

Indigenous People Planning Framework

**Belize Climate Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture Project
(P172592)**

**Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise
GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE**

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Abbreviations

CERC	-	Contingent Emergency Response Component
CRESAP	-	Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture Project
CSA	-	Climate Smart Agriculture
DFC	-	Development Finance Corporation
ESF	-	Environmental and Social Framework
ESMF	-	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESS	-	Environmental and Social Standards
GBV	-	Gender Based Violence
GRM	-	Grievance Redress Mechanism
IP	-	Indigenous Peoples
IPP	-	Indigenous Peoples Plan
IPPF	-	Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework
LMP	-	Labour Management Procedures
MAFSE	-	Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise
NGO	-	Non-government Organisation
NICH	-	National Institute of Culture and History
NMS	-	National Meteorological Service
PIU	-	Project Implementation Unit
RPF	-	Resettlement Policy Framework
SA	-	Social Assessment
SEP	-	Stakeholder Engagement Plan

1 Introduction

1.1 Objectives of the Indigenous Peoples Planning 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 Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF) is an instrument under ESS7 (Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities) of the ESF. The key purpose of an IPPF is to establish the requirements of ESS7, organizational arrangements, and design criteria to be applied to subprojects or project components to be prepared during project implementation when IPs may be present in, or have collective attachment to, the project area. The IPPF also sets out a framework to guide the project engagement with the indigenous communities in the project area of influence and address any grievances. Likewise, the IPPF sets out a mechanism for communication with indigenous groups and helps guide activities that will be implemented for Indigenous Peoples groups. Following the identification of the subprojects or individual project components and confirmation that IPs are present in, or have collective attachment to, the project area, specific Indigenous Peoples Plans (IPPs), proportionate to the potential risks and impacts, are prepared. The IPPs which will also be informed by the Social Assessment prepared under ESS1 and updated as needed once project activities and exact locations are selected. Project activities that may affect IPs do not commence until such specific plans are finalized and approved by the Bank.

The IPPF sets out a framework for how the project will engage with indigenous communities for those communities in the project area of influence and address any grievances. The IPPF also sets out a mechanism for communication with indigenous groups and help guide activities that will be implemented for Indigenous Peoples groups. The IPPF will guide the establishment of specific Indigenous People's Plans (IPPs), which will also be informed by the Social Assessment prepared under ESS1 and updated as needed once project activities and exact locations are selected.

1.2 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.

Figure 1 Project Districts (Priority Districts in bright yellow)



Component 1: Institutional Strengthening (Total Cost, financed by IBRD: US\$2.9375 million)

This component focuses on strengthening the capacity of key public institutions (government agencies and academic organizations) to support a more productive and sustainable agricultural sector. The component will finance goods, small works, equipment, studies, training, consulting, and advisory services to:

- **Strengthen MAFSE's and NMS' agricultural and agro-meteorological management systems to be able to deliver relevant and timely advisory services.** CRESAP will support upgrading the Belize Agricultural Information Management System (BAIMS), to improve the management of geo referenced data and increase the ability to manage agro-climatic risks and build resistance to climate change. CRESAP will finance investments to: (i) improve the collection of relevant sectoral data to enhance the BAIMS system (on- and off-farm); (ii) strengthen MAFSE and the National Meteorological Service (NMS) remote sensing capacity to be able to monitor agricultural activities, generate aggregate information, and assess production losses; (iii) upgrade MAFSE's geo-location capacity, and promote access to

regular weather and agrometeorological information to inform more targeted adaptation actions; (iv) support the NMS to improve its services through upgraded equipment at weather stations in agricultural production areas. MAFSE and NMS will receive technical support to conduct diagnostics to estimate the hazard exposure of key agricultural activities and assess the vulnerability of target crops, so as to inform ex-ante risk management decisions and increase the resilience of the sector; and (v) enhance NMS capacity to be able to improve the agro meteorological services offered. These activities will result in upgraded data processing capacities and reinforced Agro-Climatic Software tools, as well as a strengthened national weather station network in agricultural production areas and the technical capacity of NMS staff. Furthermore, CRESAP will develop a communication system to transmit regular NMS agro-meteorological information and products to end-users. At the same time, the Project will strengthen the capacity of MAFSE's extension service to provide high-quality guidance about CSA to farmers. Gender-sensitization training will be provided to staff of the public agricultural institutions as well as the Belize Marketing and Development Corporation (BMDC) to carry out their functions in CRESAP in ways that support achievement of project objectives with regard to gender.

- **Strengthen the capacity of the Pest Control Board (PCB) to promote sustainable, integrated pest management practices in agriculture.** The Project will equip PCB to ensure compliance with climate-smart, integrated pest management practices that are proven to be good practices—including to address the climate-induced spread of pests and diseases—and to train extension officers and farmers in these areas.
- **Strengthen the ability of the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) to monitor and enforce sanitary and phytosanitary standards (SPS) and regulations.** The Project will strengthen BAHA's capacity to ensure compliance with SPS requirements and improve its surveillance capabilities (especially of zoonotic diseases), via equipment, training, and studies, to ensure food safety and quality, as well as its capacity to inspect animals and certify that they are free of disease. This is important as climate changes (including alternating droughts and deluges) are expected to induce the spread of diseases, requiring an enhanced inspection process as part of the adaptation to these changes. At the same time, improved regulation of the use of fertilizers for food safety and quality is expected to lead to climate change mitigation benefits.
- **Strengthen the integration of CSA approaches in training programs offered by the Agriculture Department of the University of Belize.** The Agriculture Department trains agronomists, engages in agri-food research in its labs, runs demonstration areas on its central farm and provides training directly to farmers and students. The Project will support the department to upgrade its research and training capacity in climate-smart agriculture.

Component 2: Investments in Climate-Smart Agriculture (Total Cost: US\$39.7 million, of which IBRD: US\$19 million; commercial finance from Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs): US\$18.2 million, and beneficiary farmers: US\$2.5 million)

This component will finance three subcomponents: The three subcomponents are interrelated and complementary leading to the objective of strengthening the capacity of farmers and participating financial intermediaries engaging in climate-smart agricultural investments under

the Project, as to be able to take advantage of the provision of financing to farmers (matching grants and loans from PFIs) to adopt CSA technologies and practices, and increasing their productivity, levels of income and resiliency to climate change and weather events.

