



**FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA**

**AGRO-CLIMATIC RESILIENCE IN SEMI-ARID LANDSCAPES**

**(P175237)**

**STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (SEP)**

**Draft Report**

**August 2026**

**Updated Version for Additional Financing**

**23/09/2026**

## Table of Contents

|                                                                                                           |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Table of Contents</b> .....                                                                            | <b>i</b>  |
| <b>List of Pictures</b> .....                                                                             | <b>i</b>  |
| <b>List of Tables</b> .....                                                                               | <b>i</b>  |
| <b>Executive Summary</b> .....                                                                            | <b>i</b>  |
| <b>ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS</b> .....                                                                   | <b>iv</b> |
| <b>CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION</b> .....                                              | <b>1</b>  |
| 1.1 Introduction.....                                                                                     | 1         |
| 1.2 Project Development Objective(s):.....                                                                | 1         |
| 1.3 Project Components .....                                                                              | 2         |
| 1.4 Justification for Preparing an SEP .....                                                              | 4         |
| 1.5 Expected Output.....                                                                                  | 5         |
| 1.6 Methodology .....                                                                                     | 5         |
| 1.7 Previous Stakeholders Engagement.....                                                                 | 6         |
| <b>CHAPTER 2: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REGULATORY FRAMEWORK</b> .....                                       | <b>8</b>  |
| 2.1 Introduction.....                                                                                     | 8         |
| 2.2 National Legal Provisions for Citizen Engagement.....                                                 | 8         |
| 2.2.1 <i>Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN) 1999 (as amended)</i> .....               | 8         |
| 2.2.2 <i>The Freedom of Information Act</i> .....                                                         | 8         |
| 2.2.3 <i>Environmental Impact Assessment Act</i> .....                                                    | 9         |
| 2.2.4 <i>Urban and Regional Planning Act, Cap N138, 2004</i> .....                                        | 9         |
| 2.3 World Bank Environmental and Social Standard on Stakeholder Engagement.....                           | 9         |
| <b>CHAPTER 3: STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS</b> .....                                           | <b>11</b> |
| 3.1 Introduction.....                                                                                     | 11        |
| 3.2 Categorization of Stakeholders.....                                                                   | 11        |
| 3.2.1 <i>Affected Parties</i> .....                                                                       | 11        |
| 3.2.2 <i>Disadvantaged/Vulnerable Individuals or Groups</i> .....                                         | 12        |
| 3.2.3 <i>Interested Parties</i> .....                                                                     | 12        |
| 3.3 Stakeholder Mapping/Analysis.....                                                                     | 13        |
| 3.4 Stakeholder Analysis .....                                                                            | 17        |
| <b>CHAPTER 4: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM</b> .....                                                    | <b>19</b> |
| 4.1 Purpose and Timing of Stakeholder Engagement Program.....                                             | 19        |
| 4.1.1 <i>Expected Outcome / Purpose of the Engagement Process</i> .....                                   | 19        |
| 4.1.2 <i>Management of Stakeholder Participation and Expectations</i> .....                               | 20        |
| 4.2 Proposed Strategy for Consultation.....                                                               | 20        |
| 4.3 Proposed Strategy to Incorporate Views of Vulnerable Groups.....                                      | 32        |
| 4.4 Proposed Strategy for Information Disclosure .....                                                    | 32        |
| 4.4.1 <i>Timelines</i> .....                                                                              | 34        |
| 4.4.2 <i>Feedback</i> .....                                                                               | 35        |
| 4.5 Future Phases of Project .....                                                                        | 35        |
| 4.6 Capacity Building and Training for Stakeholder Engagement.....                                        | 35        |
| <b>CHAPTER 5: RESOURCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES</b> ..... | <b>37</b> |
| 5.1 Resources .....                                                                                       | 37        |
| 5.2 Management Functions and Responsibilities.....                                                        | 37        |
| 5.3 Estimated Costing .....                                                                               | 38        |
| <b>CHAPTER 6: GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM</b> .....                                                       | <b>40</b> |
| 6.1 Objectives of Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM).....                                                  | 40        |
| 6.2 Potential Issues that may Necessitate GRM.....                                                        | 40        |
| 6.3 Informing Parties on Levels and Channels of Grievance Uptake .....                                    | 41        |

|                                                                                                                                           |           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 6.4 Setting up a Grievance Redress Mechanism .....                                                                                        | 41        |
| 6.5 Membership of the Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) .....                                                                             | 41        |
| 6.6 Expectation When Grievances Arise .....                                                                                               | 42        |
| 6.7 Grievance Redress Process.....                                                                                                        | 42        |
| 6.8 Financing of the Grievance Redress Mechanism and Cost of Remediation .....                                                            | 44        |
| 6.9 World Bank Grievance Redress Service (GRS) .....                                                                                      | 46        |
| <b>CHAPTER 7: MONITORING AND REPORTING.....</b>                                                                                           | <b>47</b> |
| 7.1 Monitoring .....                                                                                                                      | 47        |
| 7.1.1 Review of Engagement Activities in the Field .....                                                                                  | 47        |
| 7.1.2 Reporting Stakeholder Engagement Activities .....                                                                                   | 47        |
| <b>Annex 1: Public Consultation Summary .....</b>                                                                                         | <b>49</b> |
| Annex 2: Public Consultation Template used as Discussion Guide during Stakeholder Engagement Exercise in the Development of This SEP..... | 58        |
| <b>Annex 3: Consultation Photos .....</b>                                                                                                 | <b>62</b> |
| <b>Annex 4: Grievance Redress Form .....</b>                                                                                              | <b>65</b> |
| <b>Annex 5: A SAMPLE GRIEVANCE LOG.....</b>                                                                                               | <b>67</b> |

## LIST OF TABLES

|                                                                     |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Table 3.1 Stakeholder Mapping.....                                  | 13 |
| Table 3.2 Showing Stakeholder Analysis.....                         | 17 |
| Table 4.1 Consultation Methods.....                                 | 21 |
| Table 4.2: Stakeholder Engagement Action Plan.....                  | 23 |
| Table 4.3 Showing method of consultation of vulnerable persons..... | 31 |
| Table 4.4 Information Disclosure Strategy.....                      | 32 |
| Table 4.5 Disclosure Timeline.....                                  | 34 |
| Table 4.6: Capacity Building Plan.....                              | 35 |
| Table 5.1 Implementation Arrangement.....                           | 37 |
| Table 5.2: Breakdown of SEP implementation Budget.....              | 39 |
| Table 6.1: Implementation Plan for Grievance Mechanism.....         | 45 |

## **ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

|                 |                                                         |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>ACReSAL</b>  | Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes        |
| <b>AF</b>       | Additional Financing                                    |
| <b>CBO</b>      | Community-Based Organization                            |
| <b>CERC</b>     | Contingency Emergency Response Component                |
| <b>CFRN</b>     | Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria         |
| <b>CIG</b>      | Community Interest Group                                |
| <b>CLAP</b>     | Community Livelihood Action Plan                        |
| <b>COVID-19</b> | Coronavirus Disease 2019                                |
| <b>CRF</b>      | Community Revolving Fund                                |
| <b>CSA</b>      | Climate-Smart Agriculture                               |
| <b>CSO</b>      | Civil Society Organization                              |
| <b>CSR</b>      | Corporate Social Responsibility                         |
| <b>E&amp;S</b>  | Environmental and Social                                |
| <b>EIA</b>      | Environmental Impact Assessment                         |
| <b>ESA</b>      | Environmental and Social Assessment                     |
| <b>ESCP</b>     | Environmental and Social Commitment Plan                |
| <b>ESF</b>      | Environmental and Social Framework                      |
| <b>ESIA</b>     | Environmental and Social Impact Assessment              |
| <b>ESMP</b>     | Environmental and Social Management Plan                |
| <b>ESRC</b>     | Environmental and Social Risk Classification            |
| <b>ESS</b>      | Environmental and Social Standard                       |
| <b>EWER</b>     | Early Warning and Early Response                        |
| <b>FAO</b>      | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations |
| <b>FGD</b>      | Focus Group Discussion                                  |
| <b>FGN</b>      | Federal Government of Nigeria                           |
| <b>FMAFS</b>    | Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security       |
| <b>FMARD</b>    | Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development   |
| <b>FME</b>      | Federal Ministry of Environment                         |
| <b>FMWRS</b>    | Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation      |
| <b>FoNGO</b>    | Focal Non-Governmental Organization                     |
| <b>FPMU</b>     | Federal Project Management Unit                         |
| <b>GBV</b>      | Gender-Based Violence                                   |
| <b>GIS</b>      | Geographic Information System                           |
| <b>GRC</b>      | Grievance Redress Committee                             |
| <b>GRM</b>      | Grievance Redress Mechanism                             |
| <b>GRS</b>      | Grievance Redress Service                               |

|                 |                                                 |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>IDA</b>      | International Development Association           |
| <b>IDP</b>      | Internally Displaced Person                     |
| <b>IEC</b>      | Information, Education and Communication        |
| <b>IPF</b>      | Investment Project Financing                    |
| <b>LG</b>       | Local Government                                |
| <b>LMP</b>      | Labour Management Procedures                    |
| <b>LRP</b>      | Livelihood Restoration Plan                     |
| <b>M&amp;E</b>  | Monitoring and Evaluation                       |
| <b>MDA</b>      | Ministries, Departments and Agencies            |
| <b>NCDC</b>     | Nigeria Centre for Disease Control              |
| <b>NEDC</b>     | North-East Development Commission               |
| <b>NGO</b>      | Non-Governmental Organization                   |
| <b>NTA</b>      | Nigerian Television Authority                   |
| <b>NUC</b>      | National Universities Commission                |
| <b>PAP</b>      | Project-Affected Person                         |
| <b>PC</b>       | Project Coordinator                             |
| <b>PDO</b>      | Project Development Objective                   |
| <b>PES</b>      | Payment for Ecosystem Services                  |
| <b>PIU</b>      | Project Implementation Unit                     |
| <b>PMU</b>      | Project Management Unit                         |
| <b>RAP</b>      | Resettlement Action Plan                        |
| <b>RPF</b>      | Resettlement Policy Framework                   |
| <b>SCMP</b>     | Strategic Catchment Management Plan             |
| <b>SEA</b>      | Sexual Exploitation and Abuse                   |
| <b>SEA/SH</b>   | Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment |
| <b>SEP</b>      | Stakeholder Engagement Plan                     |
| <b>SERVICOM</b> | Service Compact with All Nigerians              |
| <b>SPMU</b>     | State Project Management Unit                   |
| <b>WB</b>       | World Bank                                      |

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **ES 1: Project Description**

The Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes Project (ACReSAL) is being implemented by the Federal Government of Nigeria to increase the implementation of sustainable landscape management practices in targeted watersheds in northern Nigeria and strengthen Nigeria's long-term enabling environment for integrated climate-resilient landscape management. The parent Project was approved with an original IDA allocation of US\$700 million. The proposed first Additional Financing of US\$300 million will increase total project financing to US\$1 billion and extend the closing date to December 13, 2031. The AF will scale up successful interventions under the parent Project; support implementation of priority investments identified through the Strategic Catchment Management Plans; expand landscape restoration, climate-smart agriculture, community resilience, sustainable livelihoods and financial inclusion; and strengthen governance, knowledge, monitoring and coordination systems for integrated landscape management. The Project is implemented across the 19 northern states and the Federal Capital Territory through the Federal Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. Stakeholder engagement will remain integral to investment prioritization, implementation, risk management, monitoring and sustainability.

### **ES 2: Project Component**

The ACReSAL project is structured around four components.

Under the proposed Additional Financing, the four-component structure remains unchanged. Component A: Dryland Management will scale up SCMP-guided landscape restoration, watershed rehabilitation, flood and erosion control, irrigation and drainage, water harvesting and storage, biodiversity conservation, protected-area management and nature-based solutions. Component B: Community Climate Resilience will expand climate-smart agriculture, agricultural extension and advisory services, digital agricultural extension, community-led restoration, Community Revolving Funds, livelihood support, financial inclusion, market linkages, women's and youth participation, and conflict-sensitive natural resource management. Component C: Institutional Strengthening and Project Management will strengthen national and state landscape governance, stakeholder coordination, geospatial and knowledge systems, monitoring and independent verification, institutional reforms, transition arrangements and sustainable financing. Component D: Contingent Emergency Response will remain available for eligible emergency response if activated.

### **ES 3: Previous Engagement since Project Inception**

Previous efforts to engage with stakeholders for the ACReSAL project have been ongoing, and comprise of public consultations at the Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA) level, and among informal stakeholders in host communities in States in April 2026 where the parent project is currently being implemented. During the SEP preparation stage, sub-project host communities had not been identified by the project. This is because the Stakeholder plan as it is now, is generic because it is a framework guiding implementation of ACReSAL in all the 19 participating states. At this level, the sites to be implemented and actual stakeholders have not been known in sufficient details. At this point, the SEP is helpful in providing guidance and procedures to all participating states expected to domesticate the SEP in their various States. Now after the States has identified sites and Stakeholders, each state is expected to populate information that is specific and peculiar to their states based on their various situations. It is at that point that specific information that is lacking in the SEP will be supplied and updated by the SPMU.

Since project effectiveness, stakeholder engagement has evolved from general awareness and preparatory consultations to implementation-focused engagement with federal and state institutions, local governments, communities, Community Interest Groups, producer organizations, farmers, pastoralists, water users, women and youth groups, persons with disabilities, traditional and religious institutions, civil society organizations, private-sector actors, contractors, workers and project-affected persons. Under the AF, engagement will be expanded around SCMP investment prioritization and Priority Spatial Investment Zones; site selection and design; land access, restrictions on land use and resettlement; civil works, dam safety, labor and occupational and community health and safety; biodiversity and protected-area management; climate-smart agriculture and digital extension; Community Revolving Fund governance and repayment; conflict-sensitive natural resource management and Early Warning and Early Response; security risks; GBV/SEA/SH prevention and survivor-centered referral pathways; and grievance redress. State-level and site-specific SEPs will be updated before relevant activities commence and whenever project design, risks, stakeholders or implementation arrangements materially change.

More specifically, stakeholders consulted comprised of the state PIUs, Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security and the Ministry of Environment, 19 states Project Implementing Units (PIUs), Departments and Agencies, NGOs, Traditional Leaders, Faith-based / religious leaders and North-East Development Commission etc.

