



Project Information Document/ Identification/Concept Stage (PID)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 30-Nov-2023 | Report No: PIDC283059



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)	Environmental and Social Risk Classification	Project Name
P181123		Moderate	EnABLE Ghana Country Project Supporting Social Inclusion in FCPF Emission Reductions Program
Region	Country	Date PID Prepared	Estimated Date of Approval
WESTERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA	Ghana	30-Nov-2023	
Financing Instrument	Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency	
Investment Project Financing	SOLIDARIDAD WEST AFRICA AND TROPENBOS GHANA CONSORTIUM	SOLIDARIDAD WEST AFRICA AND TROPENBOS GHANA CONSORTIUM	

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PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US\$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	4.00
Total Financing	4.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

Non-World Bank Group Financing

Trust Funds	4.00
Miscellaneous 1	4.00

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. Ghana has made significant strides in development over the last three decades, however, recent progress has slowed raising concerns about future prospects. Since the onset of COVID-19, Ghana has experienced a growth slowdown and worsening macroeconomic imbalances that have now reached crisis



proportions. Pre-existing vulnerabilities (large fiscal deficits and external financing needs, significant energy and financial sector costs) were compounded by the COVID-19 shocks, resulting in loss of access to the international capital market and unsustainable public debt burdens. Inflation reached 54.2 percent year-on-year in December 2022 while the cedi depreciated by over 40 percent against the United States Dollar (USD). The authorities reached a Staff Level Agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in December 2022: the IMF-supported program that has been approved in May 2023 will likely entail a sharp fiscal adjustment and a comprehensive debt treatment to restore macroeconomic balances. Ghana's growth over the last decade has been driven by the capital-intensive natural resource extraction. Gold, cocoa, and oil exports accounted for over 75 percent of all goods exports (2015 – 2017), while manufacturing exports remained limited.

2. A major concern is the lack of sufficient and quality jobs, particularly for Ghana's growing youth population. Currently, 75 percent of Ghana's population is under 35 years, and it is estimated that between 2021 and 2040, 10 million Ghanaian youth will enter the labor force. However, the rate of job creation lags the demand for jobs, especially for the youth population. Ghana's overall unemployment rate in 2016/17 was estimated at 8.6 percent, while the youth (ages 15-35) unemployment rate was 12.6 percent. Based on the 2021 Population and Housing Census, the unemployment rate for those aged 15-35 years is estimated at 19.7 percent, compared to 13.4 percent overall.

3. Unsustainable growth may be imperiling Ghana's economic development as indicated through the measure of country's national wealth. Between 2000 and 2014, Ghana saw its total national wealth more than double. However, much of this growth came with losses to renewable natural resources and overreliance on non-renewable assets. In Ghana's case, not only is renewable natural capital being eroded, but produced capital is as well. The cost of soil erosion is estimated at about US\$0.5 billion, or 1.1 percent of the country's GDP. If its current unsustainable natural resource extraction remains unchanged, Ghana will see its wealth destroyed over the long term with less opportunity to sustain growth and share prosperity.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

4. Ghana is the world's second-largest cocoa producer and has one of the highest rates of deforestation in Africa, at 3.2% per annum largely driven by cocoa farming. Forest degradation and deforestation across this agro-forest mosaic, which covers 5.9 million ha of Ghana's High Forest Zone (HFZ), driven by continued cocoa farm expansion and other types of agriculture, coupled with a recent up-surge in illegal mining and illegal logging pose a significant threat to Ghana's forests and the many livelihoods and ecosystems that depend on them. In response, the Government of Ghana, with support from partners, initiated the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program in 2012 to significantly reduce deforestation and degradation in this landscape through investment that support climate-smart cocoa production system and standards which leverages on strong private sector commitment, and supported by a suite of policy interventions and reforms. Ghana has made some progress in reducing deforestation. According to FAO, Ghana's forest cover decreased by only 0.03 percent per annum between 2010 and 2020 which is the lowest rate of deforestation in the region.



