabilitate the Maga dam and to a certain extent the Logone dike, as well as with installing a few hydromet stations and elaborating an early warning system along the Logone river. The project, through this subcomponent, will, among others, rehabilitate the Logone dike downstream of Pouss for 20 km, will install hydrometric equipment to monitor the flow in the Logone river, and expand the flood early warning system.

15. **Subcomponent 1.2: Irrigation and Drainage Infrastructure, and RAP and ESIA activities** (US$121.4 million from IDA)**.** This subcomponent will rehabilitate the 4 schemes in Yagoua and the 4 schemes in Maga for a total of 12,210 ha of irrigation and drainage infrastructures. This includes primary, secondary and tertiary canals as well as drains and precision land leveling of the parcels. Special emphasis will be made to ensure equitable water distribution within the schemes, with particular attention to the intakes from the river in the Yagoua schemes and to the intakes from Maga reservoir in the Maga schemes.

16. **Subcomponent 1.3: Irrigation and Drainage Management** (US$7.5 million from IDA)**.** This subcomponent will include Technical Assistance (TA) and block grants to the Water User Associations (WUAs). It will build upon the process of irrigation management that started within the PULCI project by putting in place eight WUAs. This subcomponent will support the implementation of the scheme management code and the irrigation transfer process to the WUA. The TA will support, at the national level, the preparation of an appropriate legal framework for irrigation management by the WUAs in the revised Water Code.

Component 2: Production and Support to Agriculture Services (US$67.2 million, of which US$32 million from IDA and US$35.2 million from beneficiaries)

17. **The fundamental need for Cameroon to increase production and enhance productivity in the Far North** (especially with irrigation and particularly of smallholders), reduce vulnerability, boost rural employment, and provide environmental services, is addressed in a context of vulnerability to multiple factors.

18. **Subcomponent 2.1: E-vouchers for Re-launching Production in The Irrigation Perimeters** (US$43 million, of which US$15 million from IDA and US$28 million from beneficiaries). This subcomponent will enhance the capacity of farmers after rehabilitation to purchase or pay agricultural inputs, irrigation service fees, land preparation services and precision land leveling (PLL).

19. **Subcomponent 2.2**: **Matching Grants for Production and Agribusiness in the Valley** (US$21.2 million, of which US$14 million from IDA [US$ 11.5 million for the matching grants themselves and US$ 2.5 million for consulting services] US$ 7.2 million from beneficiaries). As Subcomponent 2.1, this subcomponent will support the three windows of matching grants for promoting private sector participation and agribusiness in the area. The project will finance matching grants with arrangements to favor women.

20. **Subcomponent 2.3: Organizational Management Support Centers – CGERs** (US$ 3 million from IDA)**.** The project will support the creation and operation of a network of private Organizational Management Support Centers *(Centres de Gestion et d'Économie et Rurale, CGERs.*

    Component 3. Support to Sector Development and Implementation (US$36 million, of which US$29 million from IDA and US$7 million from the GoC).

21. **Subcomponent 3.1: Institutional Strengthening of Public Institutions** (US$10 million from IDA; this will include consultancy services, Performance-Based Conditions (PBCs) and an O&M contract). The strengthening of public institutions will relate mainly to the transformation of SEMRY and the strengthening of sectoral administrations, in particular MINADER, MINEPDED, local authorities, and traditional chiefs. PBCs will be used to incentivize the restructuring of SEMRY.

22. **Subcomponent 3.2: Innovation and Agricultural Training** (US$9 million from IDA). The project will promote the enhancement of knowledge for improving irrigated agriculture, at three levels: (i) higher education, such as at the University of Maroua; (ii) technical and vocational training (TVET) level; and (iii) at the local level by the creation of Centers for Technological Innovation (CTI)/*Centres d'Innovation Technologique (CITs).*

23. **Subcomponent 3.3: Project implementation and M&E support** (US$17 million, of which US$10 million from IDA-, which includes the project preparation advance for US$ 5.7 million, and US$7 million from the GoC)**.** The project will be implemented by a PIU (see details in Annex1) that will report to the Steering Committee and to the DG of SEMR.

    Component 4: Contingent Emergency Response (US$0 million from IDA)

24. Following an eligible crisis or emergency, the Recipient may request the World Bank to re-allocate project funds to support emergency response and reconstruction. This component would draw from the uncommitted credit resources under the project from other project components to cover the emergency response.

