Resettlement Policy Framework

Belize Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project

(P172592)

Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

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<td>Contingent Emergency Response Component</td>
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<td>CRESAP</td>
<td>Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture Project</td>
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<td>CSA</td>
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1 Introduction

1.1 Principles and Objectives of Resettlement Framework

The World Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) sets out the World Bank’s commitment to sustainable development through a World Bank policy and a set of Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) that are designed to support Borrowers’ projects, with the aim of ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity. The ESSs set out the mandatory requirements that apply to the Borrower and projects. They present a set of guidelines and instructions with the objective of fostering efficient and effective identification and mitigation of potentially adverse environmental and social impacts that may occur in the development projects. More information on the ESF can be found at: https://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/environmental-and-social-framework.

The Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) is an instrument under the World Bank’s ESS5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement. The RPF provides a framework through which to appropriately identify, address and mitigate adverse socioeconomic impacts that may occur due to the implementation of subprojects that involve the involuntary acquisition of land and the subsequent resettlement of affected families during project implementation.

Involuntary resettlement, if left unmitigated, normally gives rise to severe economic, social, and environmental risks. People face impoverishment when their productive assets or income sources are lost, and social networks are weakened. The World Bank ESS5 Involuntary Resettlement outlines the following objectives, which have been adopted in the preparation of this document and will govern project implementation as follows:

a. To avoid involuntary resettlement or, when unavoidable, minimize involuntary resettlement by exploring project design alternatives as it relates to activities, in particular activities outlined in Subcomponent 2.2 such as water harvesting, irrigation systems, drainage systems or greenhouses.

b. To avoid forced eviction of residents of communities due to project activities.

c. To mitigate unavoidable adverse social and economic impacts from land acquisition or restrictions on land use that may be required by this project by: (i) providing timely compensation for loss of assets at replacement cost and (ii) assisting displaced persons in their efforts to improve, or at least restore their livelihoods and living standards in real terms, to pre-displacement levels or to levels prevailing prior to the beginning of project implementation, whichever is higher.

d. To improve living conditions of poor or vulnerable persons who are physically displaced within the project site, through provision of adequate access to services and facilities, and measures for inclusion in decision-making.
e. To conceive and execute resettlement activities as sustainable development programs, providing sufficient investment resources to enable displaced persons to benefit directly from the project, as the nature of the project may warrant.

f. To ensure that resettlement activities are planned and implemented with appropriate disclosure of information, meaningful consultation, and the informed participation of those affected and local government authorities in Belize.

1.2 The CRESAP Project

The agricultural sector is of great economic importance for Belize. It is a major source of growth, employment, foreign exchange earnings, and food and nutrition security. Over the period 2015–2017, agriculture contributed to 9.5 percent of GDP on average. The proposed Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture Project (CRESEAP) will directly contribute to climate resilience and environmental sustainability by promoting adoption of Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) technologies and practices. CSA can increase agricultural productivity in an environmentally sustainable manner, while making farmers less vulnerable to climate change and weather variability. The project will also finance tertiary rural infrastructure, which is also stated as one of the mechanisms in the CPF to develop climate resiliency.

1.3 Work Bank Environmental and Social Standards

The proposed project must comply with World Bank Environmental and Social Standards (ESS) for World Bank-funded projects. ESS 5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement been triggered for the CRESAP. The Bank’s ESS 5 (Involuntary Resettlement) aims to address the social risks involved in resettlement activities under the project. The World Bank’s experience indicates that involuntary resettlement under development projects, if unmitigated, often gives rise to severe economic, social, and environmental risks. This policy includes safeguards to address and mitigate these impoverishment risks.

Given that the specific subprojects to be financed under the CRESAP have not yet been determined, a Resettlement Framework instead of a Resettlement Plan has been developed. This Resettlement Policy Framework is intended to cover all aspects of resettlement activities including land acquisition, relocation and economic impacts that may results as a consequence of the project. Specifically, it addresses the involuntary taking of land and the resulting adverse effects on individuals, their livelihoods and general wellbeing as a consequence. It provides guidelines that ensure that affected persons are consulted and provided with compensation and assistance where appropriate. Though acquisitions and resettlements are not anticipated in any of the project components, specific Resettlement Plans for each sub-project developed during project implementation will need to be prepared in accordance with this Framework, should the need to do so arises. Under subcomponent 2.2, some activities, including the development of drainage and water harvesting systems, may involve land acquisition, livelihood impacts or voluntary land donation.
1.4 Project Description

The Government of Belize is preparing a new Investment Project Financing project - the Climate Resilient Agriculture Project (CRESAP), with financing from the World Bank (WB). The Project Development Objective is to increase agricultural productivity of and build resilience to climate change risks among the targeted producers, and to respond effectively to an Eligible Crisis or Emergency event.

The project will target as priority the four districts of the Northern region (Cayo, Orange Walk, Corozal, and Belize) out of the six that the country has and where the impacts of climate change and climate variability are expected to be stronger on the main agricultural value chains implemented by the targeted beneficiaries (sugar cane, rice, maize, soybean, vegetables, livestock, fruits). Some activities may also benefit value chains, such as the banana value chain, the citrus value chain, and farmers on the two other districts of the country (Stann Creek and Toledo).

The environmental and social risk classification is Moderate under the World Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework. The beneficiaries of this project would be individual small-, medium- and large-scale farmers, members of farmers’ organizations and others associated with the agriculture food systems in the project districts, agricultural families, staff of the several departments of the MOA, and students from the Agriculture Department of the University of Belize among others. It is estimated that approximately 2,500 producers will benefit directly from this funding, with more benefiting indirectly. The details of the stakeholders are elaborated under the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

Component 1: Institutional Strengthening

This component consists of two subcomponents focused on strengthening the capacity of key institutions that are part of the project:

Subcomponent 1.1: Strengthening the Capacity of Relevant Government and Academic Institutions. This subcomponent will focus on strengthening the capacity of the different departments of the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Immigration (MAFSEI, and key Government bodies engaged in the project, including the National Meteorological Service (NMS), the Agriculture Department of the University of Belize, the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA), and the Pesticides Control Board (PCB), which play a critical role in improving agricultural sector’s efficiency and enhancing producers capacity to adapt to climate change and weather variability in Belize. In particular, this subcomponent will finance, inter alia: (i) The provision of
trainings on better integrating and addressing women needs in agriculture (ii) the validation of BAIMS’ existing records and system enhancement; (iii) the design and/or establishment of information systems, agrometeorological products and services; (iv) the improvement of agrometeorological data quality; (v) the design and establishment of a system to improve interconnectivity and/or interoperability among Ministry of Agriculture and the NMS of Belize to enhance sharing of information, decision-making, and monitoring of agromet conditions; (vi) the maintenance and/or upgrade of the National Meteorological Network and rehabilitation of weather stations in agricultural production areas; and (vii) the carrying out of capacity building activities, studies and diagnosis and the provision of technical assistance.

Subcomponent 1.2: Strengthening Participating Financial Institutions, Individual Farmers and Farmers’ Organizations Capacity.

This subcomponent will focus on strengthening the capacity of the main stakeholders, including Participating Financial Institutions (PFI) such as the Development Finance Corporation (DFC), Credit Unions, the Credit Union League, and select participating Commercial Banks to enhance their knowledge in the new technologies and approaches promoted by the project. In addition, this subcomponent will provide technical assistance and extension services to individual farmers, and strengthen the organizational, operational, and business capacities of farmers organizations.

This subcomponent would also: (i) strengthen the organizational, operational and business capacities inter alia of organized groups, producer’s organizations and other types of groups of producers, supported via the project; and (ii) provide international and national technical assistance and extension services to individual farmers benefitting from the matching grants. Thirty percent of farmers are women, and many small farmers are poor (below the poverty line). Rural women are significantly affected by poverty as almost one-third of them are small farmers and they lack access to services and resources. The project will have specific activities to ensure women have access to services and resources under the project. The project will tailor technical assistance to women needs by ensuring that trainings take place at convenient places, with flexible hours, where they can leave earlier if they need to. If necessary, it includes financing the use of temporary day care centres as an incentive for women’s participation (if needed). It will also support the identification and dissemination of gender-sensitive technologies that are labor-reducing for women and that are affordable, accessible, and based on their needs. The project will ensure that 40 percent of beneficiaries of matching grants and collective goods are women and that they benefit from tailored financial and business trainings. To measure progress in terms of women access to agricultural services and resources, the results framework will capture the number of women benefitting from matching grants, the number of women farmers adopting improved agricultural technologies, and the number of women trained on CSA technologies.

Component 2: Promotion of Private and Public CSA Approaches and Investments
This component consists of two subcomponents. The first subcomponent is focused on promotion of CSA technologies and practices at the individual level (farmer level). The second subcomponent is focused on collective investments which would be targeted toward farmer groups or are in the form of public goods such as rural infrastructure.

Although not initially anticipated, this is the component that may give rise to specific displacement, land donations, and/or land acquisition due to the nature of the activities. In particular, subcomponent 2.2 will require agreements on how assets are to be shared or how assets that must pass through stakeholders’ land will be dealt with.

**Subcomponent 2.1: Promotion of On-farm CSA Technologies and Practices.** This subcomponent would promote the uptake of best fit CSA technologies and practices, with the overarching aim of increasing resilience to climate shocks and weather events, and stabilizing/improving productivity while simultaneously lowering production costs, thereby contributing to an increase in profitability. More specifically, subcomponent 2.1 activities aim to: (i) increase climate resilience of Belizean agriculture; (ii) enhance access to water in agriculture with a vision of optimizing water productivity and contribute to enhanced water resource management for agriculture; (iii) create conditions for diversification of crops and introduction of higher value added produce and/or increased land use intensity (e.g. double cropping, intercropping, high yield varieties, etc.); and (iv) reduce inefficient use of purchased agricultural inputs. This subcomponent would include activities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, e.g. through energy and water efficiency measures, contributing to the productivity and mitigation pillars of the CSA approach, where possible.