- **Subcomponent 2.1: Strengthening the capacity of PFIs, individual farmers and farmer organizations participating in the CRESAP matching grants program in support of CSA investments (IBRD US\$1 million).** This subcomponent will finance training courses and advisory services for PFIs, such as Belize's Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the Belize Credit Union League and its member credit unions, commercial banks, and beneficiary farmers and farmer groups applying for grants under Subcomponent 2.2. In particular, Subcomponent 2.1 will: (i) build capacity among PFIs to develop and implement environmental and social management systems (ESMSs) that are consistent with the Bank's Environmental and Social requirements, evaluate climate change considerations in underwriting loans, and provide gender-sensitization training, including on addressing and mitigating risks related to gender-based violence (GBV); (ii) support training courses on climate-smart agriculture approaches for PFIs; (iii) promote the matching grants program among targeted beneficiaries; (iv) strengthen the organizational and business capacities of farmer groups and organizations applying for matching grants under CRESAP; (v) provide specific TA to individual farmers via MAFSE's extension agents and/or service providers for the preparation of business plans and subproject proposals for financing via the matching grants subcomponent to promote the adoption of CSA approaches. The preparation of these business plans would constitute an important aspect of the capacity building for farmers and would address not only the adoption of CSA approaches in production, but also marketing strategies to strengthen commercial linkages for beneficiary farmers and ensuring improved market access; and (vi) tailor technical assistance and financial and business training to women's needs, including holding training events at convenient locations and times for women farmers.
- **Subcomponent 2.2: Promotion of CSA technologies and practices via matching grants and leveraging of private capital (Total cost: US\$ 36.7 million; of which IBRD: US\$16 million, PFIs: US\$18.2 million and beneficiary farmers: US\$2.5 million).** This subcomponent will promote the adoption of tested and properly selected CSA technologies, approaches and practices. Agricultural technologies and practices are considered "climate smart" if they enhance food security while addressing at least one of three additional objectives: (1) sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and farmers' incomes, (2) adapting and building resilience to climate change, and (3) reducing and/or removing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Many CSA practices have potential to deliver "triple wins" by sustainably increasing productivity, enhancing resilience, and/or reducing GHG emissions. Examples that have been proven effective in Belize include crop rotation, intercropping, use of improved drought- and heat-tolerant varieties, integrated pest management, water harvesting, investment in drainage and irrigation infrastructure, integrated soil and land management, and agroforestry, among others. In the livestock sub-sector, CSA technologies and practices include the use of quality breeds, pasture improvement, use of forage banks, and adoption of conservation techniques for forage, silage, and hay. Many farmers in Belize are already practicing CSA to some degree, but more widespread adoption

of CSA technologies has been hindered by a lack of information and technical knowledge, as well as by a lack of resources to pay for initial investment costs, as the economic benefits typically take several years to be realized. The Project will provide matching grants to partially finance CSA investment subprojects (the subprojects) promoting the uptake of CSA technologies and practices, which will be complemented by private loans from Participating Financial Intermediaries (PFIs) covering the financial assistance needed for the implementation of the CSA investment subprojects. Respective responsibilities will be set forth in the PFI Agreements to be signed between BSIF and PFIs. The matching grants will be provided via two windows, targeting different groups of farmers, with 30 percent of grants targeted to women farmers:

- **Window 1: Smallholder farmers (IBRD: US\$10 million; PFIs: US\$6.6 million).** The first window will provide matching grants to about 3,300 individual smallholder farmers who are transitioning to commercial production to enable them to adopt climate-smart approaches. These grants will cover up to 60 percent of the investment cost of each subproject financed, with a maximum limit of US\$6,000 (corresponding to an investment of US\$10,000). Based on estimated investment, operating, and TA costs for smallholder farmers' subprojects, the overall expected average investment would be around US\$5,000 per subproject with an average matching grant of around US\$3,000. The matching grants will leverage financing from PFIs, and may also leverage contributions from smallholder farmers, although the latter will not be mandatory (see Annex 3).
- **Window 2: Medium and Large Farmers and Farmers Organizations (IBRD: US\$6 million; PFIs: US\$11.6 million and beneficiary farmers: US\$2.5 million).** The second window will provide matching grants to medium and large commercial farmers and to groups of farmers (for a total of about 400 subprojects), with a view to supporting larger investments needed to adopt CSA approaches. These grants will cover up to 30 percent of the investment cost of each subproject, financed with a maximum limit of US\$30,000 (corresponding to an investment of US\$100,000). Based on estimated investment, operating, and TA costs for these types of subprojects, the overall expected average investment would be around US\$67,000 per subproject with an average matching grant of around US\$20,000. These matching grants made through the second window will leverage a larger financing share from PFIs and farmers, so the grant element will be reduced compared to Window 1, and beneficiary contributions will be required (see Annex 3 for a description of the matching grants mechanism).
- **Subcomponent 2.3: Provision of selected strategic collective assets to strengthen resilience (IBRD: US\$2 million).** This subcomponent will finance technical studies, equipment and works to construct strategically selected infrastructure, collectively used, that will contribute to enhancing the climate-smart impacts of on-farm CSA investments. Examples include but are not limited to shared drainage infrastructure for low-lying, flood-prone areas (such as those commonly found in northern Belize); and small-scale, collective water-harvesting or land-use assets (where communities are interested in sharing a collective pond, pasture, or similar asset). This collectively used infrastructure will be identified based on existing MAFSE plans and on proposals drawn from consultations with farmers, including women farmers. Investments will be prioritized based on criteria and on

a transparent selection process established in the Project Operations Manual (POM), that will include the estimated Economic Internal Rates of Return and the number of farmers, including women farmers, who will benefit from the increased climate resilience generated by the investments.

Component 3: Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (Total Cost, financed by IBRD: US\$3 million)

- **This component will finance incremental and operating costs, goods and equipment for the Project Implementation Unit (PIU).** It will provide resources to enable the PIU to effectively carry out administrative, fiduciary management, planning, monitoring and evaluation (M&E), and reporting functions; to provide training as needed to PIU staff; and to ensure compliance with all applicable environmental and social standards. This component will also finance external audits, as well as a baseline assessment, the mid-term evaluation, and the end-of-Project assessment to document the Project's results and evaluate its outcomes and impacts. Additionally, the Project will help carry out strategic studies to be able to identify current constraints and limitations being faced by agri-business seeking enhanced market access, as well as opportunities to strengthen competitiveness and improve exports. These will help to identify possible policy reforms and improvement in legal and regulatory frameworks, as well as to design mechanisms to support enhancing market access by private agri-business.

Component 4: Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) (US\$0 million)

- **The CERC is a contingent financing mechanism which will permit Belize rapid access to World Bank support in the event of an eligible crisis or emergency.** The mechanism for triggering the CERC will be established in the CERC Operations Manual, detailing the applicable fiduciary, environmental and social, monitoring, reporting, and other implementation arrangements required for implementing the activities to be financed. In case of an event triggering the CERC, funds will be reallocated to this component to finance emergency purchases and activities, including goods, works, and technical assistance to respond to the emergency. The implementation agency for the CERC will be determined in the CERC Manual.