5. In 2020, Ghana produced approximately 969,000 metric tons of cocoa beans, generating about \$2 billion in cocoa exports. Cocoa sales provide income for thousands of small-scale farmers in rural areas of Ghana, and the cocoa industry also employs a significant number of people in processing and transportation. However, the cocoa industry has also been linked to deforestation and environmental degradation. An estimated 800,000 farm households depend on cocoa production for their livelihoods. However, these smallholder farming systems are heavily reliant on the forest ecosystem services that come from the agro-forest landscape, and socio-cultural resources. Absence of land-use plans in rural areas lead to deforestation and forest degradation as farming system practiced in cocoa forest landscapes present constant threat to the forest due to expansion and unsustainable intensification. This places rural livelihoods, as well as the national economy, at risk from the combined effects of deforestation, degradation, and climate change, particularly changes in temperature and rainfall patterns.

6. The Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme is characterized by a rich socio-cultural diversity, as the participating local communities are made up of different ethnic groups with unique traditions, beliefs, and practices. These groups include the Akan, Ewe, Ga-Dangbes, Mole-Dagbanis, Gurmas, Guans, Grusi, Gonja, Dagomba, and many others. The Akan meta-ethnic group is the largest ethnic-linguistic group in the programme area, with over two thirds of the population speaking an Akan dialect (e.g. Twi, Ashanti, Fante, Bono) and belonging to one of many Akan subgroups (e.g. Ashanti, Akuapem, Akyem, Akwamu, Ahanta, Bono, Fante, Nzema, Kwahu and Sefwi) that originate from across Ghana's High Forest Zones and are its landowners. The diversity within the landscape also extends to livelihoods, with various economic activities such as farming, fishing, hunting, and non-timber forest product collection. However, cocoa farming is a major source of livelihood for many communities within the landscape, with other crops such as plantain, cassava, and yam also grown. The socio-cultural diversity within the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme presents both opportunities and challenges for the implementation of the ERP and sharing of benefits. It provides an opportunity to incorporate local knowledge and practices in the development and implementation of interventions, ensuring that they are relevant and effective. However, it also requires a nuanced approach that takes into consideration the different cultures, traditions, and practices of the various communities within the landscape.

7. Migration is an important phenomenon within the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme area. The area is characterized by seasonal and circular migration. The open traditional systems in the area allow for and even encourages migrant settlers to help "develop" the cocoa forest land. As a result, farming and forest-fringe communities in the ER Programme area are ethnically diverse and the traditional governance structures function to support and enable these heterogeneous communities. However, migrant farmers in the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme area face several challenges, including land tenure insecurity as they are often not recognized as legitimate landowners or have limited access to land. They face language barriers that can limit their ability to access information and services and limited participation in decision-making that affect their livelihoods and the natural resources they depend on.

8. One of the socio-cultural challenges facing women in the ERP area is gender inequality. Women in the program area face limited access to land and productive resources, which restricts their ability to engage in sustainable agricultural practices. According to the Land Matrix, which is a global database on land deals,



women in Ghana hold less than 15% of registered land titles. Additionally, only 19.7% of landholders in Ghana are women. This is despite the fact that women play a critical role in smallholder agriculture in Ghana, where they make up 70% of the agricultural labor force. The lack of access to land and secure land tenure has significant implications for women's ability to access credit, make investments, and participate in decision-making processes related to land use and management. Women's land rights are often not recognized or protected by customary and statutory laws, and in some cases, women are prevented from owning land altogether which can limit their access to the benefits of the ER program. They also lack access to information and training on climate-smart agriculture practices. This can lead to their exclusion from climate actions that have direct impacts on their lives and communities.

9. Persons with disabilities face numerous challenges in society. They often face social exclusion and physical barriers to accessing forests, discrimination and stigma from their communities, further limiting their opportunities and access to natural resources. Addressing the challenges faced by persons with disabilities is critical to ensuring their inclusion and participation in the benefits of the ER program, as well as promoting a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

10. Addressing the challenges above requires a multi-stakeholder approach that involves the government, civil society organizations, and other actors in the cocoa value chain done through targeted interventions and policies that address the unique needs and challenges.