This subcomponent will promote the uptake of best fit CSA technologies and practices with the overarching aim of increasing resilience to climate shocks (such as drought and floods) and stabilizing/improving productivity while simultaneously lowering production costs, contributing to increases in profitability. The subcomponent will provide matching grants, supplemented with credits from participating financial institutions to farmers. The matching grants will be implemented based on a demand-driven approach. It will first start by raising awareness among the targeted beneficiaries regarding the available support for climate-smart agriculture technologies and practices (such as irrigation) and market-oriented technologies (such as innovative storage technologies) by providing information on the key terms and conditions of the available support. Technical assistance support would be provided to farmers in the preparation of their request for the funding of sub-projects and downstream support for sub-projects’ implementation. This subcomponent will pay attention to women farmers by promoting gender-sensitive CSA technologies, in particular labor-reducing technologies for women that are affordable, accessible, and based on their needs.

**Subcomponent 2.2: Provision of Complementary Collective Goods to Strengthen Resilience.** This subcomponent would finance studies, technical assistance, goods and works for complementary infrastructure of collective use that will increase the impacts of the subcomponent relating to on-farm CSA investments and/or eliminate constraints: (i) investments
related to post-production and value addition to ensure cost-effective linkages between production areas and markets, especially the high-value horticultural markets linked to tourism activities on the islands; (ii) drainage investments necessary due to the low-lying nature of much of Northern Belize; and (iii) identification, development and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) training for small-scale, collective water-harvesting pilot initiatives (e.g. for communities interested in sharing a collective pond or common pasture, etc.). This subcomponent will ensure that women are involved in the discussion for the design of infrastructure and trained in the management of infrastructures and that they are provided leadership skills to participate in O&M committee of infrastructures.

**Component 3: Project Management, and Monitoring and Evaluation**

This component would finance the activities of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU). Given the delays in the implementation of other active development projects in Belize, the MAFSE has opted for a two-pronged approach based on: (i) signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Social Investment Fund (SIF) in order to have the SIF Fiduciary Team (Procurement, Financial Management, Accountant, and Monitoring and Evaluation) be in charge of those aspects during the first year of implementation of the Project; and (ii) reinforce its existing Department of Projects through the hiring of staff in the areas of Procurement, Financial Management, Monitoring and Evaluation, Accounting, etc., to set up a full-fledged and entirely dedicated PIU. These newly hired staff will be trained by the SIF Team as part of the MOU agreement. At the completion of the duration of the MOU, the PIU staff will be evaluated to assess their capacity before transferring the responsibility for implementation of the project to them. Activities under Component 3 would include the establishment of the project’s monitoring and evaluation system, financial management and procurement systems, the financing the costs of external audits of the project, the capacity for monitoring requirements, and the organization of all project-related work and project reporting. Further, this component will finance incremental and operating costs as well as equipment and goods for the purpose of the project.

**Component 4: Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC)**

The objective of Component 4 would be to help the project-supported producers get back into operation and ensure business continuity, repair infrastructure damage, and help recover from losses, after a disaster.

A Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) will be established and managed in accordance with the provisions of World Bank Policy and World Bank Directive on Investment Project Financing. The CERC will be triggered only when the GOB has officially declared an emergency and a statement of the facts is provided, justifying the request to activate the use of the emergency funding. The CERC would finance emergency purchases and activities, including goods, works, and technical assistance in the event of a disaster.
2 Legal Framework

2.1 Constitution of Belize

The Constitution of Belize makes provision for the exercise of a sovereign right of eminent domain to acquire property for public purposes, subject to fair and adequate compensation. For an acquisition to be lawful, three basic conditions must be met: (i) the acquisition must be non-discriminatory, (ii) there must be adequate compensation payable within a reasonable time and (iii) the acquisition must be for lawful purposes. Section 17(1) provides for the following:

No property of any description shall be compulsorily taken possession of and no interest in or right over property of any description shall be compulsorily acquired except by or under a law that:

a) Prescribes the principles on which and the manner in which reasonable compensation therefore is to be determined and given within a reasonable time; and

b) Secures to any person claiming an interest in or right over the property a right of access to the courts for the purpose of:
   i. Establishing his interest or right (if any);
   ii. Determining whether that taking of possession or acquisition was duly carried out for a public purpose in accordance with the law authorising the taking of possession or acquisition;
   iii. Determining the amount of the compensation to which he may be entitled; and
   iv. Enforcing his right to any such compensation.

2.2 Compulsory Land Acquisition For Public Purposes

There are two main pieces of legislation that deal with the compulsory taking of land in Belize. These are the Land Acquisition (Public Purposes) Act, Chapter 184 of the Laws of Belize and the second is the Land Acquisition (Promoters) Act, Chapter 183 of the Laws of Belize. The Land Acquisition (Public Purposes) Act, Chapter 184 of the Laws of Belize is the principal legislation governing compulsory land acquisition.

Land that is held as private property can only be acquired for a public purpose and there is the right of access to the courts to determine whether the acquisition was for a public purpose and lawfully executed. Under the provisions of the Land Acquisition (Public Purposes) Act, where the Minister responsible for lands considers that any land should be acquired for a public purpose, he causes a notice of declaration of acquisition to be published in the Gazette. Two notices are required to be published and are to be at an interval of not less than six weeks between each publication. The publication sets out the particulars relating to the land and the public purpose for which the land is required. Upon the second publication of the declaration, the land vests absolutely in the Crown and the authorized officer, and his agents, assistants and workmen may enter and take possession of the land accordingly.

As soon as the declaration has been published, the person referred to in the Land Acquisition Act as “the authorized officer” (who is usually the Chief Valuer of the Lands and Surveys Department
— but may also be the Lands Commissioner) is required to issue a notice of acquisition, which among other things, requires all persons having any interest in the acquired land to appear, either personally or by attorney or agent, before the said authorized officer and state the nature of their interest in the land and the full particulars of their claim to compensation. Where the authorized officer and the person(s) claiming compensation cannot agree on the amount of compensation, the law sets out the procedure and the rules for determining compensation.

The Land Acquisition (Promoters) Act similarly makes provision for any promoter (which can be a corporation, a company or a person), to acquire land compulsorily for a public purpose upon making an application to the Minister responsible for lands. The minister appoints a person to hold an inquiry and the findings are then submitted to the National Assembly for approval of the acquisition. After the acquisition is approved, a notice of the acquisition is published in the Gazette. However, the notice is not to be published unless and until the promoter has given security to meet the acquisition costs and compensation payable. The promoter is also required to enter into an agreement regarding the terms on which he is to hold the land and the conditions with respect to the works to be done on the acquired land.

2.3 Compensation under Land Acquisition Act

All questions and claims relating to payment of compensation shall be submitted to a Board of Assessment which is to comprise:

a) The Chief Justice or a judge of the Supreme Court who shall be the Chairman of the Board
b) A member (other than a public officer) appointed by the minister responsible for lands
c) A member nominated by the landowner.

The Board holds a public inquiry and follows the civil procedure rules of the Supreme Court with respect to the conduct of the inquiry. At the conclusion of the inquiry, the Board decides on the amount of compensation and the apportionment. The decision is a majority decision. In the event the decision of the members differ regarding compensation, the mean between the amount decided upon by the Chairman and that one of the amounts decided upon by the other two members which approximates most nearly the amount decided by the Chairman, shall be deemed to be compensation awarded by the Board. In awarding compensation, the Board may add interest to the compensation and is to be guided by the rates payable by the commercial banks on fixed deposits. An award of the Board is enforced in the same manner as a judgment of the Supreme Court and either party is entitled to appeal the Board’s decision to the Belize Court of Appeal.

Section 19 of the Land Acquisition (Public Purposes) Act spells out the rules for assessment of compensation when land is acquired under the Act. The standard practice is to use the market value of the land at the date of acquisition in the determining the value of compensation. The current practice of arriving at what is the market value, is the comparative approach — what similar lands in the vicinity sell for. Affected persons have 12 months in which to make a claim for compensation.
2.4 Compulsory Land Acquisition Under The Public Roads Act

The Public Roads Act (PRA), Chapter 232 provides the mandate for the Minister and the Chief Engineer to build and improve all public roads. In pursuit of these objectives the Act also gives certain powers to the Minister and Chief Engineer in terms of land acquisition. Under Section 9 Powers over Adjacent Land when Executing Road Works, it states:

_all lands not built upon or cultivated which may be required for the purpose of opening any new public road or for diverting, turning, widening or enlarging any existing public road in the execution of any such Order of the Minister as provided for in section 7 may be absolutely taken and appropriated without tender or payment by way of compensation and shall vest in the Government without any formal transfer thereof._

Where there are built up areas and areas under cultivation, the Act empowers the Chief Engineer to enter into negotiations regarding compensation. The Act further addresses the issue of encroachment public roads. The Act allows the Chief Engineer to issues notices to any person obstructing or encroaching any public road and after giving reasonable time and after following the required process, the Chief Engineer, or any person duly authorized by him, may proceed to remove such obstruction or encroachment. The Act allows for the Chief Engineer to recover the cost of removal from the person causing the obstruction or encroachment.