#### **ES 4: Justification for Preparing an SEP**

Within the context of ESF, SEP is an important tool for opening and maintaining transparent engagement between the MDA and project stakeholders. The SEP is key to providing effective stakeholder engagement that can improve the environmental and social sustainability of ACRoSAL, enhance its acceptance, and significantly contribute to successful design and implementation.

This Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) covers the entire range of the ACRoSAL project components. The SEP is expedient to the effective implementation of the project as it ensures that the views of all stakeholders are represented in the implementation of the project. Through implementation of SEP, disadvantaged and vulnerable groups which include elderly people above the age of 65, female headed households (widows), persons with disabilities, people living in extreme poverty, IDPS and orphans are all catered for through effective and inclusive consultation. This SEP will be helpful as providing guidelines and procedures for stakeholders' engagement in the preparation and implementation of other safeguard documents, and during the implementation of sub-project components. More importantly, the SEP is to allow participation of both affected and interested stakeholders to ensure that the project design, particularly stakeholder engagement approaches and activities, are implemented in a participatory and inclusive manner.

#### **ES 5: Methodology**

In updating this SEP, both field / implementation experience of the parent project and literature review approaches were applied. A detailed desk research / review was conducted on Stakeholder Engagement needs, principles and capacity, existing stakeholders' engagement and communication methods in the existing PIUs whose structure will be adopted for ACRoSAL. Key informant interviews, focused group discussions and public consultations were carried out during the April 2026 engagement within the natural domains of stakeholders to hear from them to identify their needs and secure their suggestions on how these needs can be fulfilled, with a follow up consultation held on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> September 2026.

#### **ES 6: Stakeholders Identification and Analysis**

Details are contained in Chapter 3 Sub 3 of this work. Identified Stakeholders were classified into three groups namely:

1. Influential Parties: MDAs, Traditional leaders and NGOs/CSOs

2. Affected / Interested parties: Host Communities, Community members, Crop farmers, Livestock farmers including herders, Farmers associations, water users' associations, Women farmer Groups, Community Associations and Interest Groups, Academics/Think Tanks, Media
3. Disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals or groups: Elderly people above the age of 65, female headed Households (widows), Persons with disabilities, People living in extreme poverty, IDPs and orphans.

Impact of Stakeholders on the project was assessed as shown in the table below:

| NO | Stakeholders                                                                                                              | Influence | Nature of relationship with Project                 | Interest |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1  | Office of the State Governor                                                                                              | High      | Influencers                                         | High     |
| 2  | Ministry of Finance                                                                                                       | High      | Implementation                                      | High     |
| 3  | Ministry of Environment                                                                                                   | High      | Implementation                                      | High     |
| 4  | Ministry of Agriculture                                                                                                   | High      | Implementation                                      | High     |
| 5  | Ministry of Water Resources                                                                                               | High      | Implementation                                      | High     |
| 6  | Ministry of Information                                                                                                   | High      | Implementation/Awareness                            | High     |
| 7  | Ministry of Local Government Affairs                                                                                      | High      | Access Support                                      | High     |
| 8  | Ministry of Women Affairs                                                                                                 | High      | Support                                             | High     |
| 9  | Community Based NGOs                                                                                                      | Medium    | Community Engagement, Transparency, Accountability. | High     |
| 10 | Traditional Leaders/Faith Based Leaders                                                                                   | High      | Community Engagement, Transparency, Accountability. | High     |
| 11 | Ministry of Works                                                                                                         | High      | Support                                             | High     |
| 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host Communities</li> <li>• Community members</li> <li>• Crop farmers</li> </ul> | Low       | Directly impacted                                   | High     |
| NO | Stakeholders                                                                                                              | Influence | Nature of relationship with Project                 | Interest |

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |        |                   |      |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------|------|
|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Livestock Farmers</li> <li>• Herders</li> <li>• Farmers associations</li> <li>• Women Farmer Groups</li> <li>• Water Users association</li> <li>• Community Associations and Interest Groups</li> </ul> |        |                   |      |
| 13 | Vulnerable / Disadvantaged Groups                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Low    | Directly impacted | High |
| 14 | Ministry of Education/Nigerian University Commission                                                                                                                                                                                             | High   | Support           | High |
| 15 | North-East Development Commission                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Medium | Support           | High |

#### **ES 7: Stakeholder Engagement programme**

The nature, scope and frequency of stakeholder engagement with each group of identified stakeholders will be affected by the following factors:

For the Additional Financing, stakeholder engagement will place particular emphasis on: (i) transparent prioritization and sequencing of SCMP-guided investments and Priority Spatial Investment Zones; (ii) participatory preparation and implementation of integrated micro-watershed plans; (iii) community-led restoration, protected-area management, climate-smart agriculture, irrigation, digital advisory services and livelihood activities; (iv) Community Revolving Fund eligibility, governance, financial literacy, repayment, market linkages and grievance channels; (v) engagement with farmers, pastoralists and other resource users through conflict-sensitive processes and Early Warning and Early Response mechanisms; (vi) land acquisition, restrictions on land use, compensation and livelihood restoration where applicable;

(vii) civil works, dam safety, labor, security, occupational and community health and safety; (viii) GBV/SEA/SH prevention, confidential reporting and survivor-centered referrals; and (ix) disclosure and consultation on updated and site-specific environmental and social instruments Engagement methods to be adopted are as follows:

| <b>Consultation Methods</b>                    | <b>Targeted Stakeholders</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Public Consultations                           | Every Stakeholder, especially communities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Focus group discussions (FGDs)                 | Women group, youth group, disabled, MDAs, Traditional/Faith based Leaders. Focus group discussion is helpful in ensuring that stakeholders, whether majority or minority groups are fairly engaged, and provided the opportunity to independently and freely state their concerns and contributions to the proposed project plan. |
| Face to face meetings and workshops            | Government Ministries and Departments, NGOs, Traditional rulers,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Correspondences (Radio Jingles, Phone, Emails) | Every Stakeholder                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

|                                                                                                                                                |                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Religious meetings, village meetings, through traditional leaders, Associations                                                                | Community members and farmers, Herders |
| Project Websites                                                                                                                               | Every Stakeholder with internet access |
| Advocacy and sensitization through the use of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials including banners, signposts and flyers | Every Stakeholder                      |
| Virtual meetings                                                                                                                               | MDAs (Formal Stakeholders)             |

**Table Showing method of consultation of vulnerable persons**

| Category of Vulnerable Person            | Method of Consultation and Consideration                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Elderly                                  | Recognize their organization and leadership, Focus Group meetings, Assisted transport to meetings                                                                                                                                       |
| Female headed households (widows)/ Women | Recognize and respect cultural norms. Additional separate Focus Group meetings should be held for women. Where women are in seclusion, female consultants and specialists may be assigned to consult with them in the designated areas. |
| Orphans                                  | Additional Focus Group meetings Assisted Transport to meetings                                                                                                                                                                          |

The stakeholder engagement process as contained in Table 4.2 in the body of the work clearly indicates: a) the project stage at which the engagement should take place, b) the objective of the engagement, c) key activities to be undertaken at each project's stage, d) the target stakeholder (s) to be engaged, e) the platform of the engagement, f) the frequency and location of the engagement and, g) Key duty bearer. Where possible, stakeholder engagement plan for the project shall utilize already existing engagement structures within the national system - such as the communal meeting.

#### **ES 8: Information Disclosure**

Documents disclosed shall be in English language and will be released for public review as provided for in Section 4.4 of this report. Translation of the executive summaries in relevant local languages will be made available in the

designated community centers. This is to ensure that language barriers do not create communication breach thereby failing to carry all stakeholders along. Other communication with stakeholders especially in the rural communities including radio jingles, leaflets, pictograms and brochures will be in English and translated in the local language obtainable and accessible in the relevant communities.

#### Project Information disclosure process

| Stakeholders                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Project Information Shared                                                   | Means of communication/<br>disclosure                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Disclosure under the AF will include updated versions of the SEP and ESCP prior to effectiveness, and subsequent disclosure of site-specific instruments as required. Information will be disclosed through federal and state project websites, state and local government offices, community notice boards, radio programs, town hall meetings, traditional and religious institutions, women and youth platforms, CIG meetings, contractor/community interface meetings, electronic grievance platforms, and other accessible channels. Disclosure materials will clearly explain project scope, eligibility criteria, expected benefits, potential risks and impacts, mitigation measures, GRM channels, SEA/SH confidential reporting pathways, and the role of the World Bank Grievance Redress Service and Accountability Mechanism.</p> |                                                                              |                                                                                                                    |
| MDAs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>☑ ESF Documents including ESIA, ESMP, RPF, RAP SEP and other relevant</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissemination of hard copies</li> <li>• Project status reports</li> </ul> |

|      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|      | <p>☐ documents;<br/>Regular updates on Project development; including proposed design / livelihood enhancement and support programmes /community. empowerment program</p> <p>☐ Additional types of Project's information if required for the purposes of regulation and permitting.</p>                                                                                                                                                                          | <p>☐ Meetings and round tables. Virtual Meeting online, webinar</p> <p>☐ Project website</p> <p>☐</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| NGOs | <p>☐ ESF Documents including ESIA, ESMP, RPF, RAP SEP and other relevant documents; Public Grievance Procedure;</p> <p>☐ The duration of proposed project activities;</p> <p>☐ The proposed stakeholder engagement</p> <p>☐ process highlighting the ways in which stakeholders can participate; GRM in place</p> <p>☐ Regular updates on Project development including proposed design / livelihood enhancement and support programmes /community.</p> <p>☐</p> | <p>☐ Electronic publications and press releases on the Project website.</p> <p>☐ Dissemination of hard copies at designated public locations.</p> <p>☐ Press releases in the local media (Radio Jingles).</p> <p>☐ Consultation meetings – village meetings/ Association meetings. Information leaflets and brochures. Virtual Meeting</p> <p>☐</p> |

|                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Other affected / interested persons | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ ESF Documents including ESIA, ESMP, RPF, RAP SEP and other relevant documents;</li> <li>☐ Public Grievance Procedure;</li> <li>☐ The duration of proposed project activities;</li> <li>☐ The proposed stakeholder engagement process highlighting the ways in which stakeholders can participate;</li> <li>☐ GRM in place</li> <li>☐ Regular updates on Project</li> <li>☐</li> <li>☐</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ Electronic publications and press releases on the Project website.</li> <li>☐ Dissemination of hard copies at designated public locations.</li> <li>☐ Press releases in the local media (Radio Jingles).</li> <li>☐ Consultation meetings – village meetings/ Association meetings.</li> <li>☐ Information leaflets,</li> </ul> |
|                                     | development including proposed design / livelihood /community                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p>pictograms and brochures which shall be translated to the local language obtainable in the localities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ Separate focus group meetings with vulnerable groups, during Stakeholder Consultations.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                |

#### ES 9: Resources and Responsibilities for Implementing Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Implementation of the SEP will build on the established ACRESA arrangements at federal and state levels. Overall coordination will remain with the Federal Project Management Unit under the Federal Ministry of Environment, working with the Federal Ministry of Water Resources and Sanitation and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. State Project Management Units will lead state-level disclosure, consultation, grievance management, documentation and reporting in collaboration with relevant MDAs, local governments, community institutions, traditional and religious leaders, women and youth groups, organizations of persons with disabilities, civil society organizations, private-sector partners, contractors and other stakeholders. Under the AF, each FPMU and SPMU focal team will maintain an updated stakeholder register and engagement plan; document participants, issues raised, commitments and feedback; coordinate engagement for SCMP investments, CRF implementation, EWER, security risk management, GBV/SEA/SH mitigation, RAP implementation and civil works; and report implementation performance semi-annually. The SEP budget will be reviewed and updated to reflect inflation, expanded consultation needs, translation and accessibility, electronic grievance reporting, community monitoring and engagement through December 13, 2031.

#### ES 10: Grievance Redress Mechanism

The Project will maintain culturally appropriate, accessible and multiple grievance uptake channels, including written and oral submissions, suggestion boxes, telephone lines, email, community and site focal persons, contractor grievance points, SERVICOM and electronic reporting channels where available. Under the AF, the GRM will continue

to operate at community/site, state and federal levels, with clear referral and escalation arrangements, anonymous complaint options, systematic registration and tracking, acknowledgment and resolution within the service standards established in the Project Implementation Manual, and regular reporting that protects personal data. SEA/SH complaints will be managed through separate confidential, survivor-centered procedures, trained focal persons and service-provider referral pathways, without requiring survivors to submit details through general grievance committees. Complaints relating to land access, compensation, labor and working conditions, community health and safety, security, CRF governance, benefit sharing or natural resource use will be referred to the appropriate technical mechanism while remaining tracked in the GRM. Resource-use tensions may also be linked to Early Warning and Early Response and local conflict-management structures, provided access to the project GRM is not restricted. Complainants may use alternative dispute resolution or independent mediation where appropriate and retain the right to seek judicial remedy. Information on the World Bank Grievance Redress Service and Accountability Mechanism will be disclosed with project-level grievance channels.

### **ES 11: Monitoring and Reporting**

The SEP will be reviewed and updated throughout implementation to reflect newly identified stakeholders and material changes to project activities, locations, schedules, risks, impacts or grievance arrangements. AF monitoring will track: disclosure of updated and site-specific environmental and social instruments; number, location and type of engagement activities; participation disaggregated by sex, age and vulnerability where feasible; accessibility measures used; issues raised and commitments closed; evidence that feedback informed project decisions; engagement on SCMP investments, micro-watershed plans, CRF, climate-smart agriculture, protected areas, EWER, security, resettlement and civil works; grievances received, resolved and pending within service standards; functioning of confidential SEA/SH referral pathways; and feedback provided to communities. SPMUs will report quarterly to the FPMU, and the FPMU will consolidate stakeholder engagement and grievance performance for semi-annual project reporting and implementation support reviews through December 13, 2031.

## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### 1.1 Introduction

The Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes project is embarked on by the FGN to build community resilience as well as improve the sustainable productivity of its natural resources in the northern part of Nigeria. The project will address some of the critical challenges in Northern Nigeria. The region is characterized by high poverty rates, low literacy, an environment of fragility, conflict, and violence, degradation of natural resources, poor agricultural productivity, climate risks, desertification, poor penetration of modern technology, and weak institutional capacity through support of activities to develop multi-sectoral approaches for desertification control and landscape management, improve community livelihoods and resilience, and strengthen institutions in northern Nigeria.