E. Implementation

Institutional and Implementation Arrangements

25. The Government of Cameroon borrows via the Ministry of Economy and Planning (MINEPAT). MINEPAT will participate in the Project Steering Committee (PSC) as Vice-President. In addition, MINEPAT is responsible for ensuring the annual provision of funds for O&M of the main infrastructure of the region, such as the Maga dam and the Logone dike. The agency with overall responsibility for the project *(maître d'ouvrage)* is the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MINADER). The implementing agency *(agence d'exécution)* is SEMRY, which reports to MINADER. SEMRY is the main government entity responsible for agriculture and irrigation development in the Far North region.

26. A PIU, which will be based within SEMRY and will report jointly to the Chair of the PSC and to the DG of SEMRY, will assist in the implementation of the project (see Annex 1 of the PAD for details). The creation of this unit

is necessary because of capacity limitations within SEMRY. As SEMRY evolves and develops its full capacity, the PIU roles will have diminished and SEMRY will take on full responsibility for long-term activities in order to adopt and continue the change and adaptation process beyond the execution of the project. These changes of roles will be approved by the PSC.

27. SEMRY will be subject to a major restructuring effort under Component 3; this is fundamental in order to design and put in place a modern institution accountable for government public services for irrigation agriculture in the Far-North. In the medium term, as it acquires capacity, SEMRY will be responsible for the long-term sustainability of all the investments (such as dam/dike maintenance, WUAs oversight, farmers training), and it will progressively get involved in the management of the contracts, such as those between WUAs and SEMRY. The PIU will progressively transfer the project's management to SEMRY, which is expected to happen from before and during the third year of implementation.

28. The main strength of this arrangement is that SEMRY is the long-established local presence, and with substantial local development experience, being a permanent long-term development actor in the agricultural and irrigation sector. The PSC will be chaired by a representative of MINADER at the director level, with the Project Coordinator serving as secretary. The PSC will be comprised, *inter alia,* of (i) representatives of MINEPAT, MINTP, MINEFI, MINEPDED, MINEE, Caisse Autonome d'Amortissement/Autonomous Amortization Funds (CAA), the Governor of the Far North Region, and SEMRY; and (ii) representatives of producer organizations and WUAs from the Yagoua and Maga areas.

29. The PIU would be established, drawing on the experience of the PULCI project, including potential re-contracting of qualified technical personnel into the VIVA Logone PIU team. Several high-quality development studies are planned to be carried out by international consulting firms for the engineering and institutional modernization activities. Consolidated procurement experience would be brought into the PIU from the PULCI cadre or separately by advertisement nationally. The PIU will include a cross-cutting team (Coordinator, Change Management Specialist, FM Specialist, Procurement Specialist, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Environmental Specialist, Social Specialist, Gender Specialist, Communication Specialist, Agri-business Specialist, and Agri-finance Specialist). The technical team such as water resources, irrigation, etc., will be part of the new SEMRY staff. The implementation of Sub-component 3.1 (Institutional Strengthening), including implementation of PBCs, would be facilitated and monitored by the Change Management Specialist.

30. Under component 3, SEMRY will be strengthened and modernized. On the one hand it will gradually terminate operations that are better operated through a functioning private sector, while on the other hand it will take on strategic and regulatory functions that are within the responsibility of a modern public sector agency in charge of the development of the Far-North of Cameroon.

F. Project location and Salient physical characteristics relevant to the safeguard analysis (if known)

The project is located in the Sudano-Sahelian zone of Cameroon, it is presumably the driest zone of the country. It is bounded to the South by the Doba basin, to the North by Lake Chad basin, to the East by Doseo and Salamat basins, and to the North West by the Mandara Mountains and the Southeast by the Kaele dome. The project lies in the tropical savannah climate zone with Sahelian traits, which are typically low precipitations ranging between 600 mm and 1200 mm/year. The wet season spans the May to September period, with heavy rains from July to August, followed by a cold season (October to January) and a warm dry season (February to April). Temperatures range from 15°C to 35°C. The Far North Region is currently home to the largest number of mammals in the Waza National Park, located nearly 100 km from Yagoua. The Far North region has a wetland (the Waza-Logone floodplain) and three national parks (Waza, Kalamaloue, Mozogo goro) where poaching poses a management problem. The majority of inhabitants

depends on agriculture and livestock for their livelihoods. The project area in Yagoua and Maga is flood- and drought-prone. Flooding prevents farmers to cultivate, destroys the infrastructure and eventually people need to be displaced. Similarly, drought prevents farmers to cultivate and the agricultural products. The project intends to rehabilitated 8 irrigation schemes (4 in the area of Yagoua and 4 in the area of Maga) for a total of 12,210 ha.