2.5 Correspondence of Domestic Legislation with WB ESS5

In general terms, the WB ESS5 is supplementary to the provision of domestic legislation related to land acquisition and displacement. The domestic law is clear in terms of the State’s eminent domain and land acquisition is sufficiently provided for. In terms of consultation, the local law contemplates reasonable notice for actions that may adversely affect property owners. The WB standards augments this by outlining specific steps that must be taken in consulting affected persons. The WB policy envisions greater participation of community members especially affected persons in this regard. Similarly, the steps for compensating owners whose lands have been compulsorily acquired are outlined. The valuation process is specified, and the Chief Engineer is also permitted to negotiate with affected persons when the expropriation is in regard to public roads. Those affected but are not legally entitled, are not eligible for compensation. However, under ESS5, they are still eligible for resettlement and livelihood assistance and compensation for assets in order to minimize injuries to the livelihoods of persons and even improve them where possible. In terms of grievance redress, the relevant laws provide for access to local Courts to resolve claims and other forms of grievance.
Table 1: Comparison of Local Law and Bank Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domestic legal provisions</th>
<th>Bank Policy Requirements</th>
<th>Gaps Identified</th>
<th>Bridging Measures</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Land Acquisition</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>LAND ACQUISITION (PUBLIC PURPOSES) ACT CHAPTER 184</td>
<td>• Covers involuntary taking of land resulting in: (1) Relocation, or loss of shelter (2) Loss of assets or access to assets (3) Loss of income sources or means of livelihood, whether affected persons must move to another location.</td>
<td>• National Law does not stipulate a stringent participatory and consultative process with affected persons or groups as outlined in this framework, for compulsory acquisition of land.</td>
<td>• Compulsory land acquisition will be based on provision of the laws of Belize, WB Policy ESSS and this Framework. GOB policy and practice is that legal acquisition is very often avoided. If unavoidable, compulsory acquisition will be through the participatory and consultative process outlined in this Framework. This is to ensure that affected persons are provided with adequate level support and have the opportunity to provide input and share concerns early on, as necessary.</td>
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**Consultation**

- Publication of declaration in two issues of the Gazette in six weeks intervals.
- Displaced persons consulted about their options and rights
- National law ensures persons are informed but not necessarily consulted by the definition of meaningful
- Affected persons allowed under law to make presentations to the responsible government agency on impacts and loss suffered. Affected
pertaining to resettlement. consultation by the Bank persons can also make use of the Grievance Mechanism under this Framework.

- Land vested absolutely in the Crown at second publication of notice in Gazette. As soon as any declaration has been published, the authorised officer shall, without delay, enter into negotiations or further negotiations for the purchase of the land
- Consult, offer choices, and provide technically and economically feasible resettlement alternatives.
- Provide timely and relevant information and offer opportunities to participate in planning, implementing, and monitoring resettlement
- National law ensures persons are informed and allowed to negotiate, but not necessarily consulted by the definition of meaningful consultation by the Bank and provided with alternatives.

For the CRESAP, community level consultations will be carried out prior to land acquisition to inform affected communities on the nature of the project and measures on addressing resettlement, compensation and grievance redress. Affected persons will be consulted on options and rights pertaining to resettlement as per WB ESS5. Legal process to compulsorily acquire land will also be followed.

### Compensation and Benefits

| • Open market value of land at the time of acquisition. | • Prompt and effective compensation at full “replacement cost” for loss of assets attributable directly to the project. | • Other costs beyond the market value of the value are not taken into consideration by national law, such as the loss of means of livelihood or loss of assets other than the land due to the acquisition | • Local law allows for full market value of land to be given to property owner according to specific guidelines. This will be supplemented by provisions of the WB ESS5 to ensure full compliance with Policy requirement to provide compensation at full “replacement cost.”
| Alternative practice is to provide land as replacement for land acquired. | Provide assistance (such as moving allowance) during relocation. | Payment of cash compensation for lost | Loss of other assets will be compensated at full replacement |
| Compensation value determined by a Board of Assessment. | • Other costs beyond the market value of the value are not taken into consideration by national law, such as the loss of means of livelihood or loss of assets other than the land due to the acquisition | • Local law allows for full market value of land to be given to property owner according to specific guidelines. This will be supplemented by provisions of the WB ESS5 to ensure full compliance with Policy requirement to provide compensation at full “replacement cost.”
| Claim must be made within 12 months. | | | • Loss of other assets will be compensated at full replacement |

Compensation and Benefits

- Open market value of land at the time of acquisition.
- Alternative practice is to provide land as replacement for land acquired.
- Compensation value determined by a Board of Assessment.
- Claim must be made within 12 months.
- Prompt and effective compensation at full "replacement cost" for loss of assets attributable directly to the project.
- Provide assistance (such as moving allowance) during relocation.
- Payment of cash compensation for lost
- Other costs beyond the market value of the value are not taken into consideration by national law, such as the loss of means of livelihood or loss of assets other than the land due to the acquisition
- Local law allows for full market value of land to be given to property owner according to specific guidelines. This will be supplemented by provisions of the WB ESS5 to ensure full compliance with Policy requirement to provide compensation at full "replacement cost."
- Loss of other assets will be compensated at full replacement
assets where appropriate.

• Provide residential housing, or housing sites, or, as required, agricultural sites for which a combination of productive potential, locational advantages, and other factors is at least equivalent to the advantages of the old site.

• Offer support after displacement, for a transition period.

• Provide with developmental assistance in addition to compensation measures such as land preparation, credit facilities, training, or job opportunities.

• Provide infrastructure and public services necessary to improve, restore and maintain accessibility and levels of service.

• Loss of means of livelihood as a direct consequence of project will be compensated for.

• Affected people losing property and or being physically resettled will be provided options between cash and in-kind compensation.

• Cost (calculation outlined in more detail in section 6.6)
### Eligibility

- Private lands that fall within the provisions of the General Registry Act, Registry Land Act, Law of Property Act.
- Customary land tenure.
- Interest acquired through adverse possession (squatting).
- Person having the “ostensible possession or enjoyment of the rents and profit” until the contrary is proved.
- Persons who have no recognizable legal right or claim to land they are occupying are not required to be compensated or assisted with resettlement according to national law.
- Local law and policy are similar in this instance as legal entitlements are fully recognized. For legal property owners with lost assets, they will be compensated accordingly.
- Displaced persons who have no recognizable legal right or claim to the land they are occupying will be provided with resettlement assistance in lieu of compensation for the land they occupy, and other assistance, as necessary, to achieve the objectives of WB ESS5. Furthermore, all persons are provided compensation for loss of assets other than land.
- Persons who encroach on the area after the cut-off date are not entitled to compensation or any other form of resettlement assistance.

### Resettlement and cost

- Compensation for land compulsory and other properties near roads acquired allowed.
- Included in the total costs of the project and part of resettlement plan.
- Other relocation assistance beyond compensation not provided for.
- Land acquisition and compensation costs (monetary and in-kind) will be covered by the Government of Belize and other resettlement costs to be covered under the project.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grievance Redress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Judicial System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Office of the Ombudsman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Establish appropriate and accessible grievance mechanisms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Formal judicial process also an option under the Project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• National process is more complex without simplified guidance on procedures or clear timelines for responses to complaints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• A project-level Grievance redress mechanism is developed for the project that will cover grievances related to RPs and IPPs in addition to a separate GRM for labor related grievances, further detailed in the CRESAP LMP.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.6 Voluntary Land Donation

The ESS5 defines, Voluntary Land Donation (VLD) as the ceding of a property by an owner who is appropriately informed; and can exercise free will, that is, can refuse to donate. Voluntary land donation will be considered in terms of this project in the condition that donors are fully informed in the consultation process and the act of donation undertaken without coercion; thus, adhering to the VLD framework. In the case of this project, Land Donation may apply in project activities such as community water harvesting, setting up of irrigation systems or the setting up of greenhouses.

The World Bank ESS5 regulations outline VLD procedures to be followed for subprojects implementation:

a. The MAFSE PIU must demonstrate that the potential donor or donors have been appropriately informed and consulted about the project and the choices available to them.

b. Potential donors are aware that refusal is an option and have confirmed in writing their willingness to proceed with the donation.

c. The amount of land being donated is minor and will not reduce the donor’s remaining land area below that required to maintain the donor’s livelihood at current levels.

d. No household relocation is involved.

e. The donor is expected to benefit directly from the project.

f. Community or collective land, donation can only occur with the consent of individuals using or occupying the land. The MAFSE through the PIU will maintain a transparent record of all consultations and agreements reached.

2.7 Documentation of Land Transfer by WB guidelines

It is important that whenever land is being donated there is a formal agreement documented and that the right procedures are taken before the transferal of land. This calls for (a) written notification indicating the location and amount of land that is sought and its intended use; and (b) a formal statement of donation signed by each owner or user involved, establishing informed consent and confirming that there is no disputed ownership and that there are no claims by renters, users, squatters, or encroachers. Any taxes or fees owed for processing or registration of the land transfer, if applicable, are paid in full by the PIU, who maintains the records of donations, including documentation. Documentation is made available for review in any grievance that may arise. All documentation should show that titles are verified and that there is non-coercion on the part of the land donors as outlined in the previous section.
3  Process for Development of Resettlement Plans

3.1  Scope of Resettlement Plans

The scope and level of detail of resettlement plans will vary with the magnitude of displacement and complexity of the measures required to mitigate adverse impacts. In all cases, the plan must describe the manner in which the objectives of ESS5 can be achieved. The resettlement plan may take a number of different forms, depending on the project’s impacts. Among the key features of the planning process for a resettlement plan are a census of the population to be affected by displacement, a survey of livelihoods and sources of income, and an inventory of assets that affected persons are likely to lose. These steps help to calculate the magnitude of expected compensation and the overall cost of the displacement and resettlement operation.

Given the nature of the CRESAP, it is not expected that there will be the displacement and resettlement of large populations given the fact land to be used by farmers are already considered their property.