The proposed project will include comprehensive community awareness programs, social mobilization, group formation, and communication as part of project preparation and implementation. Catchment planning and implementation of small works will be highly participatory, drawing on best practices from successful operations in different regions. Gender is a primary focus of the proposed project, with livelihood development targeted mainly at women and other vulnerable groups as identified in social assessments undertaken in participating communities. In particular, the project will support activities to develop multi-sectoral approaches for desertification control and landscape management, improve community livelihoods and resilience, and strengthen institutions.

### 1.2 Project Development Objective(s):

The Project Development Objective is to increase the implementation of sustainable landscape management practices in targeted watersheds in northern Nigeria and strengthen Nigeria's long-term enabling environment for integrated climate-resilient landscape management. This SEP supports the PDO by ensuring that stakeholders are regularly informed and meaningfully consulted on the scaled-up investments under the Additional Financing, including SCMP-guided restoration, watershed rehabilitation, climate-smart agriculture, Community Revolving Fund expansion, livelihood support, EWER mechanisms, grievance redress, and strengthened institutional coordination. Specific Objectives of the SEP are as follows:

1. To develop the procedure for effective stakeholder engagements throughout the Project's lifecycle;
2. To identify and map the key stakeholder groups; and
3. To identify resources needed and timeframe to achieve effective participation in each stage of the process and describe the stakeholder engagement process.
4. To establish a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement that will help Borrowers identify stakeholders and build and maintain a constructive relationship with them, in particular project affected parties.
5. To assess the level of stakeholder interest and support for the project and to enable stakeholders' views to be taken into account in project design and environmental and social performance.
6. To promote and provide means for effective and inclusive engagement with project affected parties throughout the project life cycle on issues that could potentially affect them.
7. To ensure that appropriate project information on environmental and social risks and impacts is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible, and appropriate manner and format.
8. To provide project-affected parties with accessible and inclusive means to raise issues and grievances and allow Borrowers to respond to and manage such grievances.

### 1.3 Project Components

The project is structured around four components described as follows:

**Component A. Dryland Management.** Dryland Management will scale up SCMP-guided landscape restoration, watershed rehabilitation, flood and erosion control, irrigation and drainage, water harvesting and storage, biodiversity conservation, protected-area management and nature-based solutions.

**A1. Strategic Watershed Management:** This subcomponent will support large-scale integrated watershed management planning. Plans will be prepared for up to 20 watersheds, covering all of northern Nigeria. Rapid initial versions will be prepared in less than a year, with refined updates to be prepared throughout the project lifetime. The planning will be carried out using analytical approaches and through development of a modern knowledge base (including collation of existing data from in-situ and earth observation and biophysical surveys). Extensive participatory stakeholder consultations will be fundamental. The multisectoral planning process will prioritize project investments, expected to include those related to information, institutions, and those required for desertification control, sustainable land and water management in drylands, and improved natural resource-based livelihoods. The strategic watershed plans will also provide a framework and guidance to the micro-watershed-level planning in Component B and will be a foundation for the longer-term dryland management framework of Nigeria supported under Subcomponent C1.

**A2. Landscape Infrastructure:** This subcomponent will support large landscape-level investments, as prioritized in the strategic watershed plans. These may include those related to water resources management (e.g., surface and groundwater storage, managed aquifer recharge, riverbank restoration, gully rehabilitation, and irrigation), to nature-based solutions for environmental management (e.g., stabilization of sand dunes, vegetation management, reforestation), and to agriculture investments at large scale.

**A3. Special Ecosystems:** Investments under this subcomponent will support better management and conservation of special ecosystems in all participating states, including wetlands, desert oases, and protected areas. Investments could include those related to wetland improvements, monitoring systems, inventories of the current status of these ecosystems, stabilization and restoration of wetlands, forest reserves and oases. Traditional uses of wetlands and oases have been impacted by overuse of water for agriculture and other uses. The project will support investments for community work in restoration activities (e.g., including women and youth participation in restoration action plans such as tree planting), creation of demonstration gardens, knowledge sharing of traditional uses of wetlands and oases, and pest management, among others. Actions to increase application of current policies and regulations applicable to special ecosystems, the review or improvement of these policies and capacity building of institutions responsible for their management and conservation are included under Subcomponent C1.

**Component B: Community Climate Resilience.** Community Climate Resilience will expand climate-smart agriculture, agricultural extension and advisory services, digital agricultural extension, community-led restoration, Community Revolving Funds, livelihood support, financial inclusion, market linkages, women's and youth participation, and conflict-sensitive natural resource management

**B1. Community Strengthening:** This subcomponent aims to strengthen the capacity of communities for sustainable natural resource use and management. Support will be provided to "local project implementation committees", or their local equivalent. Building on the outcomes of the higher-level strategic watershed planning (Subcomponent A1), micro-watershed planning will be supported to prioritize investments. Particular attention will be paid to addressing gender inequalities and the needs of vulnerable and marginalized groups to promote peace building.

**B2. Community Investments:** This subcomponent will finance physical investments as prioritized through the micro-watershed planning process. Although the menu of potential investments will vary from community to community, based on their own priorities, three groups can be described:

- Landscape restoration in community-selected degraded areas, using an approach pioneered by FAO in both northern Nigeria and other dryland areas in western Africa, using the Delfino plow which mimics the traditional half-moon water harvesting technique. It is composed of hybrid agroforestry models on

communal lands which include plant species chosen by the communities, which produce non-timber forestry products, such as acacia (gum Arabic), balanites, fodder, beekeeping, nuts, mushrooms, and mixed planting with grains such as millet and sorghum. Improved pasture and rangeland management and restoration could also be included.

Prioritized community infrastructure investments will be supported.

- Support farmers at the household level to optimize climate-smart rainfed agriculture and farmer-led irrigation. Investments could include water and soil conservation, optimizing farm management (improved crop varieties, Integrated Pest Management; soil and water testing technologies), controlling invasive species, and supporting value chains.
- Support farmers at the household level to optimize farmer-led irrigation. This could include smallscale solar-powered irrigation.

**Component C: Climate Change and Institutional Strengthening & Project Management.** This component includes investments to improve the enabling institutional and policy foundation for multisectoral integrated landscape management, climate resilience, as well as support project management. It will include the following sub-components:

***C1. Institutional and Policy Strengthening:*** This subcomponent aims to improve the enabling institutional and policy foundation for integrated landscape management and climate change resilience in Nigeria – with an initial focus on ACREsAL activities but also for a longer-term national framework for dryland management. Although only some states will be initially eligible for physical investments (Tier 1 states), all states in northern Nigeria are eligible for technical assistance under subcomponent C1 (Tier 2 states). This subcomponent will include support for monitoring infrastructure, institutional infrastructure, knowledge products, policy environment, capacity-building and outreach, and payments for ecosystem services (PES).

***C2. Project Management:*** This subcomponent intends to support overall project monitoring and management. It will provide support for key consultancies (e.g. to support project monitoring and management, watershed implementation support, and capacity-building), as well as incremental operating costs (for specialized expertise, project-related travel, meetings, documentation, etc.) as well as systems for improving remote preparation and supervision of investments (e.g. through use of satellite imagery, drones, cameras, videoconferencing, etc.). It will also support the development of monitoring systems and dashboards and improving workflow processes to facilitate coordination across agencies at the central and state levels and public versions to improve transparency and outreach. The monitoring systems and documentation of lessons learned on an ongoing basis will be used to support adaptive project management, especially to identify activities that can be scaled up depending on implementation performance and feedback.

**Component D: Contingency Emergency Response Components (CERC):** A Contingency Emergency Response Component (CERC) is a financing mechanism available to Borrowers in IPF operations to access funds rapidly to respond to an eligible crisis or emergency (natural resources and climate change disasters and emergencies). This component will enable quick deployment of uncommitted funds to address natural or man-made crises and emergencies during project implementation. This component will remain dormant until it is activated in an emergency situation. The component would then allow redistribution of uncommitted and undisbursed funds to finance emergency and recovery needs.

This component will remain dormant until it is activated in an emergency situation. The component would then allow redistribution of uncommitted and undisbursed funds to finance emergency and recovery needs. In such instances, a CERC Operational Manual will be developed, which would require approval from the World Bank and adoption by the Government. The manual would describe the procedures and criteria for activation, eligible expenditures, and specific implementation arrangements.

#### 1.4 Justification for Preparing an SEP

The preparation and implementation of Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is a requirement under the ESF/ESSs. It covers the entire range of the ACREsAL project components. The SEP is expedient to the effective implementation of the project as it ensures that the views of all stakeholders are represented in the implementation of the project. More importantly, the SEP is to allow participation of both affected and interested stakeholders to ensure that the project design, particularly stakeholder engagement approaches and activities, are implemented in a participatory and inclusive manner. Through implementation of SEP, ethnic minorities, vulnerable groups and underserved peoples and peculiar needs they may have to make consultation effective are all catered for. This will provide stakeholders with the opportunity to be aware of project activities, its potential impacts, safeguards principles and participatory approaches. This process will be sustained throughout the project implementation.

Effective stakeholder engagement can improve the environmental and social sustainability of projects, enhance project acceptance among the people and community hosting such projects, contribute significantly to overall successful project design and implementation.

The following are the activities involved in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP):

1. Stakeholder Identification and Analysis;
2. Information Disclosure;
3. Stakeholder Consultation;
4. Grievance Management;
5. Reporting to Stakeholders; and
6. Documentation of all stakeholders' plans on how the engagement with stakeholder will take place.

A detailed plan is contained in chapter four on the stakeholder engagement program sectionalizes project component / subcomponent activities under the proposed project, applying them to each activity, with provision for technique / platform of engagement, duration, duty bearers and target stakeholders for each activity. The Stakeholder plan as it is now, is generic because it is a framework guiding implementation of ACREsAL SEP in all the 19 participating states. At this point, the SEP is helpful in providing guidance and procedures to all participating states. Each participating state will therefore be required to adopt this SEP to prepare their state level SEP prior to commencement of project activities and upon identifying the specific communities and site location.

#### 1.5 Expected Output

The expected output of this SEP includes but is not limited to:

1. Program described and its potential environmental and social impacts and risks as known at the time of preparation of this plan identified;
2. Stakeholder identified, mapped and analysed;
3. Framework for Stakeholder Engagement developed;
4. Information to be disclosed and method of disclosure set out.
5. Framework for Monitoring and Implementation development.

## 1.6 Methodology

This project is applicable in the Northern States made up of 19 states, subdivided into Northwest (Jigawa, Kano, Kaduna, Katsina, Kebbi, Sokoto and Zamfara), Northeast (Adamawa, Taraba, Yobe, Borno, Bauchi and Gombe) and North Central (Niger, Kwara, Benue, Kogi, Nasarawa, Plateau).

However, the States visited during preparation were:

1. Sokoto State (representing the Northwest Geopolitical Zone)
2. Gombe State (representing the Northeast Geopolitical Zone)
3. Niger State (representing the North Central Geopolitical Zone)
4. Kano State (representing the Northwest Geopolitical Zone) and
5. Nasarawa State (representing the North Central Geopolitical Zone)

The States selected for visitation represent each geopolitical zone of which the 19 states are part of. The States were selected based on geographical similarities/geopolitical zones, agro-value chains and security considerations for stakeholder participation. This ensures that each geopolitical zone is taken into consideration as states selected share similarities with other states in the particular geopolitical zone based on socioeconomic characteristics and biophysical characteristics. From the framework developed, each individual participating in the State at implementation stage will adopt this framework as is expedient for implementation in their various States.

The reason for the generic nature of this document is that at the time of preparing this document, the project specific location, site and communities have not been identified making this SEP a framework document. It is expected that each participating state will adopt this SEP and domesticate it to meet their specific needs upon identifying the specific communities and site location.

Suffice to note that by the design of the ACREsAL project, all the 19 states may not participate in the ACREsAL project at the same time. Participation is also not expected to be at the same time for all participating States. Participation will be in tiers and will be according to ability of each state to meet the requirements of the ACREsAL project participation prioritization criteria developed for the project. As each State meets these requirements and is selected, they will adopt and domesticate or personalize this SEP upon identification and finalization of exact project location and communities.

In preparing this SEP, both field survey and literature review approaches were applied. A detailed desk research / review was conducted on Stakeholder Engagement needs, principles and capacity, existing stakeholders' engagement and communication methods in the existing parent project whose structure will be adopted for ACREsAL. Key informant interviews, focused group discussions and public consultations were carried out within the natural domains of stakeholders to hear from them in order to identify their needs and make their suggestions on how these needs can be fulfilled.

The consultation procedure aligned with the World Bank guidelines and the Nigerian Center for Disease Control (NCDC) COVID-19 response guidelines. This entailed as follows:

1. Providing digital temperature apparatus and measuring the temperature of all participants.
2. Providing face masks and hand sanitizers and ensuring that participants were fitted with face masks and also hand-sanitized before joining the venue of the meeting;
3. Ensuring that crowding was avoided at meeting venues;
4. Maintaining a seating arrangement of 2m to ensure adherence to social distancing guidelines of NCDC.

### 1.7 Previous Stakeholders Engagement

1. Stakeholders for the ACRoSAL project have been ongoing, comprising of public consultations at the MDA level, and among informal stakeholders in host communities in States where the parent project is already operational. During the SEP preparation stage, sub-project host communities for the AF had not been identified by the project. Hence, stakeholders consulted at comprised of the parent project PIUs, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (Office of the State Governor, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Works, Ministry of Local Government Affairs, Ministry of Women Affairs), Nigerian University Commission (NUC), NGOs, Traditional Leaders, Faith- based / religious leaders and North-East Development Commission.
2. Key outcomes of these consultations were;
3. Participants were informed on the upcoming AF including its aim, scope and objectives
4. Acquisition of information from relevant stakeholders that assisted in the preparation of the ESIA report and the project design;
5. Facilitates stakeholder understanding of how they might be affected and their potential role in project implementation and impact management.
6. Provided opportunities for stakeholders to express their opinions and concerns in relation to the project and for these opinions and concerns to be considered in the management decisions and for the implementation of the project.

## CHAPTER 2: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter contains an overview of the legal and regulatory frameworks existing in Nigeria which regulates citizen's freedom of information, citizenship engagement, disclosure of public information and adequate response to queries, concerns and grievances raised by the public on key government actions. The chapter also overviews World Bank's ESS10 on Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure.