Alignment with Results-Based Climate Finance

11. Ghana signed the Emission Reductions Payment Agreement (ERPA) in June 2019 with the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). The National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) of the Forestry Commission and Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) are the implementing agencies of the Program, with the goal to significantly reducing deforestation and degradation by promoting Climate-Smart Cocoa production (CSC), as well as other integrated activities to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers and forest dependent communities. The program is being implemented in six hotspots interventions areas (HIAs) covering approximately 5.9 million ha, located in the southern third of the country, and forms part of the West Africa Guinean Forest biodiversity hotspots. Based on the estimated emission reductions, the Carbon Fund is expected to purchase 10 million tons of verified ERs – US\$ 50 million over five years, spread out over four tranches (1st tranche of 0.3 million tons, or US\$ 1.5 million; 2nd tranche of 2.7 million tons, or US\$ 13.5 million; 3rd tranche of 4.5 million tons, or US\$ 22.5 million; 4th tranche of 2.5 million, or US\$ 12.5 million).

12. GCFRP is implementing an integrated set of activities aimed at empowering local farming communities by amplifying their voice and agency in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of program activities. The program uses bottom-up approach where Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIA) level inclusive governance structures are in place. The Community Resource Management Committees (CRMC) are the basic unit of the HIA governance structures at community levels; followed by Community Resources Management Areas (CREMA) or Zones, a geographically defined area that includes several communities that have agreed to manage their natural resource in a sustainable manner guided by constitution and enacted by-laws whose functional unit is the CREMA Executive Committees (CECs); followed by Sub-HIAs which are made up of a



number of CREMAs or Zones with their functional unit called the Sub-HIA Executive Committees (SHIECs); and the last tier of governance HIA Management Board (HMB) which is the apex decision-making body of the HIA governance structure and is responsible for guiding and directing all HIA management decisions toward a common vision for the collective good of Sub-HIAs, Zones/CREMAs, CRMC, and communities (see annex 1). The composition of all these structures is made up of self - selected and voted community farming members where 40% are mandated to be women. These members are drawn from various stakeholders within the community, and they include representation from religious bodies, youth, women groups, farmer groups, physically challenged and traditional authorities.

13. Challenges remain in the functionality and operationalization of the governance bodies due to lack of resources and administrative set up for effective operations, inability to access funding for alternative livelihood programs for post cocoa harvests, lack of information resources and capacity for farm services, gender gap in decision making and leadership roles, challenges in enhancing the capacity of the CRMCs, insufficient support for value chains, better demarcation and respects for the boundaries of forest reserves, as well as structural administrative bottlenecks.

14. The GCFRP program has developed a socially inclusive aimed to guide the distribution of carbon and non-carbon benefits. The BSP was developed through participatory and inclusive approaches and identified the following beneficiaries in each of the six Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs) in the Program Area for receiving carbon benefits. The beneficiaries are:

1. Groups of Farmers registered under the Program: These include, but not limited to cocoa farmers, Non-Timber Forest Product (NTFP) harvesters, and food crop farmers. The program will not operate via individual farmers but rather through farmer groups registered under an active HIA, Sub-HIA or similar CBNRM structure, who are willing participants who know their responsibilities and rights in the program. The programme requires the inclusion of female farmers in the farmer groups;
2. Communities: Communities located within active HIAs, Sub-HIAs or similar CBNRM structure who are willingly and actively participating in the governance of the landscape.
3. Traditional Authorities;
4. Forestry Commission;
5. Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD);
6. Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs).

15. In January 2023, Ghana became the second country after *Mozambique* to receive an ER payment in Africa from the *Forest Carbon Partnership Facility*. Ghana's second payment is expected by the end of 2023.

16. In preparation for the execution of the benefit sharing plan and ensuring benefits to legitimate beneficiaries, Ghana has undertaken the following steps to implement the final BSP version dated March 2020: (i) constituted the REDD+ Dedicated Accounts (RDA) Committee to provide oversight of benefit sharing arrangements to ensure transparency, (ii) developed a Fund Flow Mechanism that articulates the roles and responsibilities at every level [RDA, NRS, HIA (HMB, HIC)] for preparation of proposals, submission and review of proposals from community and farmer groups, (iii) established criteria for determining the



performance of the HIA and determine their relative share in carbon benefits as ER payments are made for performance of ER Program at the jurisdictional level and not at the level of HIA, (iv) supported the constitution of HIA level governance arrangements, (v) identified list of beneficiaries (communities and farmer groups) for the first monitoring period, (vi) calculated share of each beneficiary group from the first carbon payments received by the Government of Ghana in January 2023 (total amount US\$4,862,280), and (vii) through the National REDD+ Secretariat, maintain records of all transactions and make information available on the Forestry Commission website (<https://reddsis.fcghana.org/documents.php>) for stakeholders to access. Timely distribution of the benefits will significantly incentivize, support, and increase activities and behavior changes that result in land use practices that produce emission reductions and effectively fosters wider legitimacy for REDD+ activities in the program area. The assumption is that local farmers, communities and traditional authorities will benefit the most as they are the key actors whose behavior (in terms of land use) needs to change for ERs to be achieved.