1.3 Regulatory Context

1.3.1 National Regulation around Indigenous Populations

There is no specific law in Belize which explicitly addresses the protection of and prevention of discrimination and arbitrary deprivation of fundamental rights and freedoms for Indigenous People other than the Belize Constitution which applies to all Belizeans. This is unlike other Caribbean countries such as Guyana which passed the Amerindian Act in 2006 in recognition and protection of the collective rights of Amerindian Villages and Communities. The relevant sections of the Belize Constitution are highlighted in the table below.

Table 1 Summary of National Regulation and relevance to the project

Legislation and Section	Description	Relevance
Belize Constitution Section 3(d) and 17 in the Constitution	<p>3. Whereas every person in Belize is entitled to the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual, that is to say, the right, whatever his race, place of origin, political opinions, colour, creed or sex, but subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for the public interest, to each and all of the following, namely, (d) protection from arbitrary deprivation of property</p> <p>17. 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</p>	Used in the 2007 Supreme Court ruling, declaring that Maya customary land tenure exists in all Maya villages in the Toledo District and where it exists, gives rise to collective and individual property rights
Belize Constitution – PREAMBLE (e)	<p>The people of Belize require policies of state which protect and safeguard the unity, freedom, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Belize; which eliminate economic and social privilege and disparity among the citizens of Belize whether by race, ethnicity, colour, creed, disability or sex; which ensures gender equality; which protect the rights of the individual to life, liberty, basic education, basic health, the right to vote in elections, the right to work and the pursuit of happiness; which protect the identity, dignity and social and cultural values of Belizeans, including Belize’s Indigenous Peoples; which preserve the right of the individual to the ownership of private property and the right to operate private businesses; which prohibit the exploitation of man by man or by the state; which ensure a just system of social security and welfare; which protect the environment; which promote international peace, security and cooperation among nations, the establishment of a just and equitable international economic and social order in the world with respect for international law and treaty obligations in the dealings among nations;</p>	Indigenous Peoples in Belize are duly recognized by the Belize Constitution and are guaranteed the same fundamental rights and freedoms as all other citizens.

1.3.2 Relevant International Agreements entered into by Belize

In addition to the Belize Constitution, Belize has subscribed to international conventions which have a bearing on the protection and well-being of Indigenous Peoples:

- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (signed September 2007)
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ratified in 2015)
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (ratified in 1996)
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) (ratified 2001)
- Expressed support for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

1.3.3 World Bank Policy

The CRESAP must comply with World Bank Operations Policies for bank-funded projects. The ESS7 is relevant for this project due to the presence of Indigenous Peoples communities in the project area.

For the purpose of World Bank policy, the term “Indigenous Peoples” is used in a generic sense to refer to a distinct, vulnerable, social and cultural group possessing the following characteristics in varying degrees:

- (a) self-identification as members of a distinct indigenous cultural group and recognition of this identity by others;
- (b) collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the project area and to the natural resources in these habitats and territories
- (c) customary cultural, economic, social, or political institutions that are separate from those of the dominant society and culture; and
- (d) an indigenous language, often different from the official language of the country or region.

A group that has lost "collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the project area"; because of forced severance is considered eligible.

The policy does not set an a priori minimum numerical threshold since groups of Indigenous Peoples may be very small in number and their size may make them more vulnerable. It is key to highlight the reference to “group” and not individuals.

“Collective attachment” means that for generations there has been a physical presence in and economic ties to lands and territories traditionally owned, or customarily used or occupied, by the group concerned, including areas that hold special significance for it, such as sacred sites.

“Forced severance” refers to loss of collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories occurring within the concerned group members’ lifetime because of conflict, government resettlement programs, dispossession from their lands, natural calamities, or incorporation of such territories into an urban area. For purposes of this policy, “urban area”

normally means a city or a large town, and takes into account all of the following characteristics, no single one of which is definitive:

- (a) the legal designation of the area as urban under domestic law;
- (b) high population density; and
- (c) high proportion of non-agricultural economic activities relative to agricultural activities.

2 Overview of Indigenous Peoples in Belize

Belize is home to two major indigenous groups – the Maya and Garifuna. The Maya make up 11.3% of the population of Belize, while the Garifuna make up 6.1%¹. Table 2 below shows the overview of ethnic group by district.

Table 2 Population by Ethnic Group and District, Belize 2010*

Ethnic Group	Country Total	Districts					
		Corozal	Orange Walk	Belize	Cayo	Stann Creek	Toledo
Asian (Japanese, Chinese, Taiwanese)	3,316	317	374	1,464	746	315	100
Black/African	1,626	95	67	1,029	258	102	75
Caucasian/White	4,015	395	124	1,597	1,007	599	293
Creole	83,460	3,296	3,314	53,852	13,901	7,565	1,532
East Indian	12,452	1,779	339	5,144	1,540	1,724	1,926
Garifuna	19,639	377	381	6,110	1,466	9,435	1,870
Hindu	727	129	111	372	65	40	10
Lebanese	453	82	3	251	102	12	3
Maya Ketchi	20,616	399	254	1,118	1,904	1,852	15,089
Maya Mopan	13,022	169	297	926	2,371	3,910	5,349
Maya Yucatec	2,869	590	226	278	1,699	47	29
Menonnite	11,574	2,756	5,101	209	3,170	85	253
Mestizo/Spanish/Latino	170,446	32,543	36,596	32,898	50,646	11,632	6,131
Other	1,204	48	70	589	249	187	61
Not Reported	845	282	143	201	133	65	21

*Columns will not sum to district/population totals as some persons claim more than one ethnic group

2.1 Maya

The Maya in Belize are the direct descendants of the original indigenous inhabitants of the Yucatán peninsula dating back to pre-Columbian times. The three Maya groups in Belize are the Mopan, Q'eqchi', and Yucatec and are mainly subsistence farmers.²

¹ Statistical Institute of Belize (2011). 2010 Population and Housing Census.

² Minority Rights Group International, *World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples - Belize : Maya*, December 2017, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/49749d532d.html> [accessed 9 May 2021]

The Mopan and Q'eqchi' Maya in Belize today can be found mainly in the southern district of Toledo where they continue to practice a way of life that is distinct from mainstream society based on their own political, social and agrarian institutions. Mopan Maya settlements are located in San Antonio village in Toledo District. The Q'eqchi' live in lowland areas along rivers and streams across 30 small, isolated villages throughout Toledo district. Because of their isolation, Q'eqchi' have remained the country's poorest and most neglected minority. The Mayas of Toledo have been able to sufficiently organize themselves to attract national and international attention and participate in international forums that seek to advance indigenous rights both as contributors and beneficiaries of the global indigenous peoples' movements.³

Mestizos, who are descendants of indigenous Maya and European Spaniards, first came into northern Belize from southern Yucatan, Mexico as refugees of the Caste War of Yucatán in 1848. The Caste War was a Maya uprising against the Spaniards, but it eventually became a war against the Mestizos. The Mestizos, mixed Spanish, and Maya (indigenous) were allies of the Spaniards, and thus became targets of attacks by the Mayas. They came over to Belize to escape from these attacks and eventually settled in most of northern Belize. Even though Belizean Mestizos of the north share Maya ancestry from Mexico, in the past they do not as an ethnic group self-identify as indigenous peoples. Most consider themselves Mestizos and do not claim indigenous status. While a few speak the Maya Yucatec language, the predominant language spoken is Spanish. There is however a current resurgence in reclaiming indigenous identity in northern Belize, which will be assessed further in the Social Assessment. Table 2 below includes the population of persons identifying as indigenous Maya, excluding those identifying as Mestizo given that Mestizos do not generally identify as IPs even though they may have some Maya heritage.