### 2.2 National Legal Provisions for Citizen Engagement

#### 2.2.1 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (CFRN) 1999 (as amended)

The CFRN in Chapter Two provides for Fundamental Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policies; these are the obligations accruing to the State with respect to its citizens. Section 16 provides that the State shall harness resources and control the National economy in such a manner as to secure the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen on the basis of social justice and equality of status and opportunity. It goes further in Section 20 to provide that the State shall protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air and land, forest and wildlife of Nigeria. In Chapter IV, Section 39 to safeguard the freedom of every person in Nigeria to hold opinions and to receive and impart ideas and information without interference.

#### 2.2.2 The Freedom of Information Act<sup>1</sup>

This Act derives its powers from Section 39 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. This Act applies not only to public institutions but also to private organizations providing public services, performing public functions or utilizing public funds<sup>2</sup>. The purpose of the Act is to make public records and information more freely available, provide for public access to public records and information, protect public records and information to the extent consistent with the public interest and the protection of personal privacy, protect serving public officers from adverse consequences for disclosing certain kinds of official information without authorization and establish procedures for the achievement of those objectives. Section 1 of the Act provides that every citizen, whether adult or minor is entitled to have access to any records under the control of the government or any public institution. Section 1(3) of the Act allows an applicant who has been refused information by a public institution, to institute proceedings in Court (Federal or State High Court) to compel the public institution to release the information sought.

Obligations which the Act imposes on Institutions include:

1. A description of the organization and responsibilities of the institution including details of the programmes and functions of each division, branch and department of the institution.
2. A list of all classes of records under the control of the institution in sufficient detail to facilitate the exercise of the right to information under this Act, and manuals used by employees of the institution in administering or carrying out any of the programmes or activities of the institution.
3. Description of documents containing final opinions including concurring and dissenting opinions as well as orders made in the adjudication of cases.
4. A list of – files containing applications for any contract, permit, grants, licenses or agreements; reports, documents, studies, or publications prepared by independent contractors for the institution, and materials containing information relating to any grant or contract made by or between the institution and another public institution or private organization.

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<sup>1</sup> Freedom of Information Act, 2011, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria. Electronically available at [Freedom of Information Act](http://Freedom.of.Information.Act) ([cbn.gov.ng](http://cbn.gov.ng)) <sup>2</sup> Section 1 and Section 2 (1)

5. The title and address of the appropriate officer of the institution to whom an application for information under this Act shall be sent, provided that the failure of any public institution to publish any information under this subsection shall not prejudicially affect the public's right of access to information in the custody of such public institution.

All public institutions shall make available any of the records listed above and as requested by the stakeholders within a period of 7 days of the request.<sup>3</sup>

### **2.2.3 Environmental Impact Assessment Act**

This act provides guidelines for activities for which EIA is compulsory (such as mining operations, road development, coastal reclamation involving 50 or more hectares, Large Agricultural Projects etc.). It prescribes the procedure for conducting and reporting EIAs and dictates the general principles of an EIA. The EIA act enshrines that consideration must be given to all stakeholders before the commencement of any public or private project by providing for the involvement and input of all stakeholders affected by a proposed project. For the purpose of public access to information, Section 57 of the Act requires Agencies to maintain a public registry in respect of a project. The registry shall contain all records, and information produced, collected or submitted with respect to the environmental assessment of the project, including any report relating to the assessment and any comments filed by the public in relation to the assessment. The Act also makes it compulsory for project proponents to disclose EIA reports through the Federal Ministry of Environment to all stakeholders for their easy accessibility and input. This is usually carried out through advertisement in local dailies for 21 working days and through display of such Documents at various designated Centers close to the project area such as the Local Government Headquarters and Community Town Halls.

### **2.2.4 Urban and Regional Planning Act, Cap N138, 2004**

**This Act** provides that any land development plan must be disclosed to stakeholders to prove that such projects would not harm the environment or constitute nuisance to the community.

## **2.3 World Bank Environmental and Social Standard on Stakeholder Engagement**

The World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF)'s Environmental and Social Standard (ESS) 10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure<sup>2</sup>, recognizes "the importance of open and transparent engagement between the Borrower and project stakeholders as an essential element of good international practice"

Specifically, the requirements set out by ESS10 are the following:

1. Borrowers will engage with stakeholders throughout the project life cycle, commencing such engagement as early as possible in the project development process and in a timeframe that enables meaningful consultations with stakeholders on project design. The nature, scope and frequency of stakeholder engagement will be proportionate to the nature and scale of the project and its potential risks and impacts.
2. Borrowers will engage in meaningful consultations with all stakeholders.
3. Borrowers will provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation.

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<sup>2</sup> Electronically available at <https://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/environmental-and-socialframework/brief/environmental-and-social-standards>

4. The process of stakeholder engagement will involve the following, as set out in further detail in this ESS: (i) stakeholder identification and analysis; (ii) planning how the engagement with stakeholders will take place; (iii) disclosure of information; (iv) consultation with stakeholders; (v) addressing and responding to grievances; and (vi) reporting to stakeholders.
5. The Borrower will maintain and disclose as part of the environmental and social assessment, a documented record of stakeholder engagement, including a description of the stakeholders consulted, a summary of the feedback received, and a brief explanation of how the feedback was taken into account, or the reasons why it was not.
6. A Stakeholder Engagement Plan proportionate to the nature and scale of the project and its potential risks and impacts need to be developed by the Borrower. It must be disclosed as early as possible, and before project appraisal, and the Borrower needs to seek the views of stakeholders on the SEP, including on the identification of stakeholders and the proposals for future engagement. If significant changes are made to the SEP, the Borrower must disclose the updated SEP.

The Borrower should also propose and implement a grievance mechanism to receive and facilitate the resolution of concerns and grievances of project-affected parties related to the environmental and social performance of the project in a timely manner.

## **CHAPTER 3: STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS**

### **3.1 Introduction**

Identification of Stakeholders was carried out to understand the stakeholder's needs and expectation for engagement, their priorities, and objectives in relation to the project. This information was and will continue to be used throughout the duration of the ACREsAL project to tailor engagements with these stakeholders-including for the AF.

### **3.2 Categorization of Stakeholders**

Stakeholders were identified through review of documents as provided by the client, visitation to selected states (sharing geographical similarities with other states in same geopolitical zones), and consultation with stakeholders.

Stakeholders identified for the ACREsAL project are categorized as follows:

1. Affected Parties
2. Disadvantaged / Vulnerable Individuals or Groups
3. Interested Parties

#### **3.2.1 Affected Parties**

Project activities are likely to affect residential and business premises / livelihood, individual and communal land used for grazing and subsistence farming and smallholder farms and may result in land acquisition / temporary restriction of access to homesteads, businesses and communal lands.

The Stakeholders under this category are those who are likely to be affected by project activities as outlined above. They are Stakeholders who are impacted or likely to be impacted directly or indirectly, positively or adversely, by the Project. They are as follows:

1. Host Communities in project area
2. Community members in the project host communities
3. Crop farmers
4. Livestock farmers
5. cattle herders
6. Farmers associations
7. Women Farmer Groups
8. Water Users association
9. Community Associations and Interest Groups
10. Internally displaced persons.

#### **3.2.2 Disadvantaged/Vulnerable Individuals or Groups**

This category of Stakeholders are people who may by virtue of gender, ethnicity, age, physical or mental disability, economic disadvantage or social status, be more adversely affected by the project activities than others.

The vulnerable or disadvantaged groups classified in the context of this project are:

1. Elderly people above the age of 65;
2. female headed Households  
(widows)
3. Persons with disabilities.
4. People living in extreme poverty (e.g., unemployed youths);
5. Orphans
6. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) / migrants

Disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals or groups require particular attention to participate commensurably in the project benefits and also elicit full understanding on how project impacts may disproportionately affect them. Particular attention being paid to this group will also ensure that communication systems to enhance stakeholder engagement will be adapted to take into consideration such groups or individuals' particular sensitivities, concerns and cultural sensitivities and ensure a full understanding of project activities and benefits.

Engagement with the vulnerable groups and individuals often requires the application of specific measures (These measures are detailed in **section 4.3 on proposed strategy to incorporate the views of vulnerable groups**) and assistance aimed at the facilitation of their participation in the project-related decision making so that their awareness of, and input to the overall process are commensurate to those of the other stakeholders. These measures are detailed in **section 4.3** of this SEP.

### 3.2.3 Interested Parties

This category of stakeholders is made up of Stakeholders who may not be directly or indirectly impacted by the project, but who have the potential interest to influence on the project outcomes via their statutory functions and mandates or other factors. They include Ministries, Departments and Agencies with statutory roles in the implementation of ACREsAL project in the various participating states. They are as follows:

1. Office of the State Governor
2. Ministry of Finance
3. Ministry of Environment
4. Ministry of Agriculture
5. Ministry of Water Resources
6. Ministry of Information
7. Ministry of Education
8. Nigerian University Commission (NUC)
9. Ministry of Local Government Affairs
10. Ministry of Women Affairs
11. Community Based NGOs
12. Ministry of Works

13. Traditional Leaders
14. Faith- based / religious leaders
15. North-East Development Commission

### 3.3 Stakeholder Mapping/Analysis

Information for analysis was elicited from desk review, observations, public consultations, focus group discussions and in-depth interviews with clients. Summary of consultation is annexed to this document as **Annex 2**. The stakeholder groups to be engaged will be expanded and updated as the project develops to reflect additional groups which have an important stake in ACREsAL Project.

The various stakeholder groups have been identified and a stakeholder mapping conducted as is represented in **Table 3.1**. The table lists out the stakeholders identified, their profile and explains the level of their involvement with the ACREsAL project. The stakeholders are mapped by group, based on the level of influence as indicated in Section 3.2 above.

**Table 3.1 Stakeholder Mapping**

| Stakeholder Group  | Profile of Stakeholder Group | Interest in the Project  | Potential Role/Relevance to the Project                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Interested Parties | Office of the State Governor | Influencers              | Statutory mandate as Chief executive officer of the State.                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                    | Ministry of Finance          | Influencers/Implementers | Chairing the Project Steering Committee.                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                    | Ministry of Environment      | Influencers/Implementers | Ministry responsible for environmental protection. They are involved in policy regulation and provision of human resources. Co-chairing the Project Steering Committee                                                              |
|                    | Ministry of Agriculture      | Influencers/Implementers | Ministry responsible for managing the Agricultural sector. They are involved in policy regulation and provision of human resources. Member of the Project Steering Committee                                                        |
|                    | Ministry of Water Resources  | Influencers/Implementers | They regulate access to safe and sufficient water. This ministry is responsible for water supply in States including in the rural areas. They need to be informed about project progress. Member of the Project Steering Committee. |

|  |                                      |                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Ministry of Information              | Influencers/Implementers | They provide citizens with credible and timely information on government activities, programmes and initiatives.<br>Member of the Project Steering Committee                                        |
|  | Ministry of Local Government Affairs | Influencers/Implementers | They have to be engaged to grant access to NGOs prior to engagement with community members. They have to be informed about the progress of the project.<br>Member of the Project Steering Committee |
|  | Ministry of Women Affairs            | Influencers              | They coordinate activities concerning women in the States. They have to be carried along in consultation and engagement with women, especially                                                      |

|  |                                                         |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |                                                         |             | vulnerable women and children.<br>This ministry also has to be involved in Gender Based Violence related activities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|  | Ministry of Education<br>Nigerian University Commission | Influencers | The Academic can partner with the project to improve capacity and outreach (incl. agro-advisory services) through access to knowledge, advice, networking, training, student internships, visiting experts (e.g. for improving interdepartmental linkages and links to academia), and development of interactive data/knowledge dashboards and e-learning (especially as connectivity improves and to manage disruptions such as COVID-19).<br>Member of the Project Steering Committee |

|  |                                         |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--|-----------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | North-east Development Commission       | Influencers | The North-East Development Commission (NEDC) is the focal organization charged with the responsibility to assess, coordinate, harmonies and report on all intervention programs, and initiatives by the Federal Government or any of its Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), States; and other Development Partners and for the implementation of development projects. They are very key stakeholders that need to be involved in project implementation and monitoring. |
|  | Community Based NGOs                    | Influencers | NGOs are involved in ensuring transparency and accountability, creating awareness, maintaining communication with community                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|  | Traditional Leaders/Faith Based Leaders | Influencers | Traditional leaders need to be involved on the progress of the project in their host communities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|  | Ministry of Works                       | Influencers | Ministry is charged with the responsibility of providing technical services such as design, construction and maintenance of State Road. They need to be engaged to give necessary statutory authorities. Member of the Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|  |                                         |             | Steering Committee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

|                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Affected Parties                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ Host Communities</li> <li>☐ Community members</li> <li>☐ Crop farmers and Livestock farmers Herders</li> <li>☐ Farmers associations</li> <li>☐ Water Users Association</li> <li>☐ Women farmer Groups</li> <li>☐ Community Associations and Interest Groups</li> </ul> | These Stakeholder groups are directly impacted by the project.                                                  | Potential Project Affected Persons (PAPs) shall be consulted using the plan outlined in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. This will be done throughout the project cycle. To ensure that their views are incorporated in the implementation and execution of the project.                                                                                     |
| Disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals or groups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ Elderly people above the age of 65; female headed Households (widows)</li> <li>☐ Persons with disabilities; Internally Displaced Persons; People living in extreme poverty; and orphans</li> <li>☐ </li> </ul>                                                         | These Stakeholder groups are directly impacted by the project. They are important beneficiaries of the project. | This Stakeholder Group may be more adversely affected by the impact of the project than other Stakeholder groups. They will be consulted using the plan specifically outlined in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. This will be done throughout the project cycle. To ensure their views are incorporated in the implementation and execution of the project. |

### 3.4 Stakeholder Analysis

The table below is a representation of stakeholder analysis showing the identified Stakeholders, and their level of interest and influence on the project. Influence in this SEP is defined by the stakeholder's decisionmaking powers, in the sense of the stakeholder's ability to make decisions that determines the project outcomes and process of implementation of the project.

In determining strategy for engagement of stakeholders who have interest in the project and who may be able to influence project outcomes, the following classifications are used, also showing how these stakeholders are equally engaged throughout the project planning and implementation according to their level of interest:

### **High**

High Influence stakeholders will be kept informed, engaged and consulted throughout the duration of the project. This will be done on the ACRoSAL by:

1. involving these most influential stakeholder (s) in ACRoSAL governance decision making bodies through committees (including the steering committee) and,
2. engaging them and consulting them less regularly and as needed through the technique and platform provided in **Table 4.2** of this SEP.

