

Restoration of Key Infrastructure in Agriculture

Environmental and Social Screening (ESS)

Expansion of Gaulette River Agricultural Extension Office

Background Information

All sub projects related to the Emergency Agricultural Livelihood and Climate Resilient Project (EALCRP) must be reviewed and assessed to ensure that environmental and social impacts associated with their implementation throughout the project's life cycle are avoided, mitigated, or compensated. The Environmental and Social Screening process (ESS) is an initial safeguards instrument used to address the environmental and social impacts and risks of projects. This screening process will determine the need for a more detail studies or the development of an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP).

As a result, the proposed expansion of the Gaulette River Agricultural Extension office (Figure 1) was screened for environmental and social risks using screening checklist from the EALCRP ESMF (Annex 1)¹.

Figure 1: Gaulette River Agricultural Extension office



Gaulette River is a hamlet within in the Kalinago Territory and home of the existing extension office. The office houses a total of 4 staff who serve approximately 454 crop and 31 livestock Beneficiaries respectively within the Kalinago Territory. Lands within the Kalinago Territory is under the management of the Kalinago Chief and belongs to the Kalinago people. However, the

¹ http://www.piu.agriculture.gov.dm/images/docs/ESMF_GEF_LEToBP_P170846_FINAL.pdf

Gaulette River Agricultural Extension Office is owned by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of Dominica

The Kalinago Territory is divided into eight (8) hamlets²: (1) Sineku, (2) Gaulette River, (3) Mahaut River, (4) St. Cyr, (5) Salybia, (6) Crayfish River, (7) Bataca and (8) Concord.

The Gaulette River Extension Office is located along the main road which is currently being expanded as a segment of the East Coast Roads project being implemented by the Disaster Vulnerability reduction Project (DVRP) and all road safety mitigation issued will be address by DVRP.

Figure 2: Proposed area for Gaulette River Extension Office expansion



Environmental and Social Screening Checklist

The form below identifies potential impacts of the proposed activities envisioned under Emergency Agricultural Livelihoods and Climate Resilience Project (EALCRP). Many of the actions or activities have low or negligible potential negative impacts, such as purchase of equipment, raw materials and supplies. Some may have impacts that are typical for small construction or rehabilitation projects, such as repair of damaged infrastructure, buildings, or facilities.

Section A: Background information

Subproject Name	Restoration of Key Infrastructure in Agriculture
Subproject Purpose	<input type="checkbox"/> New Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expansion of existing structure <input type="checkbox"/> Renovation of existing structure <input type="checkbox"/> Construction of waste disposal system
Subproject Location	Gaulette River, Kalinago Territory
Subproject property ownership (building only)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica <input type="checkbox"/> Own

² http://www.piu.agriculture.gov.dm/images/docs/IPPF_GEF_LEToBP_FINAL.pdf#page=16&zoom=100,92,413

Subproject current property use	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government Office <input type="checkbox"/> Residential
Subproject Component	Expansion of Gaulette River Extension Office
Estimated Investment	
Estimated Start/Completion Date	December 2022 to February 2022

Section B: Construction Issues

Will the sub-project:	Yes	No
Demolish existing structures and require disposal of construction materials? ?		X
Demolish existing structures and require disposal of hazardous materials?		X
Involve the generation of a significant amounts of solid and liquid waste?		X
Construction work generate emissions to the atmosphere (dust, odours, fumes)?		X
Construction work cause a noise nuisance due to the operation of heavy machinery and other on-site activities?		X
Construction work produce significant amounts of runoff, change drainage patterns and/or erosion?		X
Construction work affect traffic or public safety?		X
Cause physical changes in topography and land use?		X

If answers to any of the above is 'yes', please include an ESMP in sub-project implementation.