The irrigation schemes are relatively close to the river. The area has livestock. Particularly during the dry season from January to June, livestock come close to the river. In the project design and ESMP, it has been agreed to establish animal corridors as well as grazing areas near the irrigation schemes. In addition, in improvements of the dike that goes along the river, and the Maga dam, it has also been planned to establish ramps, every several kilometers, so that animals can properly access the river or the lake.

On the security front, although since 2014 the Far North Region of Cameroon has been disturbed by the assaults of the terrorist sect Boko Haram, these attacks are mainly perpetrated on the western flank of the border between Cameroon and Nigeria. The project area is on the eastern flank, on the border between Cameroon and Chad; so it is more than 400 km away from the area where the Boko Haram Islamic sect usually attacks. Over the past ten years, the World Bank has financed the *Projet d'Amélioration de la Compétitivité Agricole (PACA) and the Projet d'Urgence de Lutte Contre les Inondations (PULCI, 2015-2020*) in this area, and these projects have been carried out without any security concerns.

In addition, as part of strengthening security in the project area, the Cameroonian government has taken adequate measures to ensure the safety of people and property in the project area. To this end, a unit of the Rapid Intervention Battalion (BIR) and the Motorized Infantry Battalion (BIM) of the Cameroonian Army has been permanently installed in the project area. From experience, the implementation of the PULCI shows that the PIU, the design office in charge of the control of the works, the contracting companies, etc., are provided with security support on the basis of an existing agreement between the project owner and the Ministry of Defense. This will also be implemented in the VIVA LOGONE Project.

In addition, a study to update the safety assessment and safety management plan is planned before the effective start of project activities. On the other hand, the contingency plan developed under the PULCI for various risks and disasters, including flooding, will be updated under the VIVA LOGONE project. The project plans to carry out a full-scale simulation exercise during the first year of project implementation to ensure the adequacy and functionality of the security measures provided for in this plan, particularly the early warning measures.

G. Environmental and Social Safeguards Specialists on the Team

Christophe Bertrand Messina, Social Specialist (Principal)
FNU Owono Owono, Social Specialist (Back-up)
Philippe Lindou Lindou, Environmental Specialist (Principal)
Charlie Foyet Sonkeng, Environmental Specialist (Back-up)

SAFEGUARD POLICIES THAT MIGHT APPLY

Safeguard Policies	Triggered?	Explanation (Optional)
Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01	Yes	The project is classified Category A because the main environmental impacts will be similar to basic construction work impacts, but the environmental downstream cumulative impacts will go beyond the direct project command area.

Safeguards instruments prepared in compliance with OP/BP 4.01 include: (i) ESMF which was disclosed on February 18, 2021; (ii) ESIA/ESMP for rehabilitation of 12,210 hectares irrigation schemes, were cleared in April 2021 and disclosed on the country website on May 1, 2021; and (iii) a PMP, which was disclosed on August 26, 2020 by the government of Cameroon. The ESMF describes the Grievance redress mechanism (GRM) showing how the eventual grievances link to the project will be prevented and managed. It also includes a section presenting the overall approach to prevent and manage the gender-based violence (GBV) issues with specific attention to sexual exploitation and abuse or sexual harassment (SEA/SH).

Downstream impacts from previous and future investments; risks of pest problems; occupational health and safety risks, including risks to communities; grievances related to canal and open drain crossings and social challenges associated with integrated water management are expected and need to be properly assessed and addressed.

To mitigate the above-mentioned potential risks and impacts and as part of safeguards requirement for the implementation of the main works of the project in the irrigation schemes aiPest Management Plan (PMP), and an ESIA/ESMP that includes a cumulative impact section have been prepared. In addition, for the subprojects/matching grants, which are not identified before appraisal, an ESMF has been prepared and disclosed and which describes the roadmap for preparing sites specific ESMPs. All environmental assessments will have the purpose of (i) assessing the environmental, labor, occupational health and safety issues and problems related to use of agro-chemicals, (ii) understanding the status of current use of agro-chemicals, (iii) assessing the level of awareness of farmers in handling and management of pests and pesticides and the types of pesticides used, and (iv) provide recommendations.