### **Medium**

Considering that this group is lower on the decision-making scale than the High Influence Stakeholders, adequate care should be taken to ensure that they are given a voice, and their opinions are included in project development and implementation. Medium Influence Stakeholders will be carried along, kept informed and monitored throughout the duration of the project. The plan is to ensure that this class of stakeholders are adequately engaged through consultations and feedback channels to ensure that they are carried along in the project development and implementation.

### **Low**

This group is lower on the decision-making scale than the High and Medium Influence Stakeholders. Their influence in decision making may be low; however these stakeholders have high interest in the project outcome. Stakeholders in this category are at the grass root level; including host community members, vulnerable persons and community associations who without focused assistance may not be able to participate in the decision-making process of the project. The techniques tabulated in Table 4.3 will be engaged as further effort to ensure that the vulnerable among this category are adequately engaged. The plan is to fully engage this group and apply all effort to ensure that they are satisfied and fully informed of the project at all times. The project will maintain this group's interest in the ACRoSAL. This will be done by:

1. focusing efforts on these groups of stakeholders throughout the project cycle;
2. involving these groups of stakeholders in regular consultations throughout the project cycle;
3. ensuring adequate use of the grievance redress and feedback channels to engage and keep this group satisfied; and
4. keeping them in the loop on decisions that will influence design and implementation.

**Table 3.2 Showing Stakeholder Analysis**

| NO | Stakeholders                 | Influence | Nature of relationship with Project | Interest |
|----|------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| 1  | Office of the State Governor | High      | Influencers                         | High     |
| 2  | Ministry of Finance          | High      | Implementation                      | High     |

| NO | Stakeholders            | Influence | Nature of relationship with Project | Interest |
|----|-------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| 3  | Ministry of Environment | High      | Implementation                      | High     |
| 4  | Ministry of Agriculture | High      | Implementation                      | High     |

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |        |                                                     |      |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------|------|
| 5  | Ministry of Water Resources                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | High   | Implementation                                      | High |
| 6  | Ministry of Information                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | High   | Implementation/Awareness                            | High |
| 7  | Ministry of Local Government Affairs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | High   | Access Support                                      | High |
| 8  | Ministry of Women Affairs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | High   | Support                                             | High |
| 9  | Community Based NGOs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Medium | Community Engagement, Transparency, Accountability. | High |
| 10 | Traditional Leaders/Faith Based Leaders                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | High   | Community Engagement, Transparency, Accountability. | High |
| 11 | Ministry of Works                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | High   | Support                                             | High |
| 12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host Communities</li> <li>• Community members</li> <li>• Crop farmers</li> <li>• Livestock Farmers</li> <li>• Herders</li> <li>• Farmers associations</li> <li>• Women Farmer Groups</li> <li>• Water Users association</li> <li>• Community Associations and Interest Groups</li> </ul> | Low    | Directly impacted                                   | High |
| 13 | Vulnerable / Disadvantaged Groups                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Low    | Directly impacted                                   | High |
| 14 | Ministry of Education/Nigerian University Commission                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | High   | Support                                             | High |
| 15 | North-East Development Commission                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Medium | Support                                             | High |

## **CHAPTER 4: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM**

### **4.1 Purpose and Timing of Stakeholder Engagement Program**

This plan is designed to ensure that stakeholders are provided with timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation. As part of this AF preparation two level of stakeholders' engagement was held with participating states under the AF in April 2026 with a follow up engagement on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> September 2026. This engagement provided an opportunity to assess the adequacy of the engagement process under the parent project. Findings from that engagement show a high level of engagement on the project activities particularly around the community revolving fund (component B) activities of the project which is livelihood based.

Transparent engagement between the ACRoSAL and project stakeholders is essential. Engagement with Stakeholders is throughout the life cycle of the project and this SEP is designed to represent the roles and involvement of each stakeholder at every stage of the project such as preparation, planning and implementation. If additional stakeholders are identified during the project preparation and implementation, this group should be captured in this SEP as well.

The nature, scope, and frequency of stakeholder engagement with each group of identified stakeholders will be affected by the following factors:

1. How Stakeholder has been prioritized in according to Tables 3.1 and 3.2,
2. COVID-19 requirements and protocols.
3. Stakeholder expectations and project risk and impacts
4. Peculiarity of vulnerability the people most especially the disabled.
5. Cultural and religious factors.
6. The principles of timeliness, transparency, accessibility, accountability and participation.

#### **4.1.1 Expected Outcome / Purpose of the Engagement Process**

The engagement process as designed is envisaged to facilitate the following outcomes:

1. Strengthened development outcomes through effective partnerships.
2. Plan of action that clearly identifies the means and frequency of engagement of each stakeholder
3. Identified roles and responsibility of all stakeholders and their participation in the complete project cycle ensured
4. Appropriate project information on environmental and social risks and impacts is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible and appropriate manner and format taking special consideration for the disadvantaged or vulnerable groups.
5. Recognized and effectively addressed potential constraints and conflicts that could affect effectiveness
6. Capacity building program for Stakeholders as well as implementing agencies.
7. Provision of meaningful access to discussion and decision making in development processes.
8. Adequate feedback and monitoring mechanism to ensure the project is attaining its intended results and detects potential unintended consequences
9. An avenue for information disclosure.

#### 4.1.2 Management of Stakeholder Participation and Expectations

The power dynamics and cultural norms of a local context can affect stakeholders' participation. In communities where women observe 'pudah' (seclusion from public appearance), such women may be cut off from participation if the consultation process does not take into consideration such cultural practices in existence. This practice can be accommodated by conducting focused group discussions chaired by female officials to ensure that the women are engaged in a manner that will encourage full and willing participation. Evidence from consultations on challenges encountered with stakeholder management under the parent project host communities shows that stakeholders can be bored by incessant consultations, especially where expectations are not being met or where project preparation process is perceived as taking lengthy time.

In managing stakeholder expectations, the project shall adopt the following outlook:

6. Conduct adequate awareness, sensitization and consultation on the scope, identified risks and impacts of the project and its intended results through means identified in table 4.1.
7. Ensure transparency through information disclosure as contained in section 4.4.
8. Engagement events occur in line with the SEP schedule so that there is clear linkage between engagement activities and the project stages;
9. Ensure that engagement is accessible and managed so that it is culturally appropriate, adequate and timely information and opportunities are provided to all stakeholders to be involved/contribute

#### 4.2 Proposed Strategy for Consultation

The Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC) of the ACRoSAL is **high**. Therefore, this SEP is prepared proportionate<sup>3</sup> to the nature and scale of the project and its potential risks and impacts.

#### **Community Entry**

This is a process of initiating, establishing and nurturing a relationship with the community with the purpose of securing and sustaining the community's interest, gain support from the community leaders and ensuring establishment of good working relationships and sustainability of the project. This exercise will be carried out by the Social Safeguard Specialist supported by the community-based local NGOs and Communication officer.

Activities involved includes:

1. Ministry of Local Government; Obtain authorization to enter community from the Local Government Ministry / Authority.
2. Ministry of Local Government: Visitation to Traditional / religious leaders to intimate them on the project and project objectives. This visitation includes key-in-depth-interviews and one-on-one meetings with local leaders or small group meetings with different leaderships segments. It is important to note that the best practice is to communicate with the local leadership first before going to the community. These personal forms of communication set the tone for the project.
3. Community members including marginalized groups: Meeting with community members to inform them about the project and to solicit their views on the project through the process listed in Table 4.1 below.
4. Communication and Feedback: Establish Communication line of feedback with the community through local NGOs supported by the Social Safeguard Specialist and Communication officer.

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<sup>3</sup> *The nature, scope and frequency of stakeholder engagement will be proportional to the nature and scale of the project and its potential risks and impacts. (ESS-10: Paragraph 6)*

5. Outreach: Use cultural and language sensitive IEC materials including banners, signposts and flyers to create awareness and sensitization of the project in the communities.

**Figure 4.1 Process of Community Entry**

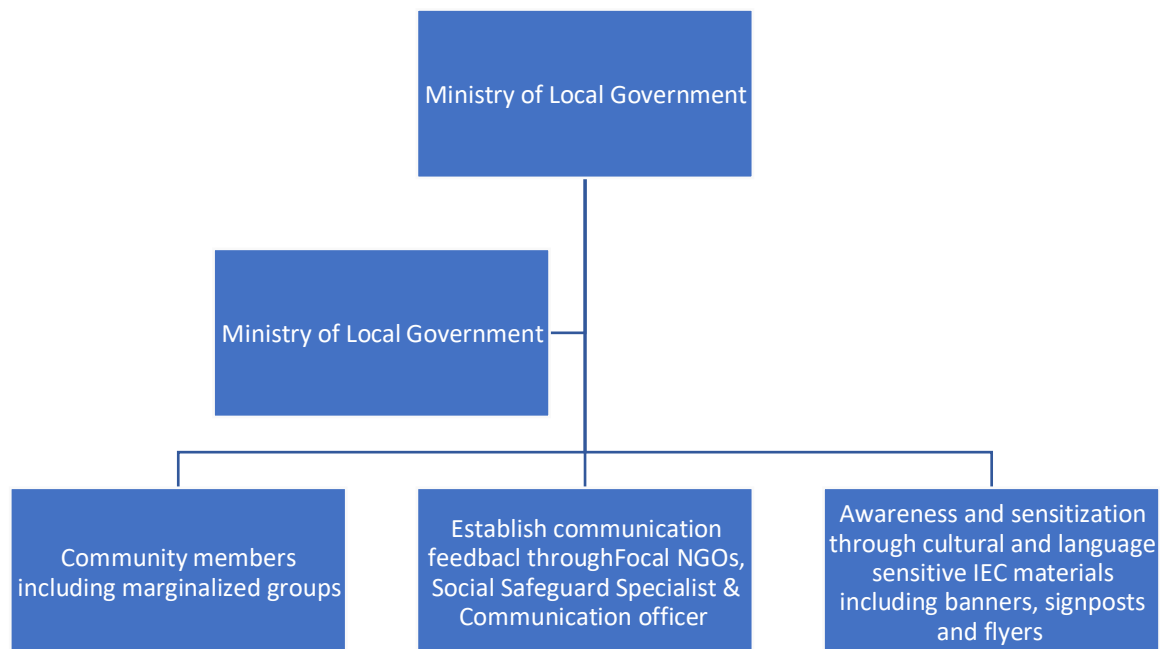


Table 4.1 presents the consultation methods and the stakeholder groups to which they apply. Consultations will be conducted in an accessible local language; where necessary, proceedings will be translated or interpreted into the relevant community language.

**Table 4.1 Consultation Methods**

| Consultation Methods                                              | Targeted Stakeholders                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Public Consultations                                              | Every Stakeholder, especially communities                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Focus group discussions (FGDs)                                    | Women group, youth group, disabled, MDAs, Traditional/Faith based Leaders. Focus group discussion is helpful in ensuring that stakeholders, whether majority or minority groups are fairly engaged, and provided the opportunity to independently and freely state their concerns and contributions to the proposed project plan. |
| Face-to-face meetings and workshops                               | Government Ministries and Departments, NGOs, Traditional rulers,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Correspondences (Radio Jingles, Phone, Emails) Town hall meetings | Every Stakeholder                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Religious meetings, village meetings, through traditional         | Community members and farmers, Herders, water user's association etc                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

|                                                                                                              |                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| leaders,<br>Associations                                                                                     |                                        |
| Project Websites                                                                                             | Every Stakeholder with internet access |
| Advocacy and sensitization<br>through the use of IEC<br>materials including banners,<br>signposts and flyers | Every Stakeholder                      |
| Virtual meetings                                                                                             | MDAs (Formal Stakeholders)             |

To ensure stakeholder participation without the occurrence of stakeholder fatigue, Table 4.2 below provides a plan for engagement. The plan clearly indicates a) the project stage at which the engagement should take place, b) the objective of the engagement, c) key activities to be undertaken at each project's stage, d) the target stakeholder (s) to be engaged, e) the platform of the engagement, f) the 'when' of the engagement and, g) Key duty bearer. Where possible, stakeholder engagement plan for the project shall utilize already existing engagement structures within the national system - such as the communal meeting.

**Table 4.2: Stakeholder Engagement Action Plan**

| Project Stage                                                                                                                                                                                              | Primary Engagement Activities and Topics                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Target Stakeholders                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Engagement Technique/ Platform of Contact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Frequency and Location                        | Key Duty Bearer             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Planning and Approval<br><br><b>Objective:</b> Disclose relevant project information to stakeholders and solicit their inputs/feedback into ESIA, ESMP, RPF, RAP, ESMP-sub projects, CLAP, and other plans | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Project alternatives</li> <li>2. Scope of the potential impacts and mitigation measures and benefit enhancers</li> <li>3. Land acquisition process, if required</li> <li>4. Project environmental and social (E&amp;S) principles</li> <li>5. Resettlement measures</li> <li>6. Grievance mechanism Process</li> <li>7. GBV/SEA</li> </ol> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host Communities</li> <li>• Community members</li> <li>• Crop farmers</li> <li>• Livestock Rearers</li> <li>• cattle herders</li> <li>• Farmers associations</li> <li>• Women Farmer Groups</li> <li>• Water Users Association</li> <li>• Community Associations and Interest Groups</li> <li>• Vulnerable persons</li> <li>• IDPs</li> </ul> | Through traditional & religious leaders, village meetings, religious centers, Association meetings, focused group discussions with women, youth and children, GRM, Advocacy and sensitization through the use of IEC materials including banners, signposts and flyers, radio jingles | Monthly or as needed in the host communities. | PMU, E & S Consultants, NGO |

| Project Stage | Primary Engagement Activities and Topics                                                                                                                               | Target Stakeholders                          | Engagement Technique/ Platform of Contact              | Frequency and Location | Key Duty Bearer      |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
|               | Land acquisition process, if required<br>Resettlement and livelihood restoration options<br>Project scope, rationale and E&S principles<br>Grievance mechanism process | Traditional leaders,<br>Community Based NGOs | Meetings, Joint<br>Public/community meetings with PAPs | As needed              | PMU with E & S Team. |