Resettlement Plans must consider the following:

a) For projects with minor land acquisition or restrictions on land use, as a result of which there will be no significant impact on incomes or livelihoods, the plan will establish eligibility criteria for affected persons, set out procedures and standards for compensation, and incorporate arrangements for consultations, monitoring, and addressing grievances;

b) For projects causing physical displacement, the plan will set out the additional measures relevant to relocation of affected persons; (c) For projects involving economic displacement with significant impacts on livelihoods or income generation, the plan will set out the additional measures relating to livelihood improvement or restoration; and

c) For projects that may impose changes in land use that restrict access to resources in legally designated parks or protected areas or other common property resources on which local people may depend for livelihood purposes, the plan will establish a participatory process for determining appropriate restrictions on use and set out the mitigation measures to address adverse impacts on livelihoods that may result from such restrictions.

3.2  Minimum Elements of a Resettlement Plan

Resettlement Plans must include the following minimum elements when being prepared during project implementation:

1) Description of the project. General description of the project and identification of the project area.
2) Potential impacts. Identification of:
   a) The project components or activities that give rise to displacement, explaining why the selected land must be acquired for use within the time frame of the project;
   b) The zone of impact of such components or activities;
   c) The scope and scale of land acquisition and impacts on structures and other fixed assets;
   d) Any project-imposed restrictions on use of, or access to, land or natural resources;
   e) Alternatives considered to avoid or minimize displacement and why those were rejected; and

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f) The mechanisms established to minimize displacement, to the extent possible, during project
implementation.

3) Objectives. The main objectives of the resettlement program.

4) Census survey and baseline socioeconomic studies. The findings of a household-level census
identifying and enumerating affected persons, and, with the involvement of affected persons,
surveying land, structures, and other fixed assets to be affected by the project. The census survey also
serves other essential functions:
   a) Identifying characteristics of displaced households, including a description of production
      systems, labor, and household organization; and baseline information on livelihoods
      (including, as relevant, production levels and income derived from both formal and informal
      economic activities) and standards of living (including health status) of the displaced
      population;
   b) Information on vulnerable groups or persons for whom special provisions may have to be
      made;
   c) Identifying private, public or community infrastructure, property or services that may be
      affected;
   d) Providing a basis for the design of, and budgeting for, the resettlement program;
   e) In conjunction with establishment of a cut-off date, providing a basis for excluding ineligible
      people from compensation and resettlement assistance;
   f) Establishing baseline conditions for monitoring and evaluation purposes;
   g) Land tenure and transfer systems, including an inventory of common property natural
      resources from which people derive their livelihoods and sustenance, nontitle-based usufruct
      systems (including fishing, grazing, or use of forest areas) governed by local recognized land
      allocation mechanisms, and any issues raised by different tenure systems in the project area;
   h) The patterns of social interaction in the affected communities, including social networks and
      social support systems, and how they will be affected by the project; and
   i) Social and cultural characteristics of displaced communities, including a description of formal
      and informal institutions (e.g., community organizations, ritual groups, nongovernmental
      organizations (NGOs)) that may be relevant to the consultation strategy and to designing and
      implementing the resettlement activities.

5) Legal framework. The findings of an analysis of the legal framework, covering:
   a) The scope of the power of compulsory acquisition and imposition of land use restriction and
      the nature of compensation associated with it, in terms of both the valuation methodology
      and the timing of payment;
   b) The applicable legal and administrative procedures, including a description of the remedies
      available to displaced persons in the judicial process and the normal time frame for such
      procedures, and any available grievance redress mechanisms that may be relevant to the
      project;
   c) Laws and regulations relating to the agencies responsible for implementing resettlement
      activities; and
   d) Gaps, if any, between local laws and practices covering compulsory acquisition, imposition of
      land use restrictions and provision of resettlement measures and ESS5, and the mechanisms
      to bridge such gaps.

6) Institutional framework. The findings of an analysis of the institutional framework covering:
a) The identification of agencies responsible for resettlement activities and NGOs/CSOs that may have a role in project implementation, including providing support for displaced persons;

b) An assessment of the institutional capacity of such agencies and NGOs/CSOs; and

c) Any steps that are proposed to enhance the institutional capacity of agencies and NGOs/CSOs responsible for resettlement implementation.

7) **Eligibility.** Definition of displaced persons and criteria for determining their eligibility for compensation and other resettlement assistance, including relevant cut-off dates.

8) **Valuation of and compensation for losses.** The methodology to be used in valuing losses to determine their replacement cost; and a description of the proposed types and levels of compensation for land, natural resources, and other assets under local law and such supplementary measures as are necessary to achieve replacement cost for them.

9) **Community participation.** Involvement of displaced persons (including host communities, where relevant):

   a) A description of the strategy for consultation with, and participation of, displaced persons in the design and implementation of the resettlement activities;

   b) A summary of the views expressed and how these views were taken into account in preparing the resettlement plan;

   c) A review of the resettlement alternatives presented and the choices made by displaced persons regarding options available to them; and

   d) Institutionalized arrangements by which displaced people can communicate their concerns to project authorities throughout planning and implementation, and measures to ensure that such vulnerable groups as Indigenous Peoples, ethnic minorities, the landless, and women are adequately represented.

10) **Implementation schedule.** An implementation schedule providing anticipated dates for displacement, and estimated initiation and completion dates for all resettlement plan activities. The schedule should indicate how the resettlement activities are linked to the implementation of the overall project.

11) **Costs and budget.** Tables showing categorized cost estimates for all resettlement activities, including allowances for inflation, population growth, and other contingencies; timetables for expenditures; sources of funds; and arrangements for timely flow of funds, and funding for resettlement, if any, in areas outside the jurisdiction of the implementing agencies.

12) **Grievance redress mechanism.** The plan describes affordable and accessible procedures for third party settlement of disputes arising from displacement or resettlement; such grievance mechanisms should take into account the availability of judicial recourse and community and traditional dispute settlement mechanisms. Full information on the GRM is available in Section 8 of this RPF.

13) **Monitoring and evaluation.** Arrangements for monitoring of displacement and resettlement activities by the implementing agency, supplemented by third-party monitors as considered appropriate by the Bank, to ensure complete and objective information; performance monitoring indicators to measure inputs, outputs, and outcomes for resettlement activities; involvement of the displaced persons in the monitoring process; evaluation of results for a reasonable period after all resettlement activities have been completed; using the results of resettlement monitoring to guide subsequent implementation.

14) **Arrangements for adaptive management.** The plan should include provisions for adapting resettlement implementation in response to unanticipated changes in project conditions, or unanticipated obstacles to achieving satisfactory resettlement outcomes.
3.3 Eligibility Under World Bank ESS5

The following are the three categories of affected persons who are eligible for coverage under ESS5. While people in all three categories are entitled to assistance of some sort under ESS5, the nature of that assistance may vary.

**Category A:** Affected persons who have formal legal rights to land or assets are those who have formal documentation under national law to prove their rights or are specifically recognized in national law as not requiring documentation. In the simplest case, an area is registered in the name of individuals or communities. In other cases, persons may have a lease on the land and therefore have legal rights.

**Category B:** Affected persons who do not have formal legal rights to land or assets, but who have a recognized or recognizable claim under national law can fall into a number of groups. They may have been using the land for generations without formal documentation under customary or traditional tenure arrangements that are accepted by the community and recognized by national law. In other cases, they may have never been provided formal title or their documents may be incomplete or lost. They may have a claim for adverse possession if they have occupied land for a certain period of time as defined by national law, without the formal owner contesting the occupation. In such cases, national law often has legal procedures by which such claims can become recognized.

**Category C:** Affected persons who have no recognizable legal right or claim to the land or assets they occupy, or use are eligible for assistance under ESS5. These can be seasonal resource users, such as herders, grazers, fishers, or hunters (although if the rights of such users are recognized by national law, they may fall into category (a) or (b)). They can also be persons occupying land in violation of applicable laws. Affected persons in these groups are not eligible for compensation for land but are eligible for resettlement and livelihood assistance and compensation for assets.

3.4 Types of Impacts Covered by ESS5

There are two main types of impacts that are covered by World Bank Standards that must be accounted for during implementation. These are economic and physical displacements which are further elaborated on here.

**A. Economic Displacement:**
(i) If land acquisition for a subproject causes loss of income or livelihood, regardless of whether or not the affected people are physically displaced, they have the right to be compensated economically for their loss of assets or access to assets at full replacement cost; (ii) Provide replacement property (e.g., agricultural or commercial sites) of equal or greater value, or cash compensation at full replacement cost where appropriate, to persons with legal rights or claims to land which are recognized or recognizable (iii) Compensate economically displaced persons who are without legally recognizable claims to land for lost assets (such as crops, irrigation infrastructure and other improvements made to the land) other than land, at full replacement cost. (iv) Those affected should be provide additional targeted assistance (e.g., credit facilities, training, or job opportunities) and opportunities to improve or at least restore their income-earning capacity,
production levels, and standards of living to economically displaced persons whose livelihoods or income levels are adversely affected. (v) Provide transitional support to economically displaced persons, as necessary, based on a reasonable estimate of the time required to restore their income earning capacity, production levels, and standards of living. In the case of projects affecting livelihoods or income generation, the Borrower’s plan will include measures to allow affected persons to improve, or at least restore, their incomes or livelihoods.

B. **Physical Displacement**: If people must move to another location due to the implementation of a subproject, the project must offer the displaced persons choices among feasible resettlement options, including adequate replacement housing or cash compensation where appropriate; and ii) provide relocation assistance suited to the needs of each group of displaced persons, with particular attention paid to the needs of the poor and the vulnerable. In the case of physical displacement, the Plan must cover, at a minimum, the applicable requirements of this ESS regardless of the number of people affected. The plan will be designed to mitigate the negative impacts of displacement and, as warranted, to identify development opportunities. It will include a resettlement budget and implementation schedule and establish the entitlements of all categories of affected persons (including host communities). Particular attention will be paid to gender aspects and the needs of the poor and the vulnerable. All transactions to acquire land rights, provision of compensation, and other assistance associated with relocation activities will be documented by CRESAP and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise.