In addition, there are other projects envisaged in the area in the medium to long-term, such as: (i) Project to develop the road-dike along the River Logone; (ii) ; Project to construct 4 Pumping Stations, 4 Storage Basins and 4 Irrigation Schemes in Chad; and (iii)

		Projects to rehabilitate certain roads, such as the Magada-Yagoua Road, and the Magada Junction-Yagoua Road Re-profiling Project;
Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities OP/BP 4.03	No	
Natural Habitats OP/BP 4.04	Yes	The proposed project does not encroach on any protected areas. This policy is triggered because downstream impacts may affect a wetland (if not properly managed and monitored), which is the Waza-Logone floodplain, a Ramsar site. In addition, the Far North region has three national parks (Waza, Kalamaloue, Mozogo goro) where poaching poses a management problem. However, none of these protected areas are close to the project site. The drainage water, containing phosphates, nitrates and pesticides will be released in the Logone River, which will in time end up in the Cameroonian part of Lake Chad, also a Ramsar site, which has no outlet and is shrinking in size. In the longer term (if not properly managed and monitored), this might lead to eutrophication and water quality degradation and associated impacts on local communities.
Forests OP/BP 4.36	Yes	The project does not support commercial forest exploitation. However, downstream forests of the Waza plain may be affected due to the presence in the project area. Given the Sahelian traits of the project area of influence with tree density and species decline, this policy is triggered. A compensatory reafforestion component is part of the project design.
Pest Management OP 4.09	Yes	Major interventions are planned to enhance agricultural productivity and this may lead to an increased use of pesticides and other agrochemicals. An Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPMP) was prepared, consulted upon and disclosed. The PMP points out the negative impact that the increase in agricultural activities and poor agricultural practices could have on the workers, farmers and community health and safety and on the environment in general in terms of the inappropriate use of pesticides and inefficient use of water resources. The proper provision of drinking water and adequate sanitation and preventive health care measures are part of project activities.

Physical Cultural Resources OP/BP 4.11	Yes	Previous studies in the Region revealed local significant cultural heritage places such as graveyards. Mitigation measures are incorporated into the disclosed ESMP including a Cultural Heritage Management Plan. This plan, included in the ESMP disclosure, will be updated during the project implementation phase if necessary. A comprehensive chance find procedure was prepared as part of the ESIA reports, embedded in the overall ESMPs, to that end.
Indigenous Peoples OP/BP 4.10	No	There are no Indigenous Peoples in the project areas.
Involuntary Resettlement OP/BP 4.12	Yes	Under component 1 (Improvement of Infrastructures and Water Management, and specifically component 1.2, Irrigation and Drainage Infrastructure), the rehabilitation of an irrigation area of 12,210 ha in 8 irrigation schemes, including land leveling and drainage, will require economic displacement of some 14,500 producers inside the rice perimeters concerned and temporary livelihood loss if modernization activities are implemented during the cropping seasons. There may also be need for new burrow pits. There will be no physical displacement from the irrigated perimeters, which are not inhabited. There will, however, be physical displacement of 136 households as a consequence of works in the rehabilitation of the dike between Mourla and Tékélé, as well because of works in crossing structures and the new pumping station in SP4. A Social Assessment was prepared by the borrower to assess the situation in the irrigation scheme and help inform project design. A Resettlement Policy Framework and, more recently, a Resettlement Action Pan (RAP) were also prepared consulted on and disclosed by the borrower. No involuntary resettlement is expected under component 2 (negative list).
Safety of Dams OP/BP 4.37	Yes	The project triggers OP/BP 4.37 on Safety of Dams due to the fact that 4 irrigation schemes in the Maga area rely on the Maga dam to supply water for irrigation. The Maga dam was rehabilitated under the Flood Emergency Project (P143940) implemented from 2014 to 2020. The overall conditions of the dam are satisfactory, and the final taking over certificate of

		the works was issued on May 28, 2020. The O&M and instrumentation plan for the Maga dam were prepared and approved by the WB on August 20, 2020. The Emergency Response Plan for the area (ERP) was elaborated in 2017 within the Flood Emergency Project (PULCI; P143940), approved by the WB, tested in 2019 with a simulation and used during the floods in 2020 where there was no major issue in the project area (the flood impacts were in other areas). Furthermore, a full review of the functionality and adequacy of the ERP will be done in the first year of the project. In addition, a full Emergency Preparedness Plan for the Maga dam (EPP) will be elaborated, including a dam break analysis and downstream inundation simulation and mapping. This activity will be completed within three years of project implementation to ensure ownership and training by the new staff of SEMRY.
Projects on International Waterways OP/BP 7.50	Yes	This policy is triggered as the Logone river is part of the Lake Chad basin with multiple implications upstream and downstream. The Government of Cameroon (GoC) has notified the riparian countries through the CBLT commission and has received their non objection.
Projects in Disputed Areas OP/BP 7.60	No	The project intervention areas are not under dispute.