17. One significant challenge is the lack of capacity to participate in decision making process, limited access to information and understanding of performance-based payments for ERs as the concept is new to beneficiaries. Farmers who are unaware of the program's benefits in particular women, may not take the necessary steps to participate or implement the required practices to qualify for carbon credits. Also, without proper technical knowledge, access to improved farming technologies and financial resources for investment in sustainable forest management, farmers may not be able to implement the required practices to reduce carbon emissions effectively and to benefit more. Women farmers, in particular, may face additional barriers to accessing benefits due to their lack of ownership or control over land and other assets. Lack of institutional support and the absence of clear guidelines and regulations on carbon benefit sharing can further exacerbate the challenges faced by local farmers and marginalized groups in accessing benefits.

18. The BSP requires that farmers registered in groups in an HIA with at least 30% female representation qualify to submit proposals to access carbon benefits. Also, communities are required to prepare HIA community-development project proposals from each HIA to implement community projects. Communities will apply through the HIA Management Board & Consortium and will be selected based upon 1) environmental projects that align with the HIA management plan; or 2) development and social welfare projects for which there is a significant need. Based upon an estimated average project cost of USD 50,000, a total of 269 community projects could be funded as Carbon Benefits, equally approximately 38 projects per HIA.

19. Addressing these challenges will require a multi-faceted approach, including increasing awareness and education, providing technical assistance and capacity building, improving access to financing climate smart cocoa practices, locally led climate smart interventions, and developing clear regulations and guidelines for carbon benefit sharing.



Relationship to CPF

20. EnABLE fully aligns with the World Bank Group's (WBG) corporate goals— to end extreme poverty and to promote shared prosperity, with environmental, social, and fiscal sustainability. The program is also aligned with the recently updated Ghana Systematic Country Diagnostic (2018, report No. 132010-GH). The Systematic Country Diagnostic recognizes natural resources production and exports to be the backbone of Ghana's economy and the main driver of growth. It is also aligned with the new Country Partnership Framework (CPF) 2022–2026 and falls under the Focus Area 3: Promoting Resilient and Sustainable Development. The program aligns with the Ghana Country Climate and Development Report which emphasized the need for awareness and education around climate change issues and capacity building for local communities and stakeholders to respond to challenges of climate change.

21. The program is responsive to the Ghana National Gender Policy 2025 and WBG Gender Strategy 2016–2023. The design includes targeted interventions for improving ownership and control over resources and assets, enhancing women's role in local-level forest and natural resource management, and creating better alternative income-generating opportunities for women farmers. The project will pay particular attention to the factors that may impede women from participating in benefit sharing, livelihoods and other value-added activities.

22. The program is expected to contribute to the mitigation and adaptation objectives of Ghana's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) Article 6 of the Paris Climate Agreement which features sustainable forest management as priority sectors for mitigation and adaptation. It aligns with the Ghana Forest Investment Program to reduce forest loss and land degradation and contribute to sustainable livelihoods through participatory planning, improved practices and incentives in Ghana's high forest zone.

23. Civil society engagement and dialogue on the natural resource sectors, climate change, and the REDD+ process have been increasing. This proposed project will sustain and amplify the engagement and dialogue that was facilitated by the just ended Ghana Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Local Communities Project (P145316) which sought to strengthen knowledge and practices of targeted local communities in REDD+ processes and sustainable forest management, which was implemented by a civil society organization. This project will also support the existing local ecosystem planning processes in selected landscape in Ghana so that it helps to institutionalize the approach and facilitate the sustainable development pathways.