Section C: Environmental Issue

Will the sub-project	YES	NO
Create a risk of increased soil erosion?		X
Create a risk of increased deforestation?		X
Create a risk of increasing any other soil degradation?		X
Affect soil salinity and alkalinity?		X
Divert the water resource from its natural course/location?		X
Cause pollution of aquatic ecosystems by sedimentation and agro-chemicals, oil spillage, effluents, etc.?		X
Introduce exotic/alien plants or animals?		X
Involve drainage of wetlands or other permanently flooded areas?		X
Cause poor water drainage and increase the risk of water-related diseases such as Dengue?		X
Reduce the quantity of water for the downstream users?		X
Result in the lowering of groundwater level or depletion of groundwater?		X
Create waste that could adversely affect local soils, vegetation, rivers and streams or groundwater?	X	
Reduce various types of livestock production?		X
Focus on biomass/bio-fuel energy generation?		X

If answers to any of the above is 'yes', please include an ESMP in sub-project implementation.

Section D: Socioeconomic Issues & Community Health and Safety

Will the sub-project:	YES	NO
Displace people from their current settlement?		X
Cause an influx of labour?		X
Interfere with the normal health and safety of the worker/community?		X
Reduce the employment opportunities for the surrounding communities?		X
Reduce settlement (no further area allocated to settlements)?		X
Reduce income for the local communities?		X
Increase safety concerns due to introduction of the project?		X
Increase exposure of the community to communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS?		X
Occupational Health and Safety Hazards and risk	X	
Induce conflict?		X
Introduce new practices and habits?		X
Lead to child delinquency (school drop-outs, child abuse, child labour, etc.)?		X
Lead to gender disparity or gender-based violence?		X
Lead to poor diets?		X
Lead to social evils (drug abuse, excessive alcohol consumption, crime, etc.)?		X
Cause an increased exposure of the community to COVID-19?	X	

Section E: Natural Habitat

Will the sub-project:	YES	NO
Be located within environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., intact natural forests, mangroves, wetlands) or threatened species? NB: If the answer is yes, the sub-project should prepare a Natural Habitats Plan (see ESMP).		X
Adversely affect environmentally sensitive areas or critical habitats – wetlands, woodlots, natural forests, rivers, protected areas including national parks, reserves or local sanctuaries, etc.)? NB: If the answer is yes, the sub-project should not proceed.		X
Affect the indigenous biodiversity (flora and fauna)? NB: If the answer is yes, the sub-project should not proceed.		X
Cause any loss or degradation of any natural habitats, either directly (through project works) or indirectly? NB: If the answer is yes, the sub-project should not proceed.		X
Affect the aesthetic quality of the landscape?		X

Reduce people's access to the pasture, water, public services or other resources that they depend on?		X
Increase human-wildlife conflicts?		X
Use irrigation system in its implementation?		X

NB: If the answers to any of the above is 'yes', please include an ESMP/Natural Habitat Management Plan with sub-project application

Section F: Pesticides and Agriculture Chemicals

Will the sub-project:	YES	NO
Involve the use of pesticides or other agricultural chemicals, or increase existing use?		X
Cause contamination of watercourses by chemicals and pesticides?		X
Cause contamination of soil by agrochemicals and pesticides?		X
Experience effluent and/or emissions discharge?		X
Export produce? Involve annual inspections of the producers and unannounced inspections?		X
Require scheduled chemical applications?		X
Require chemical application even to areas distant away from the focus?		X
Require chemical application to be done by vulnerable group (pregnant mothers, chemically allergic persons, elderly, etc.)?		X

If the answer to the above is 'yes', please consult the IPMP that has been prepared for the project.

Section G: Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups meeting requirements for OP 4.10

Are there:	YES	NO
People who meet requirements for OP 4.10 living within the boundaries of, or near the project?	X	
Members of these VMGs in the area who could benefit from the project?		X
VMGs livelihoods to be affected by the subproject?		X
Affect vulnerable people and underserved groups (e.g., children, elderly poor pensioners, physically challenged, women, particularly head of households or widows, etc.)?		X
Require temporary relocation for a vulnerable population affected (children, physically challenged, elderly, minority group etc.)?		X

If the answer to any of the above is 'yes', please consult the IPP that has been prepared for the project.

Section H: Land Acquisition and Access to Resources

Will the sub-project:	YES	NO
Require acquisition of land (public or private) (temporarily or Permanently) for its development?		X
Use land that is currently occupied or regularly used for productive purposes (e.g. gardening, farming, pasture, fishing locations, forests)?		X
Displace individuals, families or businesses?		X

Result in temporary or permanent loss of crops, fruit trees and Pasture land?		X
Adversely affect small communal cultural property such as funeral and burial sites, or sacred groves?		X
Result in involuntary restriction of access by people to legally designated parks and protected areas?		X
Be on monoculture cropping?		X

If the answer to any of the above is 'yes', please consult the mitigation measures in the ESMF, and if need be adopt the ARAP guidelines.