Table 3 Indigenous Maya population and geographical location by district⁴

Indigenous Maya People	Population of Maya	% of Maya	Geographical location by district
Maya Ketchi	20,616	56%	Predominantly in the Toledo District though some have migrated out to other districts.
Maya Mopan	13,022	35.6%	Predominantly in the Toledo District though some have migrated out to other districts.
Maya Yucatec	2,869	7.8%	Predominantly present in the Corozal, Orange Walk, and to a lesser extent in the Cayo District.

³ The Nature Conservancy (2013). Indigenous People and REDD+ In Belize.

⁴ CADPI (2017). Country technical note on indigenous peoples' issues, Belize.

Total	36,507	100%	
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Table 4 Approximate population by Maya ethnic group affiliation and district⁵

	Corozal	Orange Walk	Belize	Cayo	Stann Creek	Toledo
Maya Ketchi	399	254	1118	1904	1852	15089
Maya Mopan	169	297	926	2371	3910	5349
Maya Yucatec	590	226	278	1699	47	29

2.1.1 Relevant communities in the project area:

2.1.1.1 *Cayo*

The residents of Cristo Rey and San Antonio in the Cayo District are mostly Spanish-speaking Mestizos who are essentially a mix of indigenous Yucatec Maya primarily and European Spaniards. There are residents of these two communities, more so San Antonio, who identify as Maya Yucatec while others as Mestizo. While these two communities have a long-standing presence in the area, only some residents recognize themselves and identify as descendants of Indigenous Peoples and practice their language and traditional customs. These communities most closely fit the definition used by the World Bank for Indigenous Peoples.

2.1.1.2 *Corozal and Orange Walk*

The communities of northern Belize share a common history, culture and ethnicity and are inhabited predominantly by the Mestizos.

Very recently, there have been grassroots movements for these communities to reclaim their indigenous identities, particularly in and around villages across the Orange Walk and Corozal districts. The Social Assessment will be key to determine whether and to what degree persons in these communities; 1) self-identify as indigenous and are recognised as such 2) have collective attachment to their communities, 3) have separate customary institutions, and 4) speak their indigenous language, in accordance with the general definition of indigenous communities used by the World Bank. Depending on the outcome of the assessment, the IPPF relevant communities would be updated accordingly.

⁵ CADPI (2017). Country technical note on indigenous peoples’ issues, Belize.

2.2 Garifuna

Garifuna, also known as Garinagu, are the descendants of an Afro-indigenous population from the Caribbean island of St Vincent who were exiled to the Honduran coast in the eighteenth century and subsequently moved to Belize. The first settlement in Belize was established at Dangriga, which still holds the largest Garifuna population in the country.

The Garifuna mainly live on the coast but are also very present in towns and villages in the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts. Garifuna communities live mainly on agriculture, fishing and foreign remittances sent by relatives abroad. Some are also involved in the technical trades. Garifuna who live in the rural areas mainly pursue a subsistence lifestyle, while those in the urban areas pursue professional occupations.⁶

Table 5 Approximate population of Garifuna ethnic group by district²

	Corozal	Orange Walk	Belize	Cayo	Stann Creek	Toledo
Garifuna	370	367	6098	1500	9439	1877

2.2.1 Relevant communities in project area:

2.2.1.1 *Libertad, Corozal District, and Stann Creek and Toledo districts*

A small Garifuna community established itself in Libertad, Corozal, which works diligently in keeping the culture alive through a small, dedicated museum and re-enactments of the Garifuna arrival in Belize.

In the Stann Creek District, the Garifuna mainly live in Dangriga Town and the villages of Hopkins, Seine Bight and Georgetown; and in the Toledo District they mainly live in Punta Gorda Town and Barranco Village.

2.3 Relevant Indigenous Peoples organisations and networks in Belize:

1. The Xunantunich, Ukuxtal Masewal Association (Northern Belize)
2. Northern Maya Association of Belize
3. The Maya Institute of Belize
4. National Indigenous Council of Belize (BENIC)
5. The National Garifuna Council
6. Informal educational community and resource: Belize Yucatec Maya

⁶ Minority Rights Group International, *World Directory of Minorities and Indigenous Peoples - Belize : Garifuna*, December 2017, available at: <https://minorityrights.org/minorities/garifuna-garinagu/> [accessed 9 May 2021]

7. Heritage Education Network Belize
8. National Garifuna Council

The National Garifuna Council is an NGO based in Dangriga Town that strives to preserve, strengthen and develop the Garifuna culture, as well as to promote economic development and opportunities for the Garifuna in Belize.

3 Potential impacts

Potential impacts on Indigenous People are likely to occur within Component 2 and its associated subcomponents. The comprehensive list of potential environmental and social risks and impacts are outlined in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)⁷. Some are more directly relevant to IPs, although it is recognized that the wider risks and impacts around environmental integrity are also relevant for IP livelihoods and cultural traditions that are linked with the health of their ancestral lands and territories.

3.1.1.1 Cultural, Historical and Archaeological Resources

Given the widespread occurrence of ancient Maya archaeological sites in the project area, there may be a chance encounter of sites or items of high archaeological value during works. Consequently, disturbances to historical and archaeological sites arising from project activities are possible.

Mitigation Measures:

- a) Contractors must have all necessary permits and licenses for vegetation removal and water diversions.
- b) Works Site Supervisor or Environmental, Health and Safety Technician visits to include visits to any excavation works during regular inspection visits.
- c) Report all potential historic and archaeological findings to the Institute of Creative Arts by following the project's chance finds procedure shown below.
- d) If the Contractor discovers archaeological sites, historical sites, remains and objects, including graveyards and/or individual graves during excavation or construction, the Contractor shall:
 - Stop the construction activities in the area of the chance find;
 - Clearly delineate the discovered site or area;
 - Secure the site to prevent any damage or loss of removable objects. In cases of removable antiquities or sensitive remains, a night guard shall be arranged until the Institute of Archaeology is able to take over;
 - Notify the supervisory Project Environmental, Social, Health and Safety Officer and Project Engineer who in turn will notify the Institute of Archaeology immediately.