C. Project Development Objective(s)

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The development objective is to enhance inclusion of target beneficiaries in accessing carbon and non-carbon benefits from the Ghana Emission Reductions Program (ERP) and Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP).



Key Results

Key result from this project is the enhanced access of the target beneficiaries to carbon and non-carbon benefits attributable to EnABLE intervention. The project will target 100 selected communities in the ERP area landscape that are currently benefiting, or have the potential to benefit, from the ERP, its BSP, and other REDD+ activities in the area. The project will complement ongoing initiatives in the ER Program area and will support gender and socially inclusive targeted actions that will enhance target beneficiary access to carbon and non-carbon benefits. Target beneficiaries are marginalized groups such as women, youth, migrants and persons with disabilities in the 100 selected communities where the target groups face exclusion or are likely to face exclusion from engagement in the ERP and BSP. Through the project, multi-stakeholder CSOs platform on REDD+ will be established to enhance voice and participation in decision-making and policy formulation for inclusive implementation of the ERP and distribution of benefits in a fair and equitable manner.

D. Preliminary Description

Activities/Components

Project Components:

Component 1: Building capacity to engage in ERP and benefit sharing: (US\$1,300,000)

Subcomponent 1.1 Awareness creation and capacity strengthening in ERP and BSP (US\$800,000): The subcomponent will support activities to strengthen the knowledge and skills to engage in REDD+ processes and enabling conditions to allow target beneficiaries to meet necessary requirements to participate in ERP and BSP to (i) ensure adequate knowledge and understanding of the ERP and BSP requirements for eligibility; (ii) enhance mechanisms to ensure more inclusive decision making in community and farmer based organization governance structures, including supporting women's role on the executive committee. Specific activities to be supported include (a) conduct capacity needs assessment for each HIA to meaningfully engage in and benefit from ERP and BSP, (b) develop tailored training manuals, infographics and audio-visuals in at least 5 local languages spoken in the HIAs for awareness raising and the delivery of a structured and organized capacity building opportunities with focus on women, youth, migrant groups and persons with disabilities. The awareness-raising activities will enhance the voice of local communities, including women's groups and other vulnerable groups, of the ERP and BSP and provide information on the forthcoming call to access ER-Program benefit sharing, and how target beneficiaries can participate. Whenever required, engagement materials will be put in accessible format for persons with disabilities who are beneficiaries or potential beneficiaries of the carbon benefits. The subcomponent will also (a) support selected farmer based organizations to establish formal governance structures, with emphasis on enhancing the participation of women; and (b) support local communities to develop socially inclusive land use plan that enhances land rights particularly for women in one HIA.

Subcomponent 1.2: Capacity strengthening of the National REDD+ Working Group (NRWG) and other multi-stakeholder platform to enhance dialogue on climate change and REDD+ (USD\$ 250,000): The



National REDD+ Working Group (NRWG) is a multi-stakeholder platform hosted by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) and has responsibility for providing advice and guidance on all aspects of REDD+. The membership of the NRWG is drawn from relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), private sector, civil society, local communities and landowners/ traditional authorities. The multi-stakeholder platform is intended to support longer institutionalization dialogue. The NRWG is supported in their activities by seven (7) sub-working groups who provide technical backstopping to the NRWG on key specialized areas of Ghana's REDD+ process including gender inclusion. The platform provides a forum for dialogue on effective and inclusive participation of stakeholders in decision-making and implementation processes of the ERP and BSP in Ghana. The subcomponent will (i) conduct needs assessment of the Multi-Stakeholder CSO platforms on REDD+ in Ghana to identify gaps and opportunities to strengthen the platform for inclusive dialogue and policy consultations on REDD+ and benefit sharing; (ii) support elaboration of strategies to enhance participation in dialogues regarding inclusive implementation and benefit sharing as representatives of disadvantaged groups; (iii) provide a platform for networking and for CSOs to directly engage with other stakeholders and to mobilize to influence climate finance policies and regulations at the local, and national level; and (iv) serve as knowledge exchange platform for peer-to-peer learning and collaborative actions. The subcomponent will also support activities to enhance the voice of women, migrants, youth and persons with disabilities in CSO platforms at the local landscape level to highlight the barriers they face in participating in ERPs and BSP.