3.5 **Potential Displacement and Impacts**

It is difficult at this juncture to specifically estimate the population to be affected or identify specific impacts that are likely to occur. Displacement or involuntary relocation of persons is not expected to be significant for any subproject under any of the project components. Nonetheless, considering the characteristics of the target areas and the nature of the project, the following properties and assets that may be affected include the following:

a) **Land** – Land may be acquired for drainage purposes, community water harvesting, among others. Where this impacts communities and their assets, no action to resettle these communities is to be taken until a Resettlement Plan is prepared and implemented.

b) **Crops** – Crops on or near where works must occur may be removed and destroyed for the construction of irrigation, drainage, water harvesting, and greenhouses.

c) **Fences and driveways** – Fences and driveways constructed on or near where construction will occur may be demolished to allow for works to proceed.

d) **Access** – Access to private properties, homes, business, and public facilities may be temporarily affected by construction of drainage and water harvesting. These will be kept to a minimum and every effort will be made to ensure that residences and places of business are not unduly inhibited by any construction.

3.6 **Methods of Valuing Affected Assets**

Any compensation must meet ESS5 requirements. When land acquisition or restrictions on land use cannot be avoided, the Government of Belize will offer affected persons compensation at full
replacement cost, and other assistance as may be necessary to help improve and restore their standards of living under the project.

Calculation of full replacement costs takes into account the following:

a) Agricultural (including fallow) land or pastureland: Land of equal productive use or potential, located in the vicinity of the affected land or the new housing site, plus the cost of preparation to levels similar to or better than those of the affected land, and transaction costs such as registration and transfer taxes or customary fees.

b) Land in urban areas: The market value of land of equivalent area and use, with similar or improved infrastructure and services, preferably located in the vicinity of the affected land, plus transaction costs such as registration and transfer taxes.

c) Houses and other structures (including public structures such as schools, clinics, and religious buildings): The cost of purchasing or building a replacement structure, with an area, quality, and location similar to or better than those of the affected structure; or of repairing a partially affected structure, including labor and contractors’ fees; and transaction costs, such as registration, transfer taxes, and moving costs.

d) Loss of access to natural resources: The market value of the natural resources, which may include, among others, wild medicinal plants, firewood, and other non-timber forest products, meat, or fish. However, cash compensation is seldom an effective way of compensating for lost access to natural resources.

Project affected persons may be impacted by the sub-projects directly or indirectly and it may not be possible to eliminate the need for acquisition of land. In the case of physically displaced persons; the Government of Belize will offer the choice of replacement property of equal or higher value, with security of tenure, equivalent or better characteristics, and advantages of location, or cash compensation at replacement cost. Compensation in kind will also be considered in lieu of cash. Payment of cash compensation for lost land and other assets may be appropriate where:

a) Livelihoods are not land-based;

b) Livelihoods are land-based but the land taken for the project is a small fraction of the affected asset and the residual land is economically viable; or

c) Active markets for land, housing, and labor exist, displaced persons use such markets, there is sufficient supply of land and housing, and the Government of Belize must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the World Bank that insufficient replacement land is available.

If lands are acquired under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act then the Ministry of Natural Resources is responsible for the valuation of affected lands, at the request of the Chief Engineer of the Ministry of Works. Section 19 of the Land Acquisition Acts specifically states that the land must be valued based on the open market value at the time of compulsory acquisition. The process of land valuation under the project will therefore comply with the stipulations of the law.

While the Public Roads Act provides for compensation for “trees, fence and other forms of cultivation” it does not specifically stipulate the valuation process. Economic value based on
compensation of land, trees and crops are sometimes not equal to replacement costs, not reflecting market values. Where the Borrower uses such rates as the basis for assessing value, additional measures may be necessary to ensure that the compensation paid meets the requirements of replacement value. For instance, looking at fruit trees lost and the amount of years it would take to grow back and generate income. Other erections that cannot be given a market value (e.g., fences) will be valued on the cost of rebuilding or replacing it. The Act provides for the Chief Engineer to negotiate compensation in instances such as those described here. WB ESS5 further requires that affected persons be consulted on resettlement options including compensation.

Those with no legal title occupying land such as those encroaching on road reserves will be provided with resettlement assistance in lieu of compensation for the land they occupy, and other assistance, as necessary, to achieve the objectives of WB ESS5. Furthermore, all persons are provided compensation for loss of assets other than land. While no compensation for land will be provided in this instance, resettlement assistance that covers loss of assets other than land including loss of livelihoods and income due to resettlement will be covered as per WB standards and requirements.

4 Consultation and Engagement Procedures

Following the WB policies and standards will enable active consultation with the public and disclosure in an effective way of managing a two-way communication between the project and the public with the goal of improving decision making and building understanding by actively involving individuals, groups, organisation with a stake in the project. It is an effective way of obtaining information of the needs and priorities of the project affected persons (PAPs) and ensuring their active participation will reduce the potential conflicts and minimize the risk of project delays.

4.1 Affected Communities and Stakeholders

For the purpose of ESS5, affected communities are economically and/or physically displaced persons and the host community. Other stakeholders may include any governmental agencies or other parties responsible for approving and/or delivering resettlement-related plans and assistance. Early initiation of community engagement results with affected households, communities, and other stakeholders fully understanding the implications of resettlement for their lives and to actively participate in the associated planning processes. The consultation and participation process are an ongoing, organized, and iterative process. It shows the involvement of the affected household or community throughout the process of resettlement planning, implementation and monitoring of the project.

4.2 Engagement Procedures

It is important that affected disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals or groups have a voice in consultation and planning processes. This may involve special efforts to include those who are
particularly vulnerable to hardship because of physical or economic displacement. Depending on
the project context, this may be people living below the poverty line, the landless, the elderly,
the disabled, or female- and child-headed households. Community engagement in this case may
include dedicated focus groups, and members of disadvantaged, vulnerable, and marginalized
groups as identified in the CRESAP Stakeholder Engagement Plan should be included among the
representatives of affected communities. Project-affected vulnerable people may also require
assistance to participate in consultation events or discussion forums, for example, through
provision of transportation to consultation venues, or visits to individual households for
consultation purposes. Affected persons identified as disadvantaged or vulnerable may also need
additional help to understand their options for resettlement and compensation.

The resettlement planning process needs to consider the situation of women and to adapt the
engagement process as necessary to ensure that women have a role in decision making. A
comprehensive planning process includes identification of: (a) women’s means of income
generation and livelihoods, including nonformal activities such as gathering natural resources, or
trading and bartering services and wares; (b) women’s social and economic networks, including
extended family ties; and (c) women’s ownership of affected assets, including land and crops, in
order to appropriately compensate them.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise will hold an initial consultation and
information sharing session with potentially affected communities. This initial consultation will
target two groups of persons: a) the population of the area of the sub-project’s zone of influence
who will continue to reside in the location and, b) owners of the properties and assets that maybe
be required or removed as consequence of the project. The objectives of this initial consultation
are:

a) To inform the residents of the area of influence of the project, its possible characteristics,
technical stages for design and construction schedules expected, the different actors involved and
the entity responsible for the project;
b) To outline the studies and procedures and the schedule of such studies (surveys, assessments,
etc.) to be carried out with the residents, owners, rights holders of possible properties to be
acquired or removed;
c) To gather inputs from the relevant stakeholders on the project designs and environmental and
social safeguard instruments
d) To reduce anxiety and stress of the population potentially affected by the works;
e) To introduce the personnel responsible for the management of the social safeguard measures
and any involuntary resettlement;
f) To establish communication channels to directly address the concerns of the community; and
g) To provide information on the grievance redress mechanism in place for the project.

Once the draft RPF is given a No Objection by the World Bank, it will have to be shared with
participants two weeks prior to consultations by putting it on the MAFSE PIU’s website here
https://www.agriculture.gov.bz/climate-resilient-agriculture-project-cresap/ and/or sharing
copies via e-mail. Following the consultations, a brief summary of the consultations, location,
number and types of participants including key questions/concerns and answers will be included in the RPF. In addition, a detailed summary of the consultations will be attached as an annex to the RPF, including key questions and concerns, responses to those concerns, a list of participants and their affiliations, timing, location of consultation and photos.

Following receiving a follow up no objection from the World Bank, it will be redisclosed on the PIU’s website and disclosed on the World Bank Info Shop website for stakeholder to see how their inputs have been taken into consideration.

### 6.3 Consultations Under COVID19 Scenario

It is important to note that due to the ongoing situation at present with many infections of the COVID19 worldwide; the WB has proposed suggestions\(^1\) to follow when engaging in stakeholder consultation and engagement activities. The suggestions are designed to ensure effective and meaningful consultations to meet project needs. The PIU should:

- a. Review the situation at present of the COVID19 in the project area and restrictions placed to contain the spread of the virus.
- b. Review the stakeholder engagement plans and how it will be approached when dealing with methods and engagement and assess the associated potential risks of virus transmission in conducting various engagement activities.
- c. PIU staff and MAFSE personnel must follow hygiene protocols when conducting events.
- d. Avoid public gatherings beyond the limited established by statutory legislation.
- e. If small group gatherings are permitted, then engage in small group meetings such as focus group sessions. If gatherings are not permitted then the use of technology comes into place such as online channels including WebEx, Zoom and Skype meetings.
- f. Rely more on technological communication such as social media and online channels to communicate and create an online platform that is suitable to the type and category of stakeholders.
- g. When there is not access to online channels or stakeholders do not use it frequently, then traditional channels of communications (TV, newspaper, radio, dedicated phone-lines, public announcements and mail) can be a good source for conveying relevant information, and allow them to provide their feedback and suggestions.
- h. Where large meetings and workshops are essential, virtual workshops can be done using WebEx, Skype, and in low ICT capacity situations, audio meetings, can be effective tools to design virtual workshops. The format of such workshops could include the following steps:
  - i. Virtual registration of participants: Participants can register online through a dedicated platform.
  - ii. Distribution of workshop materials to participants, including agenda, project documents, presentations, questionnaires and discussion topics: These can be distributed online to participants.