⁷ See CRESAP's ESMF for more details

3.1.1.2 Outside Workers

In some of the work's activities, it is possible that outside workers may be brought in by a contractor. These workers may be unfamiliar with local practices or take liberties of being an outsider and harass or otherwise create conflict with local indigenous people.

Mitigation Measures:

- a) Source all labour as much as possible from target communities.
- b) Take all reports of worker misbehaviour seriously and investigate.
- c) All workers are to sign the Code of Conduct presented in the Labour Management Procedures as condition of employment.
- d) Ensure communities are informed of project Grievance Redress Mechanism.

3.1.1.3 Loss of Land and Assets

Displacement or involuntary relocation is not expected to be significant under any of the subprojects in this component. Regardless, for the purpose siting of important agricultural infrastructure investments, it is not impossible to foresee the necessity to expropriate private property or there may be voluntary land donation by farmers and community residents. This can result in loss of land and other properties such as buildings, fences, driveways, signs etc. from removal, acquisition, and demolition. Similarly, access to properties and businesses can be impeded during construction works. If indigenous people use as collateral their land and the PFI needs to recover the loan in the case of non-repayment/delinquency the IP may lose their land.

Mitigation Measures:

- a) Implement measures specified in the project's Resettlement Policy Framework for any expropriate of private property or land donation, including the development and implementation of resettlement plans before any resettlement occurs.
- b) Ensure that legally entitled rights are fully respected in any incidence of displacement and relocation.
- c) Property owners should be given at least one month's notice of impeded access to properties and businesses during construction works. Disruption of access to properties by works should be minimized and made temporary as much as possible

3.1.1.4 Gender Relations

Agriculture is all too often seen as the domain of men even though there are some women who are fully involved in these sectors. It is possible that job opportunities whether in the construction of irrigation and draining systems, water harvesting facilities and related CSA training can sideline women who are often not able to participate due to their social roles. This could lead to women being marginalized under the project and gender disparities further entrenched.

Mitigation Measures:

- a) The Contractor will be encouraged to promote the hiring of women in their staff, preferably aiming to hire around 20% female staff.

- b) Ensure that there is gender-equitable participation in consultation meetings and activities.
- c) Facilitate in the inclusion of women on worksites through various measures such as transportation to worksite, having separate bathrooms for men and women, and so on.
- d) Provide childcare services to enable women to attend meetings and training workshops.

4 Implementation Arrangement, Monitoring and Grievance Redress Mechanism

4.1 Implementation Arrangement and Monitoring

Implementation by the BSIF PIU:

4.1.1 Steps: Project Identification/Planning

- 1) Screening for subprojects (for all individual, collective and Ministry-led activities) will include whether Indigenous Peoples are located in the project footprint.
- 2) If yes, an IP plan (IPP) should be prepared following the guidelines provided in this IPPF.
- 3) The BSIF PIU ensures that the IPP is in line with other CRESAP ESS documents, including the Resettlement Action Plans, Environmental and Social Management Plan, and Stakeholder Engagement Plan found here: <https://www.agriculture.gov.bz/climate-resilient-agriculture-project-cresap/>. The Ministry of Agriculture will work closely with other Ministries and institutions working with IPs, including the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Human Development, NICH, NGOs and development partners working with IPs, and IP representatives, to ensure plans are comprehensive.

4.1.2 Steps: Project Implementation

- 1) BSIF PIU ensures that the Social Assessment will be done by the MAFSE Environmental and Social Focal Point with the support of consultants for relevant project components.
- 2) The BSIF PIU and consultants will use primary and secondary resources to assess if and how the groups in the project area are impacted.
- 3) Continuous free, prior, and informed consultations with groups mentioned are key in order for the Ministry of Agriculture to draft IPPs for specific subcomponents. The consultations will be in accordance with the needs of IP groups, including language requirements, preferred times for meetings, process to engage and other considerations as outlined in the CRESAP Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
- 4) The IPP will be developed through a consultative and participatory process with full disclosure of information to potentially affected IP groups.

All consultations will follow methods outlined in the CRESAP Stakeholder Engagement Plan, which takes into account the Bank technical guidance on *“Public Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement in WB-supported operations when there are constraints on conducting public meetings, March 20, 2020.”* World Bank and national guidance on COVID 19 will be followed for all activities. Further details on ensuring free, prior and informed consultations can be found in Section 8.

4.1.3 Steps: Monitoring and Reporting

4.1.3.1 Monitoring

The objective of monitoring is to identify implementation problems and successes as early as possible so that the implementation arrangements can be 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 BSIF PIU will determine the most effective mechanism for the ongoing reporting and monitoring for IPPs. Such reporting is the responsibility of the MAFSE E&S Focal Point and and E&S specialist within the BSIF PIU, while monitoring and verification is the responsibility of the M&E Specialist within the BSIF PIU. Reporting and monitoring may also involve IPs, external consultants and NGOs with intimate knowledge of working with the IPs. The appropriateness of the mechanism will be determined through the wider consultations to ensure buy-in and effectiveness.

4.1.4 Source of data:

The Framework outlined below will be monitored using various sources of data:

- **Field Activity Reports:** District officers, E&S Specialist and other members of the BSIF PIU are required to document and report activities that involve engagement with IPs, including sessions and events. These reports should document data and time of events, purpose of the meetings, attendance of roles of attendees if applicable, summary of the meeting/event, points raised, and actions agreed upon.
- **Community Visits:** Monitoring visits by the M&E Specialist of the BSIF PIU should occur with a frequency of monthly during construction phase, and every two months post construction in accordance with the CRESAP SEP. These visits should record similar information to the field activity reports.
- **Consultant reports:** Technical consultants that support various aspects of the monitoring Framework are required to submit reports on their activities and consultations with IPs.

4.1.4.1 Reporting

The Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist of the BSIF PIU will be the overall officer responsible for monitoring of the IPPs and ensuring outcomes are being met. E&S Specialist in the PIU, responsible for Environmental, Social, Health and Safety compliance, will develop monthly reports and included in the progress reports to be submitted to the World Bank every six months. The monthly reports will be verified by the M&E Specialist.