|  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                 |                                                                                                                    |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | <p>Project alternatives, Scope of the potential impacts and mitigation measures and benefit enhancers, Land acquisition process, if Required, Project environmental and social (E&amp;S) principles, E&amp;S principles Grievance</p> | <p>Office of the State Governor<br/>Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environment,<br/>Ministry of Agriculture<br/>Ministry of Water Resources,<br/>Ministry of Local Government Affairs, Ministry of Education,<br/>Ministry of Women Affairs,<br/>Ministry of Works<br/>Ministry of Information</p> | <p>Workshops, IEC materials such as project information sheets, social media communication (virtual meetings and WhatsApp groups), written correspondence, radio jingles, one on one advocacy meetings</p> | <p>One at each ESIA milestone and as needed</p> | <p>Project Coordinator (PC,), Social Safeguard Specialist, Communication Officer with support from consultants</p> |
|--|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| Project Stage | Primary Engagement Activities and Topics                                                                                                       | Target Stakeholders                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Engagement Technique/ Platform of Contact                                                      | Frequency and Location                              | Key Duty Bearer                                                                     |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|               | mechanism process                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                |                                                     |                                                                                     |
|               | Present the final ESIA, Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP), Resettlement Action Plan and related plans for comments and feedback | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host Communities</li> <li>• Community members</li> <li>• Crop farmers</li> <li>• Livestock Rearing</li> <li>• Cattle herders</li> <li>• Farmers associations</li> <li>• Women Farmer Groups</li> <li>• Water Users Association</li> <li>• Community Associations and Interest Groups</li> <li>• Vulnerable persons</li> <li>• IDPs</li> </ul> | Public Consultation meeting and focused group discussion.                                      | Once when final ESA and related plans are available | Social Safeguard Specialist; Communication Officer with support from consultants    |
|               | Present the final ESIA, Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP), Resettlement Action Plan draft                                       | Office of the State Governor<br>Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environment,<br>Ministry of Agriculture<br>Ministry of Water Resources,<br>Ministry of Local Government Affairs,<br>Ministry of Women Affairs,<br>Ministry of Education                                                                                                                                               | Workshops, project social media communication (virtual meetings), one on one advocacy meetings | Once when final ESA and related plans are available | PC Social Safeguard Specialist; Communication Officer with support from consultants |

| Project Stage                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Primary Engagement Activities and Topics                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Target Stakeholders                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Engagement Technique/ Platform of Contact                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Frequency and Location | Key Duty Bearer                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | and related plans                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Ministry of Works,<br>Ministry of Information<br>Traditional leaders,<br>Community Based NGOs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                        |                                                                                            |
| <b>Preconstruction</b><br><br><b>Objective:</b><br>Engagement activities to prepare stakeholders for construction phase Present Construction Contractors ESMPs, Community Livelihood Action Plans and related plans. | Present the Construction Contractors Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for comments and feedback<br><br>Sensitization on risks accruing due to labour influx caused by construction, mitigation measures and on GRM available. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host Communities</li> <li>• Community members</li> <li>• Crop farmers</li> <li>• Livestock Rearing</li> <li>• Cattle herders</li> <li>• Farmers associations</li> <li>• Women Farmer Groups</li> <li>• Water Users Association</li> <li>• Community Associations and Interest Groups</li> <li>• Vulnerable persons</li> <li>• IDPs</li> </ul> | Traditional & Religious Leaders, Village meetings, Religious centers, Association meetings, focused group discussions with women, youth and children, GRM, Advocacy and sensitization through the use of IEC materials including banners, signposts and flyers, and radio jingles. | As required            | PC, Project Engineer, Social Safeguard Specialist; Communication Officer, Consultants, NGO |

|  |                                                                                |                                           |                                                     |           |                                                                 |
|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Present the Construction Contractors Environmental and Social Management Plans | Traditional leaders, Community Based NGOs | Meetings, Joint Public/community meetings with PAPs | As needed | Social Safeguard Specialist; Communication Officer, Consultants |
|--|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|

| Project Stage | Primary Engagement Activities Topics and                                                                         | Target Stakeholders                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Engagement Technique/ Platform of Contact                        | Frequency and Location | Key Duty Bearer                                                 |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
|               | (ESMPs) for comments and feedback                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                  |                        |                                                                 |
|               | Present the Construction Contractors Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for comments and feedback | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office of the State Governor</li> <li>• Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Environment,</li> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>• Ministry of Water Resources,</li> <li>• Ministry of Local Government Affairs,</li> <li>• Ministry of Women Affairs,</li> <li>• Ministry of Education</li> <li>• Ministry of Works</li> <li>• Ministry of Information</li> </ul> | Workshops, project social media communication (virtual meetings) | As required            | Social Safeguard Specialist; Communication Officer, Consultants |

|                                                                                      |                                                                                           |                                                                                                                             |                                                                    |                                                                                   |                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                      | Ongoing consultation on and acquisition and resettlement                                  | Project affected persons, families and businesses identified during planning phase.                                         | Face-to-face meetings<br>Joint public/community meetings with PAPs | Monthly (and as needed)                                                           | Grievance Redress Committee                                       |
| <b>Construction</b><br><br><b>Objective:</b> Provide regular updates on construction | Regularly update on construction activities, including key milestones, key changes in the | Traditional leaders, community members, Project affected persons, families and businesses identified during planning phase. | Face-to-face meetings<br>Joint public/community meetings with PAPs | Once a month and as needed<br><br>Community/beneficiary Perception satisfaction / | Social Communication Safeguard Specialist; Communication Officer, |

| Project Stage | Primary Engagement Activities and Topics | Target Stakeholders | Engagement Technique/ Platform of Contact | Frequency and Location | Key Duty Bearer |
|---------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
|---------------|------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|

|                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                       |                      |                    |                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| activities, implement management plans and monitor the effectiveness of the plans Handling of complaints in a prompt and effective manner | <p>Project design, and monitoring results from the ESMPs, Health and safety impacts</p> <p>Construction related safety measures.</p> <p>Disclose and consult on Construction Contractor activities, hiring preferences, job and business opportunities, training opportunities etc</p> |                                                                       |                      | surveys – annually | consultant                                                                             |
|                                                                                                                                           | Update on resettlement and livelihood rehabilitation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Only project affected persons as identified during the planning stage | Face to face meeting | As needed          | Social Communication Safeguard Specialist; Communication Officer, Site Committee, GRM, |

| Project Stage                                                                                                                                                                                               | Primary Engagement Activities and Topics                                                                                                                                                | Target Stakeholders      | Engagement Technique/ Platform of Contact                                                                      | Frequency and Location | Key Duty Bearer                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Operation</b><br><br><b>Objective:</b><br>Maintain constructive relationships with stakeholders and maintain awareness of environmental and safety practices in the local communities<br>Engagement will | Engagement with stakeholders to maintain good relationships and provide update on the Project progress<br>Manage community issues and monitor community attitudes<br>Complaint handling | Project Affected persons | Traditional & Religious Leaders, Village meetings, Religious centers, Association meetings, GRM, radio jingles | As needed              | FNGO supported by Communication Social Safeguard Specialist, relevant government agency |

|                                            |                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                             |                               |                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| focus on daytoday operation of the Project | Environmental and safety awareness program Emergency preparedness and response<br><br>Day-to-day engagement with stakeholders to maintain good relationships and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host Communities</li> <li>• Community members</li> <li>• Crop farmers</li> <li>• Livestock Rearers</li> <li>• Cattle herders</li> <li>• Farmers associations</li> <li>• Women</li> <li>• Farmer Groups</li> <li>• Community Associations and Interest Groups</li> <li>• Water Users Association</li> <li>• Vulnerable persons</li> </ul> | Village meetings, Religious centers, Association meetings, GRM, radio jingles, Brochures, Factsheets, signposts and banners | As needed                     | NGO to be engaged by SPMU supported by Communication Social Safeguard Specialist |
| <b>Project Stage</b>                       | <b>Primary Engagement Activities and Topics</b>                                                                                                                  | <b>Target Stakeholders</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Engagement Technique/ Platform of Contact</b>                                                                            | <b>Frequency and Location</b> | <b>Key Duty Bearer</b>                                                           |
|                                            | provide update on the Project progress.                                                                                                                          | IDPs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                             |                               |                                                                                  |

Stakeholder engagement actions will be implemented through the AF to ensure include meaningful consultation, information sharing, feedback collection, and grievance management throughout the project lifecycle

#### 4.3 Proposed Strategy to Incorporate Views of Vulnerable Groups

Vulnerable groups consist of people who may not be able to access Project information and articulate their concerns and priorities about potential Project impacts owing to certain barriers that disadvantage them. The barriers could be socio-cultural, for example where women are not allowed in the same gathering as men, or to appear or speak in public. Other factors could be related to age or financial disability. Taking these barriers into account, a number of measures as contained in **Table 4.3** will be used to remove obstacles to participation for vulnerable groups.

**Table 4.3 Showing method of consultation of vulnerable persons**

| Category of Vulnerable Person            | Method of Consultation and Consideration                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Elderly                                  | Recognize their organization and leadership, Focus Group meetings, Assisted transport to meetings                                                                                                                                       |
| female headed Households (widows)/ Women | Recognize and respect cultural norms. Additional separate Focus Group meetings should be held for women. Where women are in seclusion, female consultants and specialists may be assigned to consult with them in the designated areas. |
| Orphans                                  | Additional Focus Group meetings Assisted Transport to meetings                                                                                                                                                                          |
| People living with disabilities          | Recognize their organization and leadership, Focus Group meetings, Assisted transport to meetings                                                                                                                                       |
| People living in extreme poverty         | Assisted transport to meetings                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

#### 4.4 Proposed Strategy for Information Disclosure

The objective of the information disclosure plan is to ensure that appropriate project information, particularly activities on environmental and social risks and impacts are disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible and appropriate manner and format. The ACRE SAL SEP makes provision for disclosure of safeguard documents to project-affected and other interested stakeholders mapped during stakeholder's identification exercise. The disclosed documents which shall be in English language will be released for public review for the period of 21 days in accordance with Nigerian Regulatory Frameworks. Distribution of the disclosure materials will be done by making them available at venues and locations convenient for the stakeholders and places to which the public have unhindered access as follows:

1. Ministry of Finance
2. Ministry of Environment,
3. Ministry of Agriculture
4. Ministry of Water Resources,
5. Ministry of Local Government Affairs,
6. Ministry of Women Affairs,

7. Ministry of Works

8. Project Management offices

Translation of the executive summaries in relevant local language and its posting in the designated community centers is expedient to successful stakeholder engagement. This is to ensure that language barriers do not create communication breaches, thereby failing to carry all stakeholders along.

Electronic copies of the SEP for disclosure will be placed on the website of the Bank and each implementing agencies. This will allow stakeholders with access to internet to view information about the project and to initiate their involvement in the public consultation process. The website will be equipped with an online feedback feature that will enable readers to leave their comments in relation to the disclosed materials.

**Table 4.4 Information Disclosure Strategy**

| Stakeholders | Project Information Shared                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Means of communication/ disclosure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MDAs         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguard Documents;</li> <li>• Regular updates on Project development; including proposed design / livelihood enhancement and support programmes /community.</li> <li>• empowerment program</li> <li>• Additional types of Project's information if required for the purposes of regulation and permitting.</li> </ul>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissemination of hard copies of Project status reports</li> <li>• Meetings and round tables.</li> <li>• Virtual Meeting online, webinar</li> <li>• Project website</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| NGOs         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguard Documents;</li> <li>• Public Grievance Procedure;</li> <li>• The duration of proposed project activities;</li> <li>• The proposed stakeholder engagement process highlighting the ways in which stakeholders can participate;</li> <li>• GRM in place</li> <li>• Regular updates on Project development including proposed design /</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electronic publications and press releases on the Project website.</li> <li>• Dissemination of hard copies at designated public locations.</li> <li>• Press releases in the local media (Radio Jingles).</li> <li>• Consultation meetings – village meetings/ Association meetings.</li> <li>• Information leaflets and brochures.</li> <li>• Virtual Meeting</li> </ul> |
|              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• livelihood enhancement and support programmes /community.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

|                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Other affected / interested persons | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ Safeguard Documents;</li> <li>☐ Public Grievance Procedure;</li> <li>☐ The duration of proposed project activities;</li> <li>☐ The proposed stakeholder engagement process highlighting the ways in which stakeholders can participate; GRM in place</li> <li>☐ Regular updates on Project development including proposed design / livelihood /community</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ Electronic publications and press releases on the Project website.</li> <li>☐ Dissemination of hard copies at designated public locations. Press releases in the local media (Radio Jingles).</li> <li>☐ Consultation meetings – village meetings/ Association meetings. Information leaflets, pictograms and brochures which shall be translated to the local language obtainable in the localities.</li> <li>☐ Separate focus group meetings with vulnerable groups, during Stakeholder Consultations.</li> </ul> |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Disclosure under the AF will include updated versions of the SEP and ESCP prior to effectiveness, and subsequent disclosure of site-specific instruments as required. Information will be disclosed through federal and state project websites, state and local government offices, community notice boards, radio programs, town hall meetings, traditional and religious institutions, women and youth platforms, CIG meetings, contractor/community interface meetings, electronic grievance platforms, and other accessible channels. Disclosure materials will clearly explain project scope, eligibility criteria, expected benefits, potential risks and impacts, mitigation measures, GRM channels, SEA/SH confidential reporting pathways, and the role of the World Bank Grievance Redress Service and Accountability Mechanism.

#### 4.4.1 Timelines

The disclosure process associated with the SEP will be implemented within the following time frame:

**Table 4.5 Disclosure Timeline**

| Activity                                                                                                      | Date/Phase                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Placement of the SEP in public domain                                                                         | Prior to date of AF appraisal closure                              |
| Public consultation meetings with project stakeholders to discuss feedbacks and perceptions about the program | During AF effectiveness and before implementation of AF activities |
| Addressing Stakeholder feedback on the disclosure exercise                                                    | During project implementation and throughout AF life               |

#### 4.4.2 Feedback

The following channels will facilitate feedback on information disclosed, perception about the project and other input:

- 1) The local NGOs (FoNGO) aside from its traditional advocacy and enlightenment roles, will serve as an intermediary between the affected/beneficiary stakeholders and the SPMU to receive such feedbacks as

contained in this section. NGO is to be identified and engaged by the SPMU. *(please refer Table 4.2 Stakeholder Engagement Plan)*

- 2) The ACRoSAL project website for information disclosure will be equipped with an online feedback feature that will enable readers to leave their comments in relation to the disclosed materials. This will allow stakeholders with access to internet to view information about the project and to initiate their involvement in the public consultation process. *(Please refer 4.4 on Proposed Strategy for Information Disclosure)*
- 3) The stakeholders will also make use of the free toll lines that will be made available by the SPMU to communicate concerns and feedback to the SPMU.
- 4) Feedback will also be received using the email address of the SPMU.

#### 4.5 Future Phases of Project

This ACRoSAL SEP will be domesticated by the participating States and updated by the SPMU to ensure effectiveness of SEP implementation.