\(^1\) WB’s Technical Note “Public Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement in WB-supported operations when there are constraints on conducting public meetings, March 20, 2020”
iii. Review of distributed information materials: Participants are given a scheduled duration for this, prior to scheduling a discussion on the information provided.

iv. Discussion, feedback collection and sharing:
   a) Participants can be organized and assigned to different topic groups, teams or virtual “tables” provided they agree to this.
   b) Group, team, and table discussions can be organized through social media means, such as WebEx, Skype or Zoom, or through written feedback in the form of an electronic questionnaire or feedback forms that can be emailed back.

v. Conclusion and summary: The chair of the workshop will summarize the virtual workshop discussion, formulate conclusions and share electronically with all participants.

i. In situations where online interaction is challenging, information can be disseminated through digital platform (where available) like Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp groups, Project weblinks/websites, and traditional means of communications (TV, newspaper, radio, phone calls and mails with clear description of mechanisms for providing feedback via mail and/or dedicated telephone lines. All channels of communication need to clearly specify how stakeholders can provide their feedback and suggestions.

j. Engagement with direct stakeholders for household surveys: In the case of resettlement planning it requires direct stakeholder engagement whereby surveys are conducted to ascertain socioeconomic status of the affected people and inventory of their affected assets are taken and the discussion of relocation and livelihood is planned. Such survey activities require active participation of local stakeholders, particularly the potentially adversely affected communities. However, there may be situations involving indigenous communities, or other communities that may not have access to the digital platforms or means of communication, teams should develop specially tailored stakeholder engagement approaches that will be appropriate in the specific setting.

k. In situations where it is determined that meaningful consultations that are critical to the conduct of a specific project activity cannot be conducted in spite of all reasonable efforts on the part of the client supported by the World Bank, the MAFSE and PIU should discuss whether the proposed project activities can be postponed by a few weeks in view of the virus spread risks. This would depend on the COVID-19 situation in the country, and the government policy requirements to contain the virus spread. Where it is not possible to postpone the activity (such as in the case of ongoing resettlement) or where the postponement is likely to be for more than a few weeks, the MAFSE and PIU should consult with the World Bank advice and guidance.

l. Country specific regulations such as Statutory Instrument No. 78 has been put in place to avoid and manage outbreaks of the virus. The MAFSE and PIU are expected to fully comply with all regulations passed by the government in regard to COVID 19².

² The latest information regarding official COVID 19 measures can be found here: https://www.covid19.bz/
5 Organization and Implementation

5.1 Administrative Entities

5.1.1 The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise/Project Implementation Unit
The MAFSE is the project management agency responsible for overall coordination of the CRESAP. A PIU within the Ministry has the responsibility of overseeing the execution of the project. The PIU has the overall responsibility for project management including, ensuring compliance with agreed implementation procedures and other World Bank guidelines, in particular, the World Bank’s safeguard policies. The PIU is therefore charged with ensuring that the social safeguards and standards measures are put in place. The PIU, has appointed an Environment and Social Focal Point who will take the lead in developing and implementing all required RPs, with the support of the environmental and social consultants to be hired during the project implementation stage. The officer will work closely with other technical line ministries (MNR) as needed to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the RPs.

5.1.2 Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)
The MNR is primarily responsible for the legal process of compulsory land acquisition and the valuation. If lands are to be acquired for public purpose other than road works, the MNR will be involved.

5.1.3 Project Steering Committee
At the national level, a Project Steering Committee (PSC) will be set up to act as a higher-level guidance body that will meet semi-annually. It will oversee the project, approve the Annual Work Program and Budget (AWPB), as well as the project’s progress reports, and ensure that the project objectives are being met. The PSC will ensure coherence between the project and other projects, funded by the World Bank or other development partners, in the sector. It will be chaired by the Chief Executive Officer of the MAFSE. The Secretariat of the PSC will be provided by the Project Coordinator. The PSC will be composed of representatives of the entities involved in the implementation of the project. They include the representative of Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Immigration, the representative of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development & Investment, the representative of Civil Society Organizations, etc.

5.1.4 Submission of RPs to World Bank
After Project Steering Committee has approved the RP, it will then be forwarded to the WB for approval. The PSC is also responsible for monitoring the implementation of the RPs through reports provided to it by the MAFSE and PIU.

5.1.5 Linking Resettlement with Civil Works
The implementation of activities in the RPs must be linked to the execution of any construction. This is to ensure that land appropriation, acquisition, displacement, and relocation resulting from such works do not occur before the necessary measures have been prepared and put in place.
The RP is to be prepared and approved by the PSC and the WB and implemented before any works can begin. The actions of the main parties involved in this project must be consistent with this Framework and ESS5 during the development and implementation of subprojects.

Table 2 Synchronizing Civil Works with RPF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Works scheduled</th>
<th>RPF scheduled</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| *Sub-project selection*| ▪ Consultation of communities with target sites                              | ▪ Make communities aware of plans beforehand, describe studies to be undertaken and inform of Grievance redressal Mechanism.  
                                                                  | ▪ Obtain feedback from key stakeholders on project design and E&S safeguard instruments                               |
| *Feasibility studies*   | ▪ Identification of potential impacts  
                                                                  | ▪ Social feasibility will be a factor in the project’s feasibility studies                                        |
                                                                  | ▪ Survey of those who could be displaced and the valuation of assets                                              |
| *Preliminary Designs*   | ▪ Consultation with displaced persons about acceptable alternatives for compensation and resettlement  
                                                                  | ▪ Once preliminary designs are complete affected persons can be consulted on resettlement matters and a RP is fully developed.  |
                                                                  | ▪ Development of RP                                                                                                |
| *Final Designs*         | ▪ Design and approval of RP                                                  | ▪ RP must be reviewed and approved by PSC and WB.                                                                    |
| *Disclosure and Compensation* | ▪ Disclosure of RPs and compensation                                        | ▪ Finals RPs are disclosed and PAPs compensated prior to starting any construction activities.                      |

6 Grievance Redress Mechanism

6.1.1 Background and Aims of GRM

The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) is designed and established for the overall project and as part of the RPF, IPPF, and resettlement plan. Both this project-level GRM and the separate LMP GRM include a special channel for Gender Based Violence (GBV) issues to ensure these types of issues are dealt with appropriately. GRMs are intended to be accessible, collaborative,
expedient and effective in resolving concerns through dialogue, joint fact finding, negotiation, and problem solving. This is required by the World Bank policy and standards.

The GRM is developed as part of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) to receive and facilitate the resolution of concerns and grievances. Such grievances may include the potential of exclusion of vulnerable people and any systemic discrimination that may exist which could cause inequitable distribution (if it occurs) of project benefits. The vulnerable groups include the poorest, female-headed households with underage children, female unemployed, youth unemployed, persons with disabilities, youth at risk, young girls, and indigenous people. The GRM includes specific and confidential channels that can be used by vulnerable groups.

To avoid or minimize the risk of leaving certain vulnerable groups behind, the SEP describes the measures that are used to remove obstacles to participation and how the opinions of the different affected groups are captured. The SEP includes differentiated measures to allow the effective participation of those identified as vulnerable, focusing on small farmers without connections to formal organizations. In accordance with ESS7, the project requires a dedicated approach for communication and participation of indigenous groups that may be affected, ensuring that there are effective channels of communication, access to participation tables and agency in making decisions about problems that will potentially affect them (positively or negatively).

6.1.2 Principles of GRM

Effective GRMs usually embody seven core principles:

a) Fairness: Grievances are treated confidentially, assessed impartially, and handled transparently.

b) Objectiveness: The GRM is to operate in a fair, objective manner and give impartial treatment to each case. GRM officers have adequate means and powers to investigate grievances (e.g., interview witnesses, access records, etc.).

c) Simplicity and accessibility: Procedures to file grievances and seek action are simple enough that community members can easily understand them. Community members will also have a range of contact options including, at a minimum, a telephone number, an email address, and a postal address. The GRM will be accessible to all stakeholders, irrespective of the remoteness of the area they live in, the language they speak, and other characteristics. The GRM will not use complex processes that create confusion or anxiety (such as only accepting grievances on official-looking standard forms or through grievance boxes in government offices).

d) Responsiveness and efficiency: The GRM will be responsive to the needs of all complainants. Accordingly, officials handling grievances will be trained to take effective action upon and respond quickly to grievances and suggestions.

e) Speed and proportionality: All grievances, simple or complex, will be addressed and resolved as quickly as possible. The action taken on the grievance or suggestion is swift, decisive, and constructive.
f) Participatory and socially inclusive: A wide range of project-affected people, community members, members of vulnerable groups, civil society, and the media – will be encouraged to bring grievances and comments to the attention of project authorities. Special attention is given to ensure that the poor and marginalized groups, including those with special needs, are able to access the GRM.

g) Confidentiality: GRM officers will be trained on confidentiality procedures, including anonymising personal information when discussing actions to be taken with the Project Steering Committee. Training will emphasize that there must be absolutely no reprisals and the participation of community members in the GRM does not diminish their rights or entitlement to benefit from the project in any way. The same information can be shared with local communities. Emails, letters, and transcripts of telephone conversations containing personal information will be accessed only by the assigned project staff.