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:

The proposed project triggers the World Bank's Operational Policy on Environmental Assessment (OP 4.01). The project lies in the tropical savannah climate zone with Sahelian traits, and potential adverse environmental and social impacts, including significant, permanent, residual, and irreversible effects; therefore, the project has been designated as Category A. The project is focused on the rehabilitation of 12,210 ha of irrigation schemes and all the associated agricultural support services yet adverse impacts may include: (i) changes to soil characteristics and fertility from the use of inorganic chemicals; (ii) changes in soil structure, fertility, and texture and risk of soil erosion/leaching due to

earthworks and machinery movements in case of inappropriate agricultural practices; (iii) public health risks due to waterborne diseases as urinary and intestinal bilharzia and malaria along with the expansion of irrigated areas and in light of COVID-19 prevalence of migrant workers will likely pose an increased risk of accelerated contagion in the longer term; an economic downturn will push more unemployed people into illegal activities as a coping strategy; (iv) health and safety risks for workers, farmers and neighboring populations; (v) risks associated with the development and dissemination of new agricultural technologies; (vi) risks of pest and pesticide use issues in the project command area; and (vii) downstream risks from previous and future investments, issues related to maintaining canals and drains, etc. Specific environmental risks are related to excavation, waste disposal, disposal of demolished material, impacts on topsoil, vegetation; grievances related to canal and open drain crossings; opening of borrow pits; and impacts related to temporary livelihood loss if modernization activities are implemented during cropping seasons. In addition, the project may contribute to local climate change with the emission of methane generally observed in rice growing areas. Other potential impacts include (but are not limited to): destruction of plant cover, risk of destruction of wildlife habitat and straying of livestock and wildlife with excavation work, risk of occupational accidents and occupational health and safety (OHS), risk of traffic accidents, risk of destruction or desecration of Physical Cultural Resources in this area including graves. In order to manage these impacts the PIU will recruit an ISO 45001: 2018 or equivalent certified Occupational Health Specialist for the construction period, while SEMRY will establish and implement an Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) for the operation phase.

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

By rehabilitating existing irrigation schemes, **the project is expected to have potential positive environmental impacts in the project area**. Farmer Field Schools (FFS) demonstrations, through the Technological Innovation Center (TIC), will contribute to improving soil and integrated pest and pesticide management and introduce sustainable cropping practices. Promoting the adoption of priority technologies (Integrated Nutrient Management, improved soil management, organic farming techniques, diversification into higher value horticultural crops with lower water demand, etc.) would raise the awareness of sustainable environmental management among government staff, famers, and water users. For Water demand, rice varieties with lower water demands could be introduced which lower as well the risks of waterborne diseases. The China experiences will be shared in Cameroon. The project will also generate employment for local populations, contribute to local development with various supports to be given to local communities, create development of economic activities around the work sites, generate business opportunities for economic operators of the area (catering, supply of materials and equipment to contractors, etc.). In addition, improving water resources monitoring in the Logone river and coordination with the Lake Chad Basin Commission will also improve implement the agreements of the Water Charter.

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

Variants	Technology	Benefits	Environmental impact
Variant 1: The development and rehabilitation of the rice-growing areas of the VIVA-Logone Project without new construction or development of support services for rice production	This option just requires the repair of existing infrastructure, therefore the renovation of existing equipment.	• Implementation of a basic installation • significant average investment • Poor layout and use of reduced space	• Low yield of existing structures • Low water storage capacity • Reduced employment of labor • Low impact on agricultural activities in the area

Variant 2: The development, rehabilitation and construction of hydraulic and transport infrastructure adapted to the area in the rice-growing areas as well as the development of support services for rice production	This option has the particularity of taking care of the essential needs in water, mobility, and development. It allows the construction of suitable works for the distribution of water, storage and protection of surrounding homes. It does not prevent the mobility of people and goods.	The works necessary for the distribution of water to the various producers distributed in the perimeters are carried out. The investment is significant and meets the needs of the areas to be developed. The improvements associated with the infrastructures make it possible to respond to the concerns of the actors working in these different rice-growing areas.	Use of large spaces • A nuisance for the surrounding actors with the scope of the work • Risk of deterioration in morals and the spread of STIs. • Real impact on water resources • Increase in land pressure in these developed valleys.
Variation 3: Do nothing	• No job creation • Non-use of the potential of these different rice-growing areas • Slowdown in the production activities for actors in the agricultural sector • Maintaining the precariousness of actors in the area.		