Table 6 Monitoring Framework and Indicators

Objective	Indicators	Means of Verification	Responsible
Ensuring Free, Prior and Informed Consultation with communities			

Objective	Indicators	Means of Verification	Responsible
Communities are provided with relevant project information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of visits to the documents on the website • Number of consultation workshops held 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Website statistics • Field reports • Consultation reports 	BSIF PIU E&S Specialist in collaboration with the MAFSE E&S Focal Point
Cultural traditions and practices of communities are respected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time of community meetings • Leaders involved in organising meetings and in decision making • Respecting requirements of IPs including language of meetings held 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Field reports • Consultation reports • Attendance records • Evidence of communication between BSIF PIU and leadership 	BSIF PIU E&S Specialist in collaboration with the MAFSE E&S Focal Point
Consultations conducted in a gender-sensitive and inclusive manner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of women participants at meetings • Representation of vulnerable groups including those living with disabilities, living with HIV/AIDs, the impoverished, and others identified in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation reports • Attendance records 	BSIF PIU E&S Specialist in collaboration with the MAFSE E&S Focal Point
Social impacts are identified and mitigated			
Sub-projects are informed by the Social Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of the Social Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant reports • Social Assessment document 	BSIF PIU E&S Specialist in collaboration with the MAFSE E&S Focal Point
IPPs are prepared prior to the start of activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of IPPs prepared • Feedback received from communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IPP documents • Monitoring reports 	BSIF PIU E&S Specialist in collaboration with the MAFSE E&S Focal Point

Objective	Indicators	Means of Verification	Responsible
Staff and communities aware of and able to use the GRM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training meetings for staff on the GRM • Consultations on the GRM • Marketing material developed on the GRM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training report • Field reports • GRM documents 	BSIF PIU E&S Specialist in collaboration with the MAFSE E&S Focal Point

4.2 Grievance Redress Mechanism

4.2.1 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.

4.2.2 GRM Administration Process

Table 7 below shows the overall GRM roles and the process for handling complaints.

Table 7 Summary of design of the GRM

Step 1: Clear system to report grievances	Members of the public can inform the MAFSE 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: GRM Contact: Agriculture Department National Agriculture and Trade Show Grounds Hummingbird Highway City of Belmopan Telephone: 611-1753 Email: CRESAP.GRM@sifbelize.org
Step 2: Acknowledge	Within 48 hours, the GRM Contact will acknowledge its receipt in a correspondence to the complainant that outlines the grievance process, with timeframes, and provides contact details for the E&S Specialist at the BSIF PIU. The GRM Contact records the complaint in the GRM intake form.

Step 3: Follow up	The BSIF PIU E&S Specialist in collaboration with the MAFSE E&S Focal Point will formally respond and acknowledge the issue within 7 working days. Periodic updates will be provided to the complainant on the status of the grievance.
Step 4: Evaluate, Investigate and Take Action	The BSIF PIU E&S Specialist in collaboration with the MAFSE E&S Focal Point will resolve a grievance within 30 days of the original receipt date. If this is not possible, clear steps being taken to address the grievance will be communicated to the complainant.
Step 5: Grievances that cannot be solved within 30 days of receipt	Grievances that cannot be resolved by the GRM at the Project Management level will be referred by the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist to the Project Steering Committee for an update and guidance where required.
Step 6: Next steps if unsatisfied with project GRM	The complainant has the option of seeking redress through the national judicial system or the Office of the Ombudsman at their own cost and at any time.

Details of the GRM is elaborated on in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP).

5 Capacity Building

All BSIF PIU staff, including MAFSE District officers, will be trained on the following:

Topic	Objectives	Time/Frequency	Responsible
Training on screening project areas	Understanding how communities operate, best methods for consultations, additional resources required for consultations (see SEP)	Prior to commencement of implementation	BSIF PIU
Training on GM	Ensuring that project officers are fully aware of grievance redress procedures, especially in ensuring the seven outlined principles	Prior to commencement of implementation	BSIF PIU
Training on IPP	Provide an overview of the World Bank principles for developing Indigenous Peoples Plans, understand the key requirements that should be in an IPP and how they should be implemented, how to conduct	Prior to commencement of implementation	BSIF PIU

	consultations in line with the SEP, and how to monitor and report on IPPs		
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Separate training on IP issues and mitigation measures will be conducted separately for contractors prior to the commencement of project implementation.

6 Budget

	Items	Quantity	Rate (BZD)	Amount (BZD)
1	Preparing monitoring reports	42	\$100	\$4200
2	Data collection	42	\$200	\$4200
3	Preparing IPPs	3	\$15,000	\$15,000
4	Transport & Food	42	\$50	\$2100
	TOTAL (in BZD)			\$35,500
	TOTAL (in USD)			\$17,750

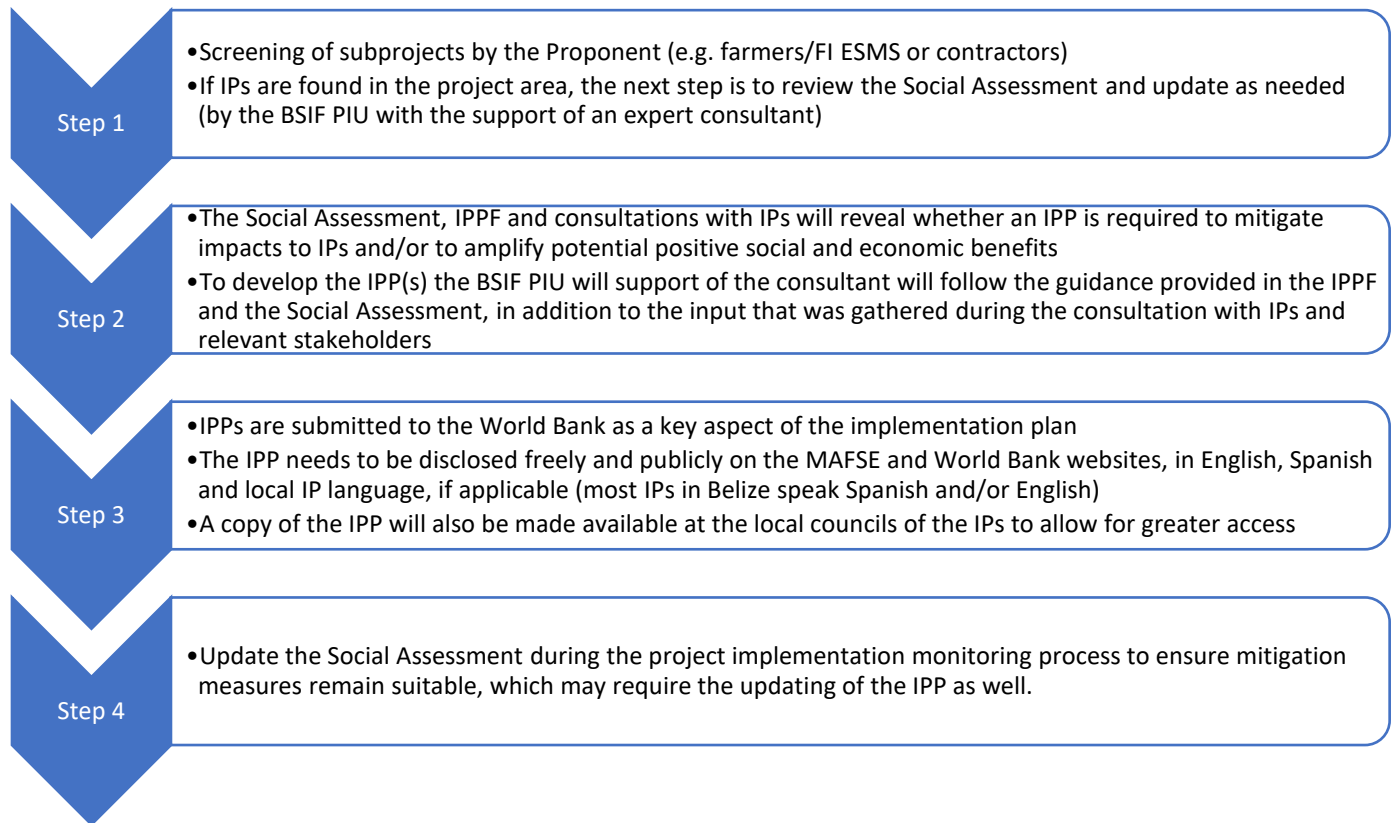
The financing for these items will be derived from the CRESAP project budget.