#### 4.6 Capacity Building and Training for Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder engagement is a continuum and runs throughout the project lifecycle; hence, the need to develop adequate capacity. The successful implementation of effective stakeholder engagement will require adequate capacity for the SPMU. Capacity building efforts shall focus on the SPMU who are primarily responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the stakeholder engagement process for the project, as well as other implementing and monitoring partners. The table below presents identified capacity development or strengthening needs for the ACRoSAL SEP.

**Table 4.6: Capacity Building Plan**

| S/N | Capacity                                                                              | Target Group(s)                               | Timeline                                                                                                               |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | SEP Implementation capacity                                                           | SPMU, Community Associations and Focal groups | one during project preparatory phase and another during implementation phase and any other time as may be need induced |
| 2   | Facilitation of stakeholder engagement                                                | SPMU, Community Associations and Focal groups | one during project preparatory phase and another during implementation phase and any other time as may be need induced |
| 3   | Community-focused awareness creation on Citizens Engagement and Social Accountability | SPMU, Community Associations and Focal groups | one during project preparatory phase and another during implementation phase and any other time as may be need induced |

|   |                                        |                                               |                                                                                                                        |
|---|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 | Monitoring of implementation           | SPMU, Community Associations and Focal groups | one during project preparatory phase and another during implementation phase and any other time as may be need induced |
| 5 | Stakeholder engagement data management | ACReSAL Safeguards Team, M&E and GIS Team     | one during project preparatory phase and another during implementation phase and any other time as may be need induced |
| 6 | Management of Grievance during SEP     | ACReSAL Safe guards Team                      | one during project preparatory phase and another during implementation phase and any other time as may be need induced |

## CHAPTER 5: RESOURCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

### 5.1 Resources

Project implementation would follow the current model and be implemented through existing Acresal Project Management Units (PMUs) already in place under the Federal Ministry of Environment and State Departments of Environments. The steering committee made up of Honorable Ministers of Finance, Agriculture, Environment, Water Resources, Information, Local Government Affairs, Works and Education will lead the institutional arrangement. Synergy with FADAMA and TRIMING operations/locations would be an important factor in site selection. This subsection outlines the proposed organizational structure and management functions for the SEP. The SEP will be managed, coordinated and implemented by the Project Management Unit. The roles within the PMU and the responsibilities are contained in **Table 5.1**.

There is one Project Management Unit in each participating state, headed by a State Project Coordinator.

## 5.2 Management Functions and Responsibilities

**Table 5.1 Implementation Arrangement**

| Body                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Responsibility                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>National Steering Committee</b><br>(Chaired by the Honorable Minister of Finance while the Honorable Minister of Environment shall serve as cochair. Other members shall include Honorable Minister of Water Resources and the Honorable Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD) and Heads of relevant Agencies and Departments.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead the institutional arrangement of ACREsAL</li> <li>• Ensure inter-ministerial coordination and policy direction and engagement of the prodder agro-climatic resilience engagements and related climate change actions,</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Federal Project Coordinating Unit</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | provide supervision and technical support to States as needed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>SPMU</b> (staffed with a broad range of expertise, supplemented by secondments from the relevant MDAs.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan, coordinate, manage and develop the ACREsAL projects to ensure success;</li> <li>• Organize the necessary orientation and training for the Project Management Team at the site level so that they can carry out consultations with communities/PAPs, and implement the SEP in an efficient manner</li> <li>• Review SEP report</li> <li>• Monitor Implementation of SEP</li> <li>• Submission of reports to World Bank</li> </ul> |
| Federal Ministry of Environment                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor the implementation of SEP</li> <li>• Ensure that alternative or relocation sites environmentally safe and sound for PAPs</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Project Coordinator                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Responsible for overseeing and coordinating all activities associated with stakeholder engagement;                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| NGOs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | will be the direct contact for PAP in the local communities and GRM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Environmental officer / Social Livelihood Officer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate and organize community engagement activities;</li> <li>• Provides advice and guidance on World Bank ESS.;</li> <li>• Ensure that the GRC is set up</li> <li>• Ensure that members of the GRC are trained</li> <li>• Reviews the SEP report before it is submitted to the World Bank</li> </ul>                                                                                                                              |

|                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Grievance Redress Committee         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support to PAPs on problems arising from the loss of their livelihood/assets and project related concerns</li> <li>• Record the grievance of the Stakeholders, categorize and prioritize the grievances that need to be resolved by the committee;</li> <li>• Report to the aggrieved parties about the developments regarding their grievances and the decision of the project authorities and,</li> <li>• Ensure that grievances are resolved locally and in time, as much as possible</li> </ul> |
| Affected Persons/Vulnerable persons | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give input and, or support on alternative project designs during Focused Group Discussion,</li> <li>• Attend meetings, workshops and capacity building meetings for this SEP;</li> <li>• Comply with agreements reached during consultations to ensure success;</li> <li>• Implementation and livelihood restoration</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                             |

### 5.3 Estimated Costing

Presented in this section is the budget for implementing the SEP per unit SPMU. Each participating State PMU under ACREsAL will be responsible for budgetary provisions to fund the activities of their specific SEP.

The Estimated cost of implementing SEP in each SPMU is estimated as eighteen Million Two Hundred Thousand Naira per Project State (N18,200,000.00). As it is not inconceivable that inflation and other unforeseeable changes may affect this costing during the implementation stage, 20% of the total sum being four million, two hundred and forty thousand Naira (N4,240,000.00) will be added to the budget as contingency provision to offset potential inflation. To finance GRM, 10% of the budget for implementing the SEP being three million six hundred and twenty thousand Naira (N3,620,000.00) will be added to the budget.

The final budget is **Twenty-Six Million, Sixty Thousand Naira Only (N26,060,000.00)**. This budget is for all SEP activities for the entire duration of the ACREsAL project per SPMU including the AF period. The estimate is indicative and subject to review by the SPMU at the time of implementation

**Table 5.2: Breakdown of SEP implementation Budget**

| ITEM                                                          | DESCRIPTION                     | EXPECTED PARTICIPANTS | ESTIMATED UNIT COST (N) | TOTAL (N) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| High level meetings with MDAs and NGOs in programme locations | 5 locations estimated per State | To be determined      | 400,000                 | 3,000,000 |

|                                                                                    |                                                                                      |                  |                      |           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| Virtual online meetings/<br>internet with project<br>stakeholders                  | Cost of Data and<br>internet                                                         | To be determined | lump sum             | 1,000,000 |
| Website                                                                            | Setting up<br>and maintaining<br>project website                                     | -                | lump sum             | 2,400,000 |
| Town-hall meetings with host<br>community and groups                               | Expenses for hall and<br>public address system plus<br>COVID-19 protocol<br>expenses | To be determined | lump sum             | 3,000,000 |
| Production of Jingles for<br>Television and Radio                                  |                                                                                      | -                | lump sum             | 3,000,000 |
| Programme IEC materials<br>including newsletters,<br>banners, flyers and signposts |                                                                                      |                  | lump sum             | 1,800,000 |
| Maintenance of Vehicles &<br>Fueling<br><br>Miscellaneous (Printing etc.)          | Annual cost estimate                                                                 | -                | lump sum             | 2,000,000 |
| Capacity Building for<br>ACReSAL Safeguards Team                                   | See details of training in<br>Table 4.6                                              |                  | lump sum             | 5,000,000 |
| <b>SUB-TOTAL</b>                                                                   |                                                                                      |                  | <b>18,200,000.00</b> |           |

|                                                                                                     |                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 20% of the total sum added to the budget as contingency provision to offset<br>potential inflation. | 4,240,000.00         |
| 10% of the budget for implementing the SEP and GRM                                                  | 3,620,000.00         |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                                                                                  | <b>26,060,000.00</b> |

## **CHAPTER 6: GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM**

This section details the proposed grievance mechanism under Component C, that will be used to identify, track, and manage grievances raised by external Project stakeholders. This mechanism as set out below takes into consideration existing grievance redress systems already in place in as indicated during SEP consultations.

### **6.1 Objectives of Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)**

1. To address grievances promptly and effectively, in a transparent manner resulting in outcomes that are seen as fair, effective and lasting;
2. To provide a grievance management process that takes into consideration culture and tradition practiced in the area (this may include female members of GRC handling complaints involving women in areas where female seclusion is practiced) and which is readily accessible to all Project affected parties;
3. To build trust as integral component of the Project community relations activities; and
4. To enable a systematic identification of emerging issues, facilitating correcting actions and preemptive engagement.
5. To cut down on lengthy litigation, which may hinder effective implementation of projects

### **6.2 Potential Issues that may Necessitate GRM**

The major grievances that might require mitigation include but are not limited to:

1. Community members not adhering to cut-off date as announced during consultation
2. Losses not identified correctly;
3. Compensation for loss of assets;
4. Dispute about ownership of affected assets;
5. Delay in disbursement of assistance and improper distribution of assistance;
6. Land acquisition, restriction of access and displacement;
7. Non-inclusion of community members in paid labour/workforce;
8. Unrealistic Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expectations from the client or contractors by community members;
9. Omission of eligible PAPs;
10. Uncompensated loss of assets;
11. Delay in execution of sub-projects leading to breakdown of trust;
12. Non-implementation or discrepancies in the implementation of LRP/SEP/LMP and other documents as stipulated in the report;
13. Potential risk of Gender based violence/sexual harassment of locals as a result of labour influx.

### **6.3 Informing Parties on Levels and Channels of Grievance Uptake**

There will be 3 levels at which a complainant can channel his/her complaints for redress. These shall include 1) the project site level, 2) the project management unit level, and 3) the state project steering committee level. It is, however, the right of the complainant to take a matter to the court of law as the final arbiter if he/she felt dissatisfied with the judgments obtained from the grievance redress committees set up by this Project or if s/he does not want to use the GRM.

Complainants shall be communicated early during public consultation about the existence of the GRM and sufficient information provided to them on the grievance uptake channels which includes channels that are culturally appropriate and permit for self-identified, confidential, or anonymous procedures (***professional letter writers, suggestion / GRM boxes, Email, toll-free telephone***) continuously and throughout the project implementation.

#### **6.4 Setting up a Grievance Redress Mechanism**

During the development of the SEP, the participating states PMU shall establish a Grievance Redress Mechanism that incorporates the use of existing local Grievance Redress Mechanism available in the community. It will be effective and result oriented to work with existing and functional local structures of dispute resolution than to design an entirely new one which may be alien to the people. The existing GRM can be restructured and strengthened for adaptation for this project context.

Under the AF, SPMUs will maintain the already set up grievance redress mechanisms at the following levels:

Site/Community Level; Project

Management Unit Level; State

Steering Committee Level.

#### **6.5 Membership of the Grievance Redress Committee (GRC)**

The specific composition of the GRC will vary depending upon location and context. In general membership of the GRC for the 3 levels of grievance uptakes shall comprise as follows:

##### ***GRC at the Site/Community Level***

The traditional Ruler/District head or a person appointed by him from his council;

The village head;

The Woman leader in the community or her secretary;

A woman leader of an affinity association;

2 Representatives of PAPs including at least a woman;

2 members of the site committee including at least a woman.

Social livelihood officer of the SPMU to serve as the secretary of the committee

##### ***GRC at the PMU Level***

The state project coordinator shall constitute a team within the SPMU to receive, hear, and address complaints arising from the project. The team will be headed by the Social and Livelihood Officer. Membership of the team shall be as follows:

Social Livelihood Officer;

Communication officer/ Public relations officer;

Environmental Safeguard officer

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, and

The Project Engineer

### ***GRC at the State Steering Committee Level***

The committee at this level shall be headed by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, while the State Project Coordinator of ACREsAL shall serve as the secretary of the committee.

Membership of the GRC at this level shall constitute as follows:

The Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agriculture;

Director Ministry of Land & Survey

Director Ministry of Agriculture;

Director Ministry of Environment

The State Project Coordinator of ACREsAL

Representative of the State's Citizen Mediation Centre/Public Ombudsman/office of Public Defender if available in such state

### **6.6 Expectation When Grievances Arise**

When local people present a grievance, they generally expect to receive one or more of the following: acknowledgement of their problem, an honest response to questions/issues brought forward, an apology, adequate compensation, modification of the conduct that caused the grievance and some other fair remedies

In voicing their concerns, they also expect to be heard and taken seriously. Therefore, contractors or government officials must assure people that they can voice grievances and work to resolve them without conflict. To address these challenges, it will be included in the contract agreement of the construction companies and contractors to work with their host communities and to fund GRM arising between contractors and their employees, and the communities.

### **6.7 Grievance Redress Process**

There is no ideal model or one-size-fits-all approach to grievance resolution. The best solutions to conflicts are generally achieved through localized mechanisms that take account of the specific issues, cultural context, local customs, and project conditions, and scale. **Annex 5** contains grievance redress forms that could be used by the GRC to register and record progress on grievances. In its simplest form, grievance mechanisms can be broken down into the following primary components:

#### ***Registration***

The first step is the presentation of grievance at the uptake point at any level. The social contact person or secretary of the committee will receive grievance from the complainant, register, and acknowledge receipt of grievance to the grievant within 2 days. The registration form will capture the following data: 1) Case number, 2) Name of the complainant, 3) Date of the grievance, 4) Gender, 5) Complete address, 6) Category of the grievance, 7) persons involved, and impacts on complainant life, 8) Proofs and witnesses, and 9) Previous records of similar grievances.

#### ***Verification***

The verification determines among other things whether the matter has relationship with the project activities, and whether the matter can be handled/resolved at the level where it is presented. This will determine whether the matter should be referred to the next level or not. Part of the investigations may also be to assess the cost t, or risk involved in grievance.

### **Processing**

The processing step is when options for the approach to resolving the case are weighed and determined. Parties involved in the case are brought together for the first attempt at resolution with suggestions from the parties on practical steps to be taken which may also involve site visit for physical inspection and determination of the claim.

### **Feedback**

All responses to the complainant in a grievance redress process that moves beyond a unit level must be communicated in writing and/or by verbal presentation to the complainant. This will include a follow-up on the corresponding authority where cases are referred, to ascertain the status of reported cases. Feedback on outcome of each case should be given to the complainant through the secretary of committee or social contact/safeguard person. It is expected that reported complaints at each level will be resolved and determined within **21 days** from date of receipt of the complaint.