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.

During project preparation, the Borrower has used the PIU of the previous PULCI project with seasoned environmental and social safeguards specialists to support the preparation of safeguards document. It has also engaged experienced environmental and social consultants to prepare safeguards document. The following documents have been prepared: (i) A Pest Management Plan that identifies main pests; diseases and pests of rice and proposes preventive and treatment methods (disclosed Feb. 17, 2021); (ii) An ESMF was prepared and it sets out the guidelines and procedures to screen, assess and address environmental and social impacts of the proposed activities, as well as guidance on their management and mitigations (disclosed Feb. 19, 2021); (iii) a Social Assessment (SA) aimed at analyzing the local social context in terms of social organization, land tenure organizational features, and gender aspects and proposes key actions to be undertaken in the framework of the project disclosed March 26, 2021, (iv) Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) which sets compensation and resettlement principles was disclosed March 24, 2021, (v) Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) has been disclosed on April 30, and (vi) Resettlement Action Plan RAP) has also been reviewed and was approved on June 3, 2021.

A first-cut ESMP has been developed for the project in accordance with Cameroonian environmental policy frameworks as well as the Bank safeguard policies. Mitigation measures consist of (i) environmental good practices to address general construction related impacts; for example, civil work contractors are requested to develop Contractor's ESMP and Contractor Occupational Health and Safety Plan, including community health and safety, as part of the Bidding process. All contractors will be required to appoint one seasoned environmental and one social safeguards specialist and an ISO 45001:2018 or equivalent certified Occupational Health and Safety Specialist for the implementation of their ESMPs and OHS Plans; (ii) specific mitigation was defined and included in the final ESIA reports; SEMRY does not have in place a functional environmental and social management unit, and it will rely on the PIU E&S staff to plan and manage environmental, social risks and impacts associated with this project. These

safeguards experts will support all Bank-funded subprojects. SEMRY will establish an Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) for the operational phase. MINEPDED reviews and approves ESIAs as well as monitors project implementation in accordance with national environmental laws and the respective regulations. It has a weak capacity and lack resources to undertake proper compliance monitoring. Its technical capacity will be reinforced, and the costs associated with the operation of Divisional committees in charge of monitoring ESMPs will be borne by the project under component 4. Although MINEPDED has no social scientists and occupational health and safety expert, Divisional committees will include social experts, the labor department, and officials from the social affairs department and the women and family department. Supervision engineers will retain one Environmental Engineer, one Occupational Health and Safety Engineer (with a certification in OHSAS 18001: 2007, ISO 45001: 2018 or equivalent, two EHS inspectors to monitor contractors' EHS performance, and one Social Specialist to monitor Social, including GRM and gender performance.

The project was rated as having a substantial risk of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA); therefore, it is following the recommendations of the Good Practice Note on Addressing GBV in Investment Project Financing involving Major Civil Works. It has developed a GBV action plan with accountability and response framework that will be reflected in the Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) for the project. A dedicated Gender Specialist in the PIU will be responsible of the implementation of this GBV action plan.

5. Identify the key stakeholders and describe the mechanisms for consultation and disclosure on safeguard policies, with an emphasis on potentially affected people.?

Project proponent (SEMRY); Rice farmers, WUAs and other beneficiaries; Ministry of Environment, including devolved units; Contractors; Lake Chad Basin Commission (CBLT); Supervision engineer; etc. Public Consultations and Information Disclosure: In accordance with OP4.01, ToRs for the ESIA for the rehabilitation of the irrigation schemes were prepared and consulted upon on. Various information and consultation meetings were held, where the 20,000 farmers of the area attended. The consultation was undertaken mainly in 2020 and until March 2021. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is being finalized as part of the ESIA/ESMP. Based on the PULCI's experience, a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), including all the contractual documents, are being developed for the project. The GRM will also include both a Gender Based Violence policy and a proposition of mitigation measures and a Code of Conduct in compliance with the standard Code of Conduct in the Bidding Documents.