Subcomponent 1.3: Inclusive farm service delivery to contribute to emission reductions (US\$250,000)

By delivering an inclusive and accessible farm services, community-based extension agents and other organized community-based farm services delivery entities play a significant role in capacity building, peer to peer learning, application of best practice to conserve the forest and eco-services. Activities to support include: (i) strengthening existing Rural Service Centers (RSC) and community-based extension agents (climate-smart cocoa champions who will extend ER related extension support to marginalized farmers in their communities) in 2-4 out of six HIAs as pilot centres (based on agreed selection to serve as a one-stop-shop for knowledge and information about the ERP and BPS including a catalog of non-carbon benefits from the consortium partners (government, private sector, and NGOs in the ERP intervention areas, (ii) providing accessible capacity building tools and learning aids for farm school services to meet farm level needs and to serve as the store house of knowledge at the selected HIAs; (iii) providing extension support and training opportunities to farmers, in particular, women, migrants and youth farmers to take advantage of non-carbon benefits offered by government and partners; and (iv) enhancing women, migrant and youth access to non-carbon benefits (inputs and extension service) from the Ministry of Agriculture and COCOBOD, as well as integration of youth groups into service provision such as spraying of agrochemicals, artificial hand pollination, coaching through requisite training and expertise.

Component 2. Promoting Climate-resilient Livelihoods for Women and Value Chains (USD 2,300,000)

The component will support implementation of climate-resilient alternative agricultural practices to reduce pressure on forests and contribute to lower emissions in the area. The grant component will empower



women to participate in climate-resilient alternative livelihood activities while promoting their participation in decision-making and income-generating activities while improving the management of natural resources.

Subcomponent 2.1. Enhancing women's access to productive resources and Value chains (US\$ 600,000):

The subcomponent will support women's groups or women led farmer cooperatives to implement climate smart cocoa production and processing, and locally led climate resilient livelihoods initiatives. The subcomponent will finance (i) technical assistance to support women to engage in alternative livelihood opportunities in value chains related to cocoa and other commodities produced in the ER area, (ii) technical assistance to train them on entrepreneurship, financial management/ bookkeeping, business plan and proposal development for women businesses to mobilize financing and matching grants to sustain their investment to reduce pressure on the forest, (iii) promote gender-equitable agroforestry business development models that contribute to lower emissions, (iv) identify and strengthen market linkages for women farmers, farmer organizations and cooperatives, (v) develop digital tools to support women to access market information and networks for better prices, and (vi) establish value chain coordination and dialogue with the private sector to provide regular extension services to target beneficiaries to reduce deforestation, increase yields on existing farms, and reduce the need to expand into forested areas.

Subcomponent 2.2: Seed grant provision (US\$1,700,000): The small grants will prioritize support to locally led group agroforestry and conservation activities and climate-resilient alternative livelihood activities initiated by women groups or women dominated groups in particular businesses. Activities to be supported include: (i) provision of small grants (to approximately 50no. with max US\$30,000 seed grant) to finance women led or women dominated groups in agroforestry and conservation initiatives and climate-resilient alternative livelihood activities, (ii) assist beneficiaries to obtain legal registration of their organizations which is important to gain legal recognition and credibility with partners, meet the qualification criteria to submit proposal to access carbon benefits, increase opportunities for growth and access to external credit; and (iii) technical assistance to provide capacity building on financial management, to support to develop financial tools, environmental and social risks management, and to develop business plans for productive initiatives. For group based locally led climate-resilient alternative livelihood activities, priority will be given to those aligned with the ERP and BSP (beekeeping, soap-making and palm-oil extraction) and individual-based activities (tree planting and vegetable farming). A positive list of activities will be developed during program implementation from which women's groups can select based on their needs, priorities and market opportunities.

Component 3: Project Management, M&E and Reporting (US\$400,000)

The component will finance the overhead costs of the project. The implementing entity will carry out planning (preparation of operational manual, annual work plans and budgets), procurement, financial management, environmental and social risk management, M&E, results framework, and reporting on respective activities to the Bank. This component will also finance annual audits of the project accounts by external auditors, and any costs related to the execution of a grievance redress mechanism. The National



REDD+ Working Group (NRWG), a multi-stakeholder platform will play a monitoring role to ensure the program is aligned with the ERP and Ghana's REDD+ process including gender inclusion.