7 Indigenous Peoples Plan

Some IPs villages are identified in the project areas and described in the Social Assessment. The Social Assessment will inform the IPPs if one is developed. The main purpose of the Social Assessment is to understand the relative vulnerability of the affected IP and to describe how some IPs considered how the project activities may affect them.

The Social Assessment results will be considered in the IPPs that will be prepared for sub-projects.

Summary of the steps to Prepare an IPP during implementation



The Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) is informed and guided by this IPPF, Social Assessment and consultations, including free, prior, and informed consultation with the IPs when required (see consultation section below). It is intended to be flexible and pragmatic and should include the following elements:

- 1) A summary of the baseline information, including demographic, social, cultural and political characteristics gathered from the social assessment and applicable legal and institutional framework.
- 2) A summary of the overall Social Assessment.
- 3) A summary of the results of the free, prior and informed consultation with IP.
- 4) A framework for ensuring free, prior, and informed consultation tailored to IP during project implementation.
- 5) Measures for ensuring IP receive social and economic benefits that are culturally appropriate and gender sensitive and steps for implementing them. If necessary, this may call for measures to enhance the capacity of the project implementing agencies.
- 6) Measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate, or compensate IP for any potential adverse impacts that were identified in the social assessment, and steps for implementing them.
- 7) The cost estimates, financing plan, schedule, and roles and responsibilities for implementing the IPP.

- 8) Accessible procedures appropriate to the project to address grievances by the affected IP arising from project implementation (GRM).
- 9) Mechanisms and benchmarks appropriate to the project for monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on the implementation of the IP Plan, including ways to consider input from project-affected IP in such mechanisms.

To ensure that the plan is indeed pragmatic, it is imperative to gather the following key information:

- Demographic data
- Socio-economic data and inventory of affected assets, including cultural resources
- Household ownership of economic and productive assets to understand gender dynamics
- Annual income from all employment opportunities
- Economic information of the community, including economic and natural resources, institutions, livelihood systems, tenure systems, land ownership
- Social information of the community as it relates to value systems, formal and information organisations, hierarchy of community
- Potential impacts of activities on basic services, including water supply, clinics and schools
- Potential impacts of activities on social and economic livelihood

8 Framework for Meaningful Consultations

8.1 Consultation Principles

Consultations with IPs are critical throughout the sub-project design to implementation. Certain circumstances will require Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as detailed below. In these cases, an effective engagement process that is free, prior, and informed helps to promote effective design, ensure local buy-in and ownership, and reduces the risk of project-related delays or controversies. The definition of free, prior, and informed consultation is defined below:

- **Free:** consultation should be free of coercion, corruption, interference and external pressures. IPs should have the opportunity to participate regardless of gender, age or socio-economic class.
- **Prior:** the consultation should be during the design phase and prior to the execution of any sub-project activities that would impact them. Times of engagement should therefore be established in advance, including the dissemination of relevant material.
- **Informed:** Dissemination of information during consultations should be timely, sufficient and accessible, and should cover the potential impact of the project, both positive and adverse.

Circumstances requiring Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC):

1. Indigenous Peoples are particularly vulnerable to the loss of, alienation from or exploitation of their land and access to natural and cultural resources. In recognition of this vulnerability,

and following the requirements of ESS1, 7 and 10 of the World Bank's ESF, the Borrower will obtain the FPIC of the affected Indigenous Peoples in circumstances in which the project will:

(a) have adverse impacts on land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation.

(b) cause relocation of Indigenous Peoples from land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation; or

(c) have significant impacts on Indigenous Peoples' cultural heritage that is material to the identity and/or cultural, ceremonial, or spiritual aspects of the affected Indigenous Peoples' lives. In these circumstances, the Borrower will engage independent specialists to assist in the identification of the project risks and impacts.

2. There is no universally accepted definition of FPIC. Following the requirements of ESS7, FPIC is established as follows:

(a) The scope of FPIC applies to project design, implementation arrangements and expected outcomes related to risks and impacts on the affected Indigenous Peoples;

(b) FPIC builds on and expands the process of meaningful consultation described in the World Bank's ESS10 and will be established through good faith negotiation between the Borrower and affected Indigenous Peoples;

(c) The Borrower will document: (i) the mutually accepted process to carry out good faith negotiations that has been agreed by the Borrower and Indigenous Peoples; and (ii) the outcome of the good faith negotiations between the Borrower and Indigenous Peoples, including all agreements reached as well as dissenting views; and

(d) FPIC does not require unanimity and may be achieved even when individuals or groups within or among affected Indigenous Peoples explicitly disagree.

These definitions feed into the following key requirements for meaningful consultation with IPs in particular:

- IPs, including elders, chiefs and where appropriate other community members should be involved directly in the consultation, in a culturally appropriate and gender-inclusive manner regarding language, location and structure of the consultation.
- Sufficient time should be provided for IPs decision-making processes, as much as possible in accordance with existing customary institutions and decision-making processes.
- Ensure IPs can effectively participate in the design of activities or mitigation measures that could affect them, whether positively or negatively.
- Such consultation should continue on an on-going basis and regularly inform project design and mitigation actions.
- Where virtual sessions are entirely unsuitable for the specific group, representatives of these groups may attend on their behalf. Where representatives equally would be unable to access such consultations, small group in person meetings may be considered in accordance with local law around the number of persons and households that can meet and only if deemed necessary.

- Consultations on the IPPs should be conducted with IPs alone, and not with the wider set of potentially affected parties, other interested parties, and other vulnerable groups.