Section I: Proposed action

Based on the above screening checklist results no significant impacts and risks were identified and no further safeguards intervention is required, other than a specific list of the applicable mitigation measures available in the ESMF, to manage the potential impacts such as generation of small amounts of construction work dust, soil erosion caused by minor excavation, improper disposal of construction wastes, increased exposure of workers to occupational health and safety hazards and risks, and the increase transmission of COVID-19 to Contractor and Extension Staff .

The Project can't foresee any demolition works occurring on the existing building, as the proposed expansion is intended for a meeting room, and will have independent entry and exit points. However, the designs will confirm and direct this ESMP whether or not demolition will occur and the necessary amendments to the mitigation measure will be put in place.

The list of mitigation measures must be included in the bidding documents and will be monitored and managed by the EALCRP Project Engineer and Environmental Specialist using the general ESMF³ for the Emergency Agricultural Livelihoods and Climate Resilience Project (EALCRP) and Covid 19 Guidelines for Construction and Civil works.

The procurement process will encourage contractors from the Kalinago Territory. The EALCRP will contact the Housing Recovery Project (HRP) to identify a potential contractor that are currently constructing beneficiary homes in the Territory for the expansion works on the Gaulette River Agricultural Expansion Office.

Section J: Mitigation Measures

Aspect	Potential Impacts	Proposed Mitigation
Construction Dust and noise pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Respiratory ailments to site workers, visiting farmers and Agricultural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Designating an area or waste bin for stockpiling construction materials. ○ Dust suppression methods such as wetting materials, covering loose materials, or slowing work should be

Aspect	Potential Impacts	Proposed Mitigation
	<p>Extension Staff caused by dusty construction site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise generation from the use of machines and construction equipment with its impact on workers and Office Staff. 	<p>employed as needed to avoid visible dust from site preparation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When and if necessary, install dust protection curtains/barriers between the construction site and the Extension Office. Construction workers should wear the appropriate PPEs such as dust masks or respirators when working. (according to approved procedures) Wear Hearing protection when working around machinery where the noise exceeds 85 dB (sound from a lawn mower) The location of noisy machinery can be positioned away from the Extension Office. Sprinkle driveway with water on dry days to reduce dust. Maintain tools, equipment and Contractors machinery according to maintenance requirements.
Construction Waste and Debris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating land pollution due to the improper storage and/or disposal of construction waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The contractor shall dispose of material debris and solid waste in accordance with approved procedures of Dominica Solid Waste Management Corporation (DSWMC).

Aspect	Potential Impacts	Proposed Mitigation
Occupational Health and Safety hazards	<p>Construction worker may be injured or an accident may occur on the property</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workers be issued PPEs to include helmets, ear plugs, face shield, goggles, gloves, safety shoes etc. Train staff how to use PPE and ensure there is adequate supply A first aid kit must be kept on site to treat minor injuries.
Excavation works	<p>Increase in soil erosion and pollution of waterways</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage excavation works under dry conditions. Provide ground cover or tarpaulin or mulching to avoid the direct impact from rainfall Store excavated soil in a secure area to be used for landscaping after construction. Place excavated soil into undisturbed areas that will be able to hold the soil together.

Aspect	Potential Impacts	Proposed Mitigation
COVID 19 Response Measures	Exposure and spread of infection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upon entering office staff and visitors must wear a face mask, have their temperature checked and hands sanitized. ○ Adopt social distancing or physical distancing (at least 6 feet) for staff workstations ○ Report any occurrence of any Covid -19 cases of any workers or family members or persons in contact with those infected. ○ Record and monitor occurrence rates in order to identify when infection rates become higher than the average and must be reported to the Bank. ○ Follow national guidelines and the WHO guidelines for construction works in Annex 2 and the ESF Safeguards Interim Note Construction Civil Works COVID.pdf. (Annex 3).