6.1.3 Definition of Grievance
Grievance is defined for the purpose of this mechanism as an issue, concern, problem, claim (perceived or actual) or complaint that an individual or group wants the project to address and resolve. When community members present a grievance, they generally expect to receive one or more of the following:

- Acknowledgment of their problem
- An honest response to questions about project activities
- An apology
- Compensation
- Modification of the conduct that caused the grievance
- Some other fair remedy

6.1.4 GRM Administration Process
6.1.4.1 Registration
Receiving and registering complaints will be a simple process where members of the public can inform the MAFSE PIU Staff or personnel at any of the MAFSE offices in the districts, considering that not all members of the community will have access to a phone and/or email. Respective Chairpersons of the various Village Councils may also make a report on behalf of a villager. These respective persons will be trained on the GRM and be fully equipped to pass on the information in a secure method and within 24 hours to the Focal Point person identified below:

Complaints should be passed on to the focal point by phone, email, in-person, or directly via the log system at the following:

Focal point: Jose Tillett (MAFSE Monitoring and Evaluation Officer)
Telephone: 8222131
Email: jose.tillett@agriculture.gov.bz

Persons may also opt to lodge their grievance directly to the focal point via the phone number and/or email provided as well as in person. The Focal Point must acknowledge receipt of the
grievance directly to the complainant, whether the grievance was provided either directly or via respective persons outlined above within 48 hours.

All relevant staff will be trained on confidentiality procedures to protect the identity of those wanting to lodge a complaint. Members of the public should be made aware of this.

Although grievances can be received from respective persons, the responsibility for consolidation and formal logging of grievances will be that of the Focal Point. Once a complaint has been received, it will be recorded in the complaints log or data system which will be established by the MAFSE and will be kept confidential. The Focal Point will ensure that the respective persons responsible for address the grievance receives the information and allows those persons to respond to the grievances within 7 working days. In the case of grievances around Environmental and Social issues, the Environmental and Social Specialist will be responsible for responding to such grievances within the outlined timeframe.

A log can be developed based on the example provided in Annex 1. A separate log should be kept for complaints for follow up and reporting purposes. The log can be kept in hardcopy or electronic form. Various types of grievances typically require different follow-up actions—for example, some grievances can be resolved by means of a simple explanation or apology, while others may require more extensive investigations. Therefore, grievances will be categorized, assigned priority, and routed as appropriate.

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**Figure 1: GRM Procedures Sort and Process Complaints**

Perspective diagram showing the steps of registering a complaint, acknowledging receipt within 48 hours, sorting and processing, taking action and resolving within 30 days, and following up and responding within 7 working days.

This step determines whether a complaint is eligible for the grievance mechanism, its seriousness and complexity. The complaint will be screened however this will not involve judging the substantive merit of the complaint. The following is a guide to determine whether a complaint is eligible or not:

**Eligible complaints** may include those where:
a) The complaint pertains to the project.
b) The issues raised in the complaint fall within the scope of issues the grievance mechanism is authorized to address.
c) The complainant has standing (direct stake or interest) to file.

Ineligible complaints may include those where:

a) The complaint is clearly not project related.
b) The nature of the issue or complaint is outside the mandate of the grievance mechanism.
c) Other project procedures, organization or agencies are more appropriate to address the issue.

If the complaint is rejected at this stage, the complainant will be informed of the decision and the reasons for the rejection. It is advisable to give complainants the benefit of the doubt and engage in a conversation before deciding to reject a complaint. Complainants often provide incomplete information. Project staff will make an effort to truly understand the nature of the grievance before responding. All complaints whether eligible or not, will be logged for reference.

When evaluating and investigating complaints the parties, issues, views, and options will be clarified:

a) Clearly identify the parties involved.
b) Clarify issues and concerns raised by the complaint.
c) Gather views of other stakeholders, including those of project staff.
d) Classify the complaint in terms of its seriousness (high, medium, or low). Seriousness includes the potential to impact both the project and the community. Issues to consider include the gravity of the allegation, the potential impact on an individual’s or a group’s welfare and safety, or the public profile of the issue. A complaint’s seriousness is linked to who in the project’s management needs to know about it and whether the PSC is advised of the matter.

The GRM will also accept anonymous complaints.

6.1.4.2 Acknowledge and Follow Up

When a complaint is registered, the Project Manager or appropriate MAFSE personnel will acknowledge its receipt in a correspondence that outlines the grievance process and provides contact details for the responding officer. The MAFSE PIU Social and Environmental Officer will formally respond and acknowledge the issue within 7 working days; by email if appropriate. Complainants will then receive periodic updates on the status of their grievances.

6.1.4.3 Evaluate, Investigate and Take Action

This step involves gathering information about the grievance to determine its validity and resolving the grievance. The merit of grievances will be judged objectively against clearly defined standards such as relevant environmental and social safeguards, legal requirements and the Project Operations Manual, if available. Grievances that are straightforward (such as queries and suggestions) can often be resolved quickly by contacting the complainant and providing an
appropriate response. Every effort will be made to resolve a grievance within 30 days of receipt. If this is not possible, clear steps being taken to address the grievance will be communicated to the complainant. Grievances that cannot be resolved by the GRM at the Project Management level will be referred to the Project Steering Committee.

Complainants are free at any time to seek redress through the national judicial system or the Office of the Ombudsman. However, the MAFSE will encourage complainants to first seek to exhaust the project GRM before undertaking costly legal proceedings.

The PIU will ensure there is readily available resources to translate complaints submitted in indigenous languages and responses to complainants.

For urgent issues including non-compliance, GBV, and others, the PIU will inform the World Bank within 48 hours.

6.1.5 Implementing the GRM

6.1.5.1 Build Awareness of GRM

The GRM will be presented by project staff to community members during community meetings or when undertaking community consultations for social assessments and developing resettlement plans. Other ways to publicize the GRM to the local communities include the following:

- Simple, visually engaging marketing materials can be developed. These can describe the process for handling people’s concerns and the benefits that can result. The materials will also inform the local communities about where to go and who to contact if they have a complaint. Material will be developed in relevant languages for Indigenous Peoples.
- Virtual formal, and informal meetings for local communities via Zoom/Teams can be used as the main method for building awareness about the GRM. WhatsApp groups can also be utilised to reach more remote communities alongside traditional methods including TV, newspaper, radio, posters, and illustrations.
- Communities will be consulted about any risks or fears they have associated with using the system. Information about what else they might need to voice a complaint and participate effectively in the mechanism will be elicited and used to update the GRM.
- All community awareness activities regarding the GRM must adhere to the COVID 19 protocols established for stakeholder engagement above.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1</th>
<th>Summary of design of the GRM:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Step 1: Clear system to report grievances</strong></td>
<td>Members of the public can inform the MAFSE PIU Staff or personnel at any of the MAFSE offices in the districts. Respective Chairpersons of the various Village Councils may also make a report on behalf of a villager. Complaints can also be lodged directly here: Focal point: Jose Tillett Telephone: 8222131 Email: <a href="mailto:jose.tillett@agriculture.gov.bz">jose.tillett@agriculture.gov.bz</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 2: Acknowledge</td>
<td>Focal point will acknowledge its receipt in a correspondence that outlines the grievance process and provides contact details for the responding officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 3: Follow up</td>
<td>The MAFSE PIU Social and Environmental Officer will formally respond and acknowledge any environmental and social issues within 7 working days; by email if appropriate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 4: Evaluate, Investigate and Take Action</td>
<td>The PIU Social and Environmental Officer will resolve a grievance within 30 days of receipt. If this is not possible, clear steps being taken to address the grievance will be communicated to the complainant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 5: Grievances that cannot be solved within 30 days of receipt</td>
<td>Grievances that cannot be resolved by the GRM at the Project Management level will be referred to the Project Steering Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Step 6: Next steps if unsatisfied with project GRM</td>
<td>The complainant has the option of seeking redress through the national judicial system or the Office of the Ombudsman at their own cost</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.1.5.2  **Train Staff for GRM**

Project staff will be educated about the GRM and procedures. This is to ensure that other staff members are able to accept complaints, or to participate in on-the-spot resolution of minor problems. The following will be considered when developing training sessions for project staff:

a) Sessions will focus on why the grievance mechanism is in place, its goals, benefits, and how it operates.

b) Roles and expectations of project staff including what to do if a member of the community approaches them with a grievance, how best to respond to aggrieved stakeholders and the importance of listening, remaining objective, and taking stakeholder concerns seriously.

c) The constructive role of community dissent in project operations, by encouraging the view that complaints and opposition are a source of valuable information that can lead to improved operations, reduce risk, and develop a supportive relationship with the community.

d) Emphasize that there must be absolutely no reprisals and the participation of community members in the GRM does not diminish their rights or entitlement to benefit from the project in any way. The same information can be shared with local communities.

e) The program will also cover topics related to sexual harassment, particularly towards women and children, violence, including sexual and/or gender-based violence and respectful attitude while interacting with the local community.