Other important factors that shape the engagement process include to ensure the following:

- Consultation should begin early and not simply be a forum for one-way communication from the project developers to the IPs.
- Ensure the prior disclosure and dissemination of relevant, transparent, objective, meaningful and easily accessible information at least two weeks in advance.
- Consultation should be free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation.
- All feedback and communication with IP should be documented and disclosed by the project's implementing party.
- IPs are given an additional five days after consultations to provide additional feedback and comments via the GRM.
- Consultations with IPs in regard to this IPPF and IPPs should be done separately from other identified stakeholders in the SEP.
- All consultations will follow methods outlined in the CRESAP Stakeholder Engagement Plan, which takes into account the World Bank technical guidance on "*Public Consultations and Stakeholder*."

Engagement in WB-supported operations when there are constraints on conducting public meetings, March 20, 2020." World Bank and national guidance on COVID 19 will be followed for all activities.

8.2 Consultation Protocol

8.2.1 Role of Local Leadership

Indigenous Peoples communities identified may have their own established systems of leadership. Therefore, those communities that have Alcaldes should be informed and engaged in addition to Village Councils. These leaders should be approached first and arrangement for meetings organised through them.

8.2.2 Role of MAFSE Field Officers

The MAFSE has a department of agriculture situated in each district. In each department, there are field officers that are responsible for engaging directly with farmers and farming communities. These officers play a key role in liaising with the relevant communities and ensuring the appropriate channels are used for notifying stakeholders and disseminating information. They can therefore be called upon to assist with planning and facilitating consultations.

8.2.3 Disseminating Information

As outlined in the CRESAP Stakeholder Engagement Plan, IPs must be provided with relevant information about the project activities in a culturally appropriate manner during the various

stages of the project. Key information to provide include details of the subproject activities, potential impacts (both positive and adverse), mitigation measures for impacts, role and participation of the IPs, and the project-level GRM.

8.2.4 Conducting Consultation Meetings

When a project activity has been proposed and impacts on IPs have been identified, a meeting with the IPs should be called. These consultations could be held separately or in clusters of affected communities represented by their village councils as well as community members.

In the case of impacts arising from activities financed through Financial Intermediaries, impacts on IPs will be identified during screening carried out by the PFI, and the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist and MAFSE E&S Focal Point will be invited to observe at any meeting the FIs holds with IPs and will provide guidance to the PFI where needed. The purpose of the first meeting is to provide information and gather feedback on potential areas of concern. The meeting will also discuss the information disseminated, around impact, mitigation measures, roles and participation of IPs, and the project-level GRM.

The following steps should be observed by the BSIF PIU or the PFIs when carrying out consultation meetings with IPs:

- 1) Identify IP leaders and notify MAFSE Field Officers of planned meeting.
- 2) Contact formal leaders and provide notice of the meeting to them. This notice should include the purpose of the meeting and the importance of their participation.
- 3) The notice of meeting and dissemination of relevant material will be made 2 weeks prior to the date of the meeting via channels identified in the CRESAP SEP.

*If community leaders are not notified of consultations, it can be interpreted as disrespectful and can derail the consultation process.

8.2.5 Appropriate Consultation Methods

IPs must be engaged in appropriate methods that allow them to fully absorb and engage on the information disseminated. One method to ensure this is using the appropriate language. In the project areas, Spanish is the predominant language spoken by most of the population. Presentations can be translated to indigenous languages by community members present and if the community members wish to express themselves in their preferred language.

Indigenous communities' value cultural practices and traditions are very important aspects of community life and their identities. It will be key, then, to ensure consultations do not coincide with important community gatherings and celebrations, as attendance to the consultation will not be prioritised.

8.2.6 Planning Meeting Logistics

The MAFSE Field Officers and Village Council Chairperson would be best placed to identify the appropriate times for meetings. Previous experience shows that meetings in the evenings and on weekends are when the communities would be more available to attend. As the consultations would take a virtual format, it is key to consider accessibility. If key community

members are unable to attend, the Village Council Chairperson and/or Alcalde could attend on the community's behalf or appoint a representative that will be able to relay back the information.

If regulations change and allow for gatherings in person, the venue must be suitable but neutral that is not associated with special interest groups/political parties. The community centre if available is usually a suitable location.

8.2.7 Gender considerations

Chairpersons and alcaldes are usually men, therefore limiting the likelihood that women will have similar levels of participation. Usually, men represent the entire family at these meetings, meaning that women are unlikely to attend. To ensure that they are able to participate, especially since there may be potential impacts that may impact women and their children, the following should be considered:

- 1) Hold meetings with the women to ensure their participation if they are not well represented at initial meetings.
- 2) Consider conducting phone surveys to reach women who were not able to attend.
- 3) Account for the care-giving role of women and offer additional support for childcare.
- 4) During the consultations, the role of women in the project implementation activities should be highlighted, and potential benefits to them.

8.3 Consultations during sub-project preparation

Key questions during pre-appraisal consultations should address the following questions and objectives:

- 1) What is the best way to reach IPs to ensure free, prior and informed consultations?
- 2) Does the proposed GRM seem accessible?
- 3) How should potential impacts relating to land tenure and IPs be addressed?
- 4) Agreements on process for project to be modified to address adverse effects on IPs and ensure they benefit.
- 5) Are they satisfied with the proposed level of engagement at the various project stages?
- 6) Are IPs satisfied with the project design?

8.4 Consultation during sub-project implementation

Key questions for consultations during project implementation should address the following questions and objectives:

- 1) Have IPs been able to access consultations?
- 2) Has the GRM been useful and accessible?
- 3) Have impacts relating to land tenure and IPs been addressed in the outlined timeframe?
- 4) Have all steps been taken to address adverse effects on IPs?
- 5) Have IPs benefited from the project activities?
- 6) Are they satisfied with the level of engagement at the various project stages?
- 7) Do IPs have feedback on the overall project rollout?

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/>. This disclosure was to support the first round of consultations on the ESF documents.

9 Annex

9.1 Annex 1 – GRM

Grievance #:	.
Date:	.
Recorded by:	..
Means of recording (check one):	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone Line <input type="checkbox"/> Village Chairperson <input type="checkbox"/> Community Information Meetings <input type="checkbox"/> Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Informal <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain)
Name of complainant (optional)	..
Address:	.
Telephone:	
Signature:	..
Nature of grievance:	.
Eligibility of Complaint:	<input type="checkbox"/> Eligible (Proceed to Prioritize) <input type="checkbox"/> Ineligible (Terminate Reporting and inform complainant of reason for rejection). Reason for rejecting complaint:
Priority	<input type="checkbox"/> Low <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> High
Proposed solution:	
Steps taken:	.
Status of response (to be updated monthly):	<input type="checkbox"/> Open <input type="checkbox"/> Action in Progress <input type="checkbox"/> Closed