Environmental and Social Standards Relevance

E. Relevant Standards

ESS Standards		Relevance
ESS 1	Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	Relevant
ESS 10	Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure	Relevant
ESS 2	Labor and Working Conditions	Relevant
ESS 3	Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 4	Community Health and Safety	Relevant
ESS 5	Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 6	Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 7	Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities	Not Currently Relevant
ESS 8	Cultural Heritage	Relevant
ESS 9	Financial Intermediaries	Not Currently Relevant

Legal Operational Policies

Safeguard Policies	Triggered	Explanation (Optional)
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No	Not applicable
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No	Not applicable

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The key risks would be in respect of ESS2 in relation to labour and work conditions (direct project staff) as well as health and safety risks for staff travelling across HIAs and regions and interacting with project communities. The risk of inadequate, or ineffective stakeholder engagements may also arise where the requirements of ESS10 are not fully complied with. Other risks include inadequate participation by target communities, elite capture with respect to seed grant provision and alternative livelihood activities, potential exclusion of farmers in hard-to-reach geographical local communities and potential cases of child labour, and sexual exploitation / abuse. The EnABLE grant will neither finance civil works, nor procure equipment, goods and materials that could adversely impact on the environment or beneficiary communities. The grant will



finance activities to support the participation of selected communities and groups in ER Program activities and benefit sharing arrangements implemented under the BSP of the GCFRP to improve social inclusion of the vulnerable. Under the BSP, communities will need to have, or prepare, participatory land use plans and socially inclusive by-laws endorsed by the District Assembly in at least one target Hotspot Intervention area (HIA) with clear focus on pro-poor climate smart alternative livelihoods to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and contributes to emission reductions. The grant will support one HIA community to prepare these documents through capacity building and technical assistance/coaching. Technical assistance to support development of low-carbon proposals for sustaining community livelihoods would leverage on the GCFRP's ESMF requirements on screening risks of pollution and pest management, forest fire management and preparation of the relevant environmental management plans, considering that future investments of the proposals, including the downstream environmental implications. The exclusion list outlined in the ESMF of the ER program will be applicable to the EnABLE grant supported activities. The proposed awareness creation, capacity building and strengthening activities will enable women, the youth, and migrant farmers and persons with disabilities to engage in the ERP and benefit sharing activities, as well as strengthen capacity of the National REDD+ Working Group (NRWG) to enhance dialogue on climate change and REDD+. These activities are not known to or anticipated to generate any key environmental risks or impacts whatsoever. This is also true for other activities to be implemented under EnABLE such as providing farm field services for the emission reduction program. These include climate-smart agricultural services which would equip farmers with insights for better land preparation, planting, and harvesting activities. These farm field services would rather reduce adverse impacts on the environment, increase harvests, and build the resilience of farmers in the face of climate-related shocks. Such services will help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve the efficiency of water and nutrient management, and reduce the need for fossil fuel-based inputs, such as pesticides and fertilizers. Additionally, EnABLE will promote techniques that help maintain and boost yields while tackling land degradation and improving soil health, among many other benefits. Measures to manage social risks concerning equitable benefit sharing, inclusion and participation of women and vulnerable groups from remote communities within HIAs are the basic objective of the grant and will be integrated into the design of the EnABLE grant and in the ESCP before appraisal. Risks concerning workers' health and safety, mainly while traveling to remote areas, and community health and safety when project staff engage local communities will be included in the ESCP and detailed in the Grant Operations Manual (GOM); this will include a Code of Conduct and a grievance mechanism for workers. The GOM will also include the grievance mechanism for stakeholders which will be stipulated in the ESCP. Additionally, the recipient will prepare labour management procedures proportionate to the risks level of the project within 90 days after project effectiveness. A standalone Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) proportionate to the risk level will be prepared for the grant prior to appraisal. Measures for stakeholder engagement will also be integrated into the design of the activities and in the ESCP and in the Operations Manual. The SEP and GOM will leverage on the existing grievance redress mechanism of the ER program, which has been satisfactorily operationalised, to include the grievance procedures for EnABLE stakeholders and provisions for information disclosure. Information disclosure will be vital for both the key stakeholders and for collaborating partners, staff, and other indirect stakeholders.



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