B. Disclosure Requirements (N.B. The sections below appear only if corresponding safeguard policy is triggered)

Environmental Assessment/Audit/Management Plan/Other

Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure	For category A projects, date of distributing the Executive Summary of the EA to the Executive Directors
April 27, 2021	**April 29, 2021**	**June 25, 2021**

"In country" Disclosure	April 29, 2021

Resettlement Action Plan/Framework/Policy Process

Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure
June 9, 2021	June 9, 2021

"In country" Disclosure	June 14, 2021

Pest Management Plan

Was the document disclosed prior to appraisal?	Date of receipt by the Bank	Date of submission for disclosure
YES	**August 10, 2020**	**August 26, 2020**

"In country" Disclosure	August 26, 2020

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

N/A

C. Compliance Monitoring Indicators at the Corporate Level (to be filled in when the ISDS is finalized by the project decision meeting) (N.B. The sections below appear only if corresponding safeguard policy is triggered)

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 Practice Manager (PM) review and approve the EA report?

Yes

Are the cost and the accountabilities for the EMP incorporated in the credit/loan?

Yes. Refer to PAD table 1: Summary Project Costs and Financing

OP/BP 4.04 - Natural Habitats

Would the project result in any significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats?

No

If the project would result in significant conversion or degradation of other (non-critical) natural habitats, does the project include mitigation measures acceptable to the Bank?

Yes. See ESIA/ESMP

OP 4.09 - Pest Management

Does the EA adequately address the pest management issues?

Yes

Is a separate PMP required?
Yes

If yes, has the PMP been reviewed and approved by a safeguards specialist or PM? Are PMP requirements included in project design? If yes, does the project team include a Pest Management Specialist

Yes, the PMP was reviewed and approved by safeguard specialist and cleared by the RSA. Yes, they are included. Yes, the team will contain an Environmental Specialist with experience in pest management, who will ensure that the PMP is implemented.

OP/BP 4.11 - Physical Cultural Resources

Does the EA include adequate measures related to cultural property?

Yes. Previous studies in the region revealed local significant cultural heritage places such as graveyards. Mitigation measures are incorporated into the disclosed ESIA/ESMP report. Contractors will be contractually required to develop a chance find procedure as part of their ESMP, at least 30 days in advance before commencement of works. For this, the Contactor/PIU will used the standard World Bank Chance Find Procedure. A Cultural Resource Management Plan will be annexed to the ESMP.

Does the credit/loan incorporate mechanisms to mitigate the potential adverse impacts on cultural property?
The ESMP of the project includes a budget for the implementation of the Cultural Resources Management Plan. An experienced staff member is foreseen for the follow-up of the implementation of this Plan.

OP/BP 4.12 - Involuntary Resettlement

Has a resettlement plan/abbreviated plan/policy framework/process framework (as appropriate) been prepared?
The Social Assessment and the Resettlement Policy Framework have already been elaborated and approved. A Resettlement Action Plan has been prepared and was approved by the Bank.

If yes, then did the Regional unit responsible for safeguards or Practice Manager review the plan?
Yes

Is physical displacement/relocation expected?
Yes. In total, 136 families are expected to be affected, with a total estimate of 952 people.

Is economic displacement expected? (loss of assets or access to assets that leads to loss of income sources or other means of livelihoods)
Yes, the CPR has proposed compensation and mitigation measures. These measures have been integrated into the RAP. Those measues include: Option 1: Financing of the operating accounts, i.e. 20 bags of paddy equivalent to 200,000 FCFA/plot and campaign, taking into account the activities of the rice value chain by directing the population towards related activities, such as breeding, fish farming, etc., or income-generating activities (crafts, petty trade, processing of agricultural products, etc.); Option 2: Temporary jobs on worksites, giving priority to PAPs in recruiting unskilled and specialized labor with equal skills. This option will be implemented according to the terms of temporary employment on the following worksites: (a) rehabilitation of the perimeters; (b) revegetation of the Logone protection dike over 67 km in length from Yagoua to Pouss; (c) revegetation of the Logone protection dike over 21 km between Pouss and Tékélé; (d) revegetation of certain points of the Maga dam; and (e) enhancement of borrow pits operated by PULCI and/or development of borrow pits used by VIVA-Logone.