As there is no existing GRM policy in place at the MAFSE, this GRM process will be written into the Project Operations Manual

6.1.5.3  **World Bank Grievance Redressal Service (GRS)**

The complainant has the option of approaching the World Bank, if they find the established GRM cannot resolve the issue. It must be noted that this GRS should ideally only be accessed once the project’s grievance mechanism has first been utilized without an acceptable resolution. World Bank Procedures requires the complainant to express their grievances in writing to World Bank office in Washington DC by completing the bank’s GRS complaint form which can be found at the following URL link:  http://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/products-and-
services/grievance. Completed forms will be accepted by email, fax, letter, and by hand delivery to the GRS at the World Bank Headquarters in Washington or World Bank Country Offices.

| Email: grievances@worldbank.org |
| Fax: +1-202-614-7313 |
| By letter: |
| The World Bank |
| Grievance Redress Service (GRS) |
| MSN MC 10-1018 NW, Washington, DC 20433, USA |

6.1.5.4 Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

The United Nations defined Gender-based violence as harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power and harmful norms. The various forms of GBV include sexual, physical, mental and economic harm inflicted in public or in private; threats of violence, coercion and manipulation, including trafficking in persons and commercial sexual exploitation. Belize’s National Gender-based violence Action Plan 2017-2020 also highlights that Gender-based violence' and 'violence against women' are terms that are often used interchangeably as most gender-based violence is inflicted by men on women and girls.

Common forms of GBV in Belize that may therefore be social risks associated with the project include:

- Domestic violence
- Physical and emotional abuse
- Rape
- Sexual Abuse
- Carnal Knowledge
- Trafficking in Persons
- Commercial Sexual Exploitation

Steps to address reports of such gender-based violence must uphold the principles outlined in the GRM, particularly confidentiality. The E&S Specialist that reviews the reports of GBV must include such cases in the monthly report whereby all identifiable information be made anonymised.

Such reports must be flagged as high priority and acknowledged immediately (within 24hours).

If the victim is a child, according to the Child Abuse Reporting Regulations, it is mandatory for all family members, teachers, social workers, school administrators and all other persons to report all suspected cases of child abuse to the police. Regarding adults, the E&S Specialist and the Women’s Department must respect the privacy of the complainant and are not obligated to report the case.
If the complainant would like to pursue a criminal case against the offender, the E&S Specialist will support the complainant by providing information on the process to make such a report with the Belize Police Department and what can be expected regarding steps forward.

There are two main units within the Belize Police Department that respond to issues that relate to sexual or domestic violence:

- The Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) responds to allegations of domestic violence within the family which may include sexual violence.

- Criminal Investigations Branch (CIB) responds to allegations of sexual violence outside of the home setting and related crimes classified as indictable offences in the Supreme Court.

As part of the reporting process, a gynaecologist or General Practitioner with experience will conduct the medical examination. Complaints against police officers, medical personnel or other public officers in relation to sexual violence where a survivor is dissatisfied with the response can be made by:

- Utilizing the Complaints Form that may be obtained at the Office of the Ombudsman or any of the Women’s Department offices countrywide
- The Ombudsman, upon receiving the complaint of the survivor, should take statements from the survivor

In both cases whether a criminal case is to be pursued or not, the E&S Specialist will also ensure that victims and survivors of sexual violence are made aware during their initial response to the complainant that they can seek support at the Women’s Department in each district. The Women’s Department is a key referring agency for services to survivors of sexual violence. It will follow the following procedures³:

- Screening – Intake process will be conducted to determine whether the services requested by the survivor are provided by the Women’s Department. If the services are not available at the Department the Women Development Officer (WDO) will make the necessary referrals.
- Assessment and Attention - If the services needed are offered by the Department the Women’s Development Officer will discuss different options available with the client and make recommendations on what may be helpful.
- Interviewing – Interviews will be conducted in a confidential setting and the WDO will be sensitive to the emotional state of the survivor and maintain a non-judgmental attitude.
- Counselling – Counselling services should focus on providing emotional support to the victim, providing them with important information and guiding them in the process of making their own decisions. While the Department offers basic counselling in terms of information sharing, counselling beyond this would be referred.
- Documentation - A National Gender-based Violence Surveillance Form will be completed and the service being provided documented.

*Trafficking in Persons*

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In regard to trafficking in persons, additional considerations are made due to immigration status of victims. According to the Trafficking In Persons (Prohibition) Act, 2013, the court must ensure the privacy of victims is a priority, with various provisions being made to ensure so. The Director of Public Prosecution is also mandated to provide information to victims regarding safely returning to their country of citizenship or applying for permanent residency or citizenship of Belize.

Once the Social Assessment is finalized and the risk is determined for GBV in the CRESAP project, the World Bank will work with the MAFSE to ensure that the GBV system is survivor centric and focuses on not retraumatizing the victim and ensuring the proper support (legal, psychological, etc).

6.1.6 Monitoring and Reporting

The monitoring process will be done by the MAFSE PIU which will be in-charge of monitoring implementation of the plan. District level monitoring and evaluation will be linked to the main Project Monitoring and Evaluation carried out by the PIU. The Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at the PIU will be the overall office responsible for monitoring of the plan.

The E&S Specialist should submit monthly internal reports to the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at the PIU and included in the progress reports submitted to the World Bank quarterly. These reports should outline the following:

- Number of grievances
- Issues raised
- Common trends
- Causes of grievances
- Remedial Actions
- Redress provided
- Recommendations to prevent future recurrences

6.1.6.1 Management Functions

The Ministry of Agriculture is the main responsible institution for implementation of the Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture Project (CRESAP). A Project Implementation Unit (PIU) will be established for the purpose of CRESAP’s implementation and will be located within the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise staffed with experts/specialist as the following: technical personnel, safeguard experts to provide assistance on environmental and social safeguards issues, fiduciary staff (procurement and financial experts) etc. The PIU is responsible for the overall CRESAP implementation, project planning and coordination, procurement, monitoring of the project activities and reporting.

An Environmental and Social Focal Point/Specialist has been assigned to the project for the entire period of the project implementation. The management, coordination and implementation of the SEP and its integral tasks will be the responsibility of the PIU’s Environmental and Social Specialist. Main tasks for PIU Environmental and Social Specialist - responsible person for SEP implementation:
a) Implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). ESS presents information regarding the project and receive any community concerns or complaints (grievance forms);
b) Facilitate all stakeholder engagement events and disclosure of material to support stakeholder engagement events;
c) Participate during all face-to-face stakeholder meetings;
d) Preparation of Minutes of meeting from all engagement events; and
e) Maintain the project stakeholder database and update contact information regularly.
f) Maintain the track results of regular meetings and specific concerns/complaints received. The grievance database needs to be maintained on a regular basis with all received concerns/how the concern/complaint was addressed and/or resolved, etc.
g) Resolve grievances and feedback submitted via the GRM on Environmental and Social topics according to the GRM process outlined above
h) Report on social and environment safeguard issues identified during site visits and via the GRM included in progress report submitted to the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at the PIU that will also conduct regular site visits to verify reported information and ensure overall project outcomes are being met.

The E&S Focal Point will be supported by part-time Environmental and part-time Social specialists, with ability to become full-time personnel depending on the need.

7 Funding Resettlements

7.1 Funding Process

Each sub-project will include the costs of the resettlement plans described above. Each subproject must at the time of submission of the RPF, include a detailed analysis of the activities that conform to budgetary requirements and demonstrate the availability of resources. Cost estimates for resettlement activities including compensation will be covered in the RP and will be reviewed and approved by the PSC. Project funds can be used to cover resettlement costs but not for land acquisition. The GOB is responsible for all land acquisition and related compensation costs.

In all instances, displaced people must be informed about their options and rights pertaining to resettlement, consulted on, offered choices among, and provided with technically and economically feasible resettlement alternatives and provided prompt and effective compensation at full replacement cost for losses of assets attributable direct to the project.

Form and level of compensation under the project will be the outcome of a negotiated process with the respective property owners as provided for under Belizean law and in compliance with WB ESS5 where consultation on resettlement options are required.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sample Budget Items</th>
<th>Responsible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feasibility Studies</td>
<td>Project funds via PIU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Consultations</td>
<td>Project funds via PIU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preparing resettlement plans</td>
<td>Project funds via PIU</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 8 Monitoring Arrangements

The monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of this RPF and development of the RPs will be led by the MAFSE PIU. The objective of monitoring is to identify implementation problems and successes as early as possible so that the implementation arrangements can be properly adjusted. The monitoring process will help to determine the extent to which activities are being implemented effectively and will help to identify areas that need improvement or require adjustment. The implementation of this RPF and RPs will be monitored on a regular basis and a monitoring report will be provided to the PSC at their regular meetings by the MAFSE PIU Social Officer. Monitoring reports will address the following indicators:

- a) Communications and reactions from affected persons on entitlements, compensation, options, alternative developments and relocation timetables
- b) Assets and property to be affected by displacements
- c) Compensation for compulsory acquired land and assets
- d) Disbursement of compensation and other entitlements
- e) Quality and frequency of consultation and disclosure
- f) Grievances received from the GRM

The draft version of this document was disclosed on Oct. 6th, 2021 on the MAFSE website at [https://www.agriculture.gov.bz/climate-resilient-agriculture-project-cresap/](https://www.agriculture.gov.bz/climate-resilient-agriculture-project-cresap/). This disclosure was to support the first round of consultations on the ESF documents.
Annex 1 – Sample Grievance Registration Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grievance #:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recorded by:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Means of recording (check one): | □ Phone Line
          | □ Village Chairperson
          | □ Community Information Meetings
          | □ Mail
          | □ Informal
          | □ Other (explain) |
| Name of complainant  |          |
| Address:              |          |
| Telephone:            |          |
| Signature:            |          |
| Nature of grievance:  |          |
| Eligibility of Complaint: | □ Eligible (Proceed to Prioritize)
          | □ Ineligible (Terminate Reporting and inform complainant of reason for rejection). |
| Priority              | □ Low
          | □ Medium
          | □ High |
| Proposed solution:    |          |
| Steps taken:          |          |
| Status of response (to be updated monthly): | □ Open
          | □ Action in Progress
          | □ Closed |