OP/BP 4.36 - Forests

Has the sector-wide analysis of policy and institutional issues and constraints been carried out?
N/A
Does the project design include satisfactory measures to overcome these constraints?
N/A. However, the ESIA provided for reforestation operations as a compensation measure.
Does the project finance commercial harvesting, and if so, does it include provisions for certification system?
No

OP/BP 4.37 - Safety of Dams

Have dam safety plans been prepared?
The Maga dam was rehabilitated under the Flood Emergency Project (P143940) implemented from 2014 to 2020. The overall conditions of the dam are satisfactory, and the final taking over certificate of the works was issued on May 28, 2020. The O&M and instrumentation plan for the Maga dam were prepared and approved by the WB on August 20, 2020.

The existing Emergency Response Plan ERP for the area (ERP) was elaborated in 2017 within the Flood Emergency Project (PULCI; P143940), approved by the WB, tested in 2019 with a simulation and used during the floods in 2020 where there was no major issue in the project area (the flood impacts were in other areas). Furthermore, it will be tested again during the first year of the project.

Have the TORs as well as composition for the independent Panel of Experts (POE) been reviewed and approved by the Bank?
As the activities/works will be minor and the dam is in good condition, there is no need to have a dam safety panel in place.

Has an Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP) been prepared and arrangements been made for public awareness and training?
The O&M and instrumentation plan for the Maga dam were prepared and approved by the WB on August 20, 2020.

The existing Emergency Response Plan ERP for the area (ERP) was elaborated in 2017 within the Flood Emergency Project (PULCI; P143940), tested in 2019, and in 2020, during the floods, it was used so that in the project area nothing happened (while it did so in other places of the region). Furthermore, a full review of the functionality and adequacy of the ERP will be done in the first year of the project.
Finally, a fuller Emergency Preparedness Plan for the Maga dam (EPP) will be elaborated, including a dam break analysis and downstream inundation simulation and mapping. This activity will be completed within the three first years of project implementation to ensure ownership and training by the new staff of SEMRY.

OP 7.50 - Projects on International Waterways

Have the other riparians been notified of the project?
Yes. Through the non-objection of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (CBLT).
The Government of Cameroon, in accordance with the Lake Chad Basin Water Charter approved in 2012 by the Presidents of each riparian member country, notified the other riparian countries of the proposed Project, by sending

riparian notification to the Lake Chad Basin Commission (CBLT) on first notification was sent on November 30, 2020. A second notification was sent for further clarifications on February 12, 2021.

On March 3, 2021, a response has been received from the CBLT, confirming no-objection to the Project and that other riparian countries have been informed of the Project.

If the project falls under one of the exceptions to the notification requirement, has this been cleared with the Legal Department, and the memo to the RVP prepared and sent?
N/A
Has the RVP approved such an exception?

The World Bank Policy on Disclosure of Information

Have relevant safeguard policies documents been sent to the World Bank for disclosure?
Yes: The ESIA/ESMP, PMP, SA, RPF, and RAP were sent to the World Bank and have been disclosed (see Table below)..

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 documents have been disclosed on the WB website as well as the MINEPAT website (see summary Table below).

Safeguard Documents	**Disclosure at WB**	**Disclosure at MINEPAT**
Environmental and Social Management Framework	February 18, 2021	February 22, 2021
Social Assessment	March 26, 2021	March 26, 2021
Pest Management Plan	February 17, 2021	August 26 2020
Resettlement Policy Framework	March 23, 2021	March 26, 2021
Environmental and Social Impact Assessment	April 30, 2021	April 30, 2021
Environmental and Social Management Plan	April 30, 2021	April 30, 2021
Resettlement Action Plan	June 9, 2021	June 14, 2021

All Safeguard Policies

Have satisfactory calendar, budget and clear institutional responsibilities been prepared for the implementation of measures related to safeguard policies?
Yes. The ESMP has, among others, a calendar, the budget, and the institutional framework necessary for the effective implementation of the measures related to safeguard policies.

Have costs related to safeguard policy measures been included in the project cost?
Yes. the overall cost of the project ($200 million) includes E&S aspects. The RAP implementation is estimated to cost US$10 million; of this, physical displacement is only about 20 percent, while economic displacement and others are estimated at about 80 percent. The cost of implementing the ESMP is estimated at US$2.5 million.

Does the Monitoring and Evaluation system of the project include the monitoring of safeguard impacts and measures related to safeguard policies?
Yes. The PAD's Results framework and monitoring section provides indicators on project components but also on social aspects, the Citizen engagement indicator and Grievance Redress Mechanism (percent satisfactory resolution).

Have satisfactory implementation arrangements been agreed with the borrower and the same been adequately reflected in the project legal documents?
Yes. See section III of PAD: Implementation arrangements.

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