Grievance resolution will be a continuous process in subproject level activities and implementation. The SPMU will keep records of all resolved and unresolved complaints and grievances (one file for each case record) and make them available for review as and when asked for by the Bank and any other interested persons/entities. The SPMU will also prepare periodic reports on the grievance resolution process and publish these on the ACRoSAL website.

As obtained under the AF, the ACRoSAL project will update and strengthen the GRM through information and communication technology such as a web-based dashboard to ensure that all complaints including those of sexual exploitation and abuse are immediately reported to the Government. ACRoSAL will integrate the GRM on a web-based dashboard, to adequately and promptly address any potential grievance related to Gender Based Violence and SEA. The complaints registered in this system will be managed by the Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) Secretary that will liaise immediately with any GBV and SEA complaints with the contractors and SPMU for immediate measures.

If the GRM receives a case on sexual exploitation and abuse related to the project, complaint will only be recorded after securing full consent of the complainant in line with survival centered approach. The GRM administrator will then refer the complainant to the appropriate SEA/SH service provider or relevant government authorities usually under the Ministry of Women Affairs that handle cases of GBV and SEA. The GRC administrator or secretary will keep the information and personal details of the complainant confidential to protect the privacy of GBV and SEA complainants. As part of contractor's agreement, each contractor would be required to sign a code of conduct to mitigate potential risk of SEA /SH. In cases, where the perpetrator(s) is linked to project activities then the contractor will take appropriate actions as per the provision of the contractor's contract agreement and under the effective law in Nigeria. ACRoSAL will report activities and outcomes of GBV and SEA surveillance and management to the World Bank on a regular basis.

### **6.8 Financing of the Grievance Redress Mechanism and Cost of Remediation**

To finance GRM, 10% of the budget for implementing the SEP being the sum of three million six hundred and twenty thousand Naira (N3,620,000.00) will be added to the budget for the SEP.

Where grievance relates to issues between stakeholders (community members and MDAs) and the SPMU, the SPMU shall fund the process from the 10% of SEP implementation cost set aside for GRM.

Where grievance relates to issues between the contractors, their workers and employees and the community, the contractor shall fund the GRM.

Where the complainant decides to recourse to litigation, the complainant will be responsible for the cost of the judicial process. Table 6.1 below shows the implementation plan for the GRM.

**Table 6.1: Implementation Plan for Grievance Mechanism**

| Steps | Process                                           | Description                                                                                  | Completion Time frame                          | Responsible Agency/Person                                                                |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Receipt of complaint                              | Document date of receipt, name of complainant, village, nature of complaint, inform the SPMU | 1 day                                          | Secretary to GRC at project level                                                        |
| 2     | Acknowledgement of grievance                      | By letter, email, phone                                                                      | 1-2 days                                       | Secretary to GRC at project level                                                        |
| 3     | Screen and Establish the Merit of the Grievance   | Visit the site; listen to the complainant /community; and assess the merit                   | 5-10 days                                      | GRC including the social safeguard officer & the aggrieved PAP or his/her representative |
| 4     | Implement and                                     | Where complaint is justified,                                                                | 14 days or at a                                | PC-PMU and Social                                                                        |
|       | monitor a redress action                          | carry out resettlement redress in line with the entitlement matrix/ESS5                      | time specified in writing to the aggrieved PAP | Safeguard Officer                                                                        |
| 5     | Extra intervention for a dissatisfied complainant | Review the redress steps and conclusions, provide intervention solution                      | 10 days of receiving status report             | GRC at PMU level                                                                         |
| 6     | Judicial adjudication                             | Take complaint to court of law                                                               | No fixed time                                  | Complainant                                                                              |

|   |                              |                                                                 |                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7 | Funding of grievance process | GRC logistics and training, redress compensation, court process | During the duration of the grievance resolution | <p>a. where grievance relates to issues between the contractors, their workers and employees and the community, the contractor shall fund the GRM.</p> <p>b. Where grievance relates to issues between stakeholders (community members and MDAs) and the SPMU, the SPMU shall fund the process from the 10% of SEP implementation cost set</p> |
|   |                              |                                                                 |                                                 | aside for GRM.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

#### 6.9 World Bank Grievance Redress Service (GRS)

Communities and individuals who believe that they are adversely affected by Sub-project interventions may submit complaints to existing project-level GRM or the WB Grievance Redress Service (GRS). Project affected communities and individuals may also submit their complaint to the World Bank's independent Inspection Panel, which determines whether harm occurred, or could occur, because of non-compliance with WB safeguards policies and

procedures. Details of the procedures to submit complaints to the WB's corporate GRS, is available in the GRS website: <http://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/products-and-services/grievance-redress-service>. For information on how to submit complaints to the WB Inspection Panel, please visit [www.inspectionpanel.org](http://www.inspectionpanel.org). Any disclosure instrument on GRM will provide addresses of the GRS and the Inspection Panel.

## **CHAPTER 7: MONITORING AND REPORTING**

### **7.1 Monitoring**

It is important to monitor the ongoing stakeholder engagement process to ensure that consultation and disclosure efforts are effective, and that stakeholders have been meaningfully consulted throughout the process. The SEP will be periodically revised and updated as necessary in the course of project implementation in order to ensure that the information presented herein is consistent and is the most recent, and that the identified methods of engagement remain appropriate and effective in relation to the project context and specific phases of the development. Any major changes to the project-related activities and to its schedule will be duly reflected in the SEP. The two keyways in which the stakeholder engagement process, as will be provided for in the M&E action plan, will be monitored are through review of Engagement activities in the field and through reporting engagement activities.

#### **7.1.1 Review of Engagement Activities in the Field**

During engagement with stakeholders the E & S team will assess meetings by asking questions to participants, depending on the stakeholder group, to ensure that messages are being conveyed clearly. Conduct debriefing sessions with the engagement team while in the field. This will help to assess whether the required outcomes of the stakeholder engagement process are being achieved and provide the opportunity to amend the process where necessary.

#### **7.1.2 Reporting Stakeholder Engagement Activities**

Performance will be reviewed following the engagement sessions conducted in the field. In addition, there will be opportunity to review and assess performance in-between the engagement sessions depending on the level of feedback received from stakeholders during these periods.

Evaluation of performance will be assessed based on the extent to which the engagement activities and outputs meet those outlined in this SEP. In assessing performance, indicators will be crafted around the following areas:

1. Materials disseminated: types, frequency, and location
2. Place and time of formal engagement events and level of participation including specific stakeholder groups (e.g. women, youth, community leaders)
3. Number of comments received on specific issues, type of stakeholder and details of feedback provided.
4. Numbers and type of stakeholders who come into contact with the Project team by mail, telephone and any other means of communication
5. Meeting minutes, attendance registers and photographic evidence
6. Comments received by government authorities, community leaders and other parties and passed to the Project
7. Numbers and types of feedback and / or grievances and the nature and timing of their resolution, and
8. The extent to which feedback and comments have been addressed and have led to corrective actions being implemented.

Monthly summaries and internal reports on the implementation of the SEP and GRM, together with the status of implementation of associated corrective/preventative actions will be systematized by the PMU Social Safeguards Specialist and reported to the Project Coordinator. The monthly summaries will provide a timely mechanism for assessing both the number and the nature of complaints and requests for information, along with the Project's ability to address those in a timely and effective manner and adjust its operations or approach as necessary.

## **Annex 1: Public Consultation Summary**

### **Summary of Stakeholder Consultation conducted towards the preparation of SEP from 25<sup>th</sup> January to 5<sup>th</sup> of February 2021**

Consultations were held with stakeholders in Sokoto, Niger, Nasarawa, Kano and Gombe States respectively. The meetings discussed the objectives and benefits of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the ACRéSAL project. Sessions were interactive as Stakeholders expressed their concerns and also offered suggestions on how to learn from parent project in furtherance of the objectives of SEP in ACRéSAL.

The participants were given an overview of the project and informed on the proposed AF, proposed envelop and scope of its coverage. The purpose of ACRéSAL is to address climate issues in semi-arid landscapes in Nigeria. It is a project focused on the northern states in Nigeria due to peculiar challenges of environment of fragility, conflict, and violence, degradation of natural resources, poor agricultural productivity, climate risks, desertification, poor penetration of modern technology, and weak institutional capacity. The stakeholders were informed that the purpose of SEP is to develop a procedure for effective stakeholder engagement which will last for the duration of the project. This design in its final form will identify key stakeholder groups, outline a stakeholder engagement process and identify the role of each stakeholder in achieving the objectives of the SEP.

#### **Information Sought by the consultant are as follows:**

- Experience and lessons of MDAs on Donor supported project planning and implementation.
- Experience and lessons of MDAs Consultation and Stakeholder engagement activities and Grievance Redress on Projects.
- How each Ministry/Agency resolves conflicts or complaints that are related to projects or functions under its jurisdiction.
- Whether the respective Ministries/Agencies engage in stakeholder engagement and consultation as formal means of conflict resolution and also during project development and implementation.
- Legislation on public engagement in the conduct of the affairs of each Ministry/Agency
- Existence and involvement of NGOs and Civil Society Groups in each State with interest/influence in the areas of Environment, Agriculture and Water Resources.
- How influential are traditional rulers in community decision making and conflict resolution in each State.
- Most effective and appropriate means of contacting and consulting with each Stakeholder Groups.

The stakeholders were encouraged to make contributions, share their views and those views will be adequately represented in the safeguard document and design.

| DATE           | STATE          | STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | KEY SUGGESTIONS, CONCERNS AND INFORMATION GATHERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| April<br>2026  | Sokoto         | <p>SPMU<br/>Commissioner, Permanent Secretaries and Heads of departments, agencies, of all relevant ministries such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner for Environment</li> <li>• Ministry of Information</li> <li>• Ministry of Water Resources,</li> <li>• Ministry of Women and Children Affairs</li> <li>• Ministry of Rural Development</li> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture,</li> <li>• Ministry of Land and Housing,</li> <li>• Ministry of Animal Health and Fisheries,</li> <li>• Ministry of Finance,</li> </ul> <p>Also, in attendance where representatives from relevant CSOs/CBOs/NGOs Farmers Associations, etc.</p> | <p>Participants welcomed the project and expressed their joy at the proposal of a project that addresses peculiar challenges faced in the Northern States of Nigeria.</p> <p><b>Suggestions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholders from the parent project suggested training for the Staff of the SPMU to build their capacity on stakeholder engagement, disclosure and reporting.</li> <li>• Participatory Budgeting and planning should be adopted to involve stakeholders at the grassroots with the financing aspect of the project. This will help manage expectations and facilitate community ownership of the project.</li> <li>• Channels through which community members can be contacted are through community association leaderships, traditional and religious leaders and through radio jingles.</li> <li>• MDAs can be contacted through official letters, emails, text messages and phone calls.</li> <li>• Information disclosure should ensure that summary of disclosed document translated in the local language “Hausa” is made available for Stakeholders.</li> </ul> |
| April,<br>2026 | Niger<br>State | <p>SPMU<br/>Permanent Secretaries and Heads of departments, agencies, of all relevant ministries such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Environment and Forestry.</li> <li>• Ministry of Water Resources,</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>Stakeholders welcomed the project and pledged their support to the success of the project.</p> <p><b>Suggestions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Department of Climate change should be involved as a distinct</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

| DATE | STATE | STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | KEY SUGGESTIONS, CONCERNS AND INFORMATION GATHERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|      |       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Works and Industry</li> <li>Ministry of Women and Children Affairs</li> <li>Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development</li> <li>Ministry of Land and Housing,</li> <li>Ministry of Finance,</li> <li>Head of Service</li> <li>Department of Climate Change</li> <li>Niger State Planning Commission</li> <li>NTA Minna</li> </ul> <p>Also, in attendance where representatives from relevant CSOs/CBOs/NGOs etc.</p> | <p>sector in ACREsAL Project and climate change person in SPMU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host communities should actively participate in the program in terms of manpower and provision of technical assistance.</li> <li>Women have their groups which also covers children. Separate consultations and transportation assistance should be offered to enable women attend consultations. Same applies to the aged in the communities.</li> <li>The State government media houses can be partnered with to provide radio jingles and also create awareness during Stakeholder engagement implementation.</li> <li>Channels through which community members can be contacted is through community association leaderships, traditional and religious leaders and through radio jingles.</li> <li>MDAs can be contacted through official letters, emails, text messages and phone calls.</li> </ul> <p><b>Concerns:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conflict between herdsmen and farmers should be taken into consideration in planning Stakeholder engagement and GRM.</li> <li>The SPMU needs more technical manpower and provision training of staff [capacity building/institutional training]. Training should be both general and based on area of specialization.</li> </ul> |

| DATE        | STATE          | STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | KEY SUGGESTIONS, CONCERNS AND INFORMATION GATHERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|             |                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review/performance allowance for SPMU staff</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| April, 2026 | Nasarawa State | <p>SPMU Commissioner, Permanent Secretaries and Heads of departments, agencies, of all relevant ministries such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commissioner for Environment and Natural Resources.</li> <li>Ministry of Women Affairs,</li> <li>Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>Ministry of Finance</li> <li>Ministry of Works, Housing and Transport</li> <li>Ministry of lands</li> </ul> <p>Other participants in attendance where representatives from Miyetti Allah Association, farmer's Associations, cooperatives and relevant CSOs/CBOs/NGOs etc.</p> | <p>Stakeholders welcomed the project and pledged their support to the success of the project.</p> <p><b>Suggestions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individuals with in-depth knowledge of the North and their peculiarities should be engaged in ACREsAL project when engaging safeguard specialists to assist in the implementation of the SEP.</li> <li>Leadership in States should be trained on the systems and methods of the project as required by the World bank.</li> <li>The use of FONGO has helped in project management and improved management expectations.</li> <li>No case of GBV/GRM has been reported because of the activities of FONGO in the host communities.</li> <li>The landowners have a good relationship with the government</li> <li>Adequate engagement and advocacy contact with the traditional, political and religious leaders is expedient before land acquisition.</li> <li>Ministry of women affair is key. The project should encourage women's participation and children's friendliness.</li> <li>The program should capture fishermen. This is due to effects of water pollution</li> <li>Widespread sensitization should be done on issues pertaining to deforestation and its effects on ozone layer</li> </ul> |

| DATE       | STATE | STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | KEY SUGGESTIONS, CONCERNS AND INFORMATION GATHERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            |       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>depletion as well as climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police, law enforcement and the courts are not popular as issues are resolved at community leadership level.</li> <li>• The traditional rulers (including at the grassroots) are involved in settling dispute between farmers and herdsman.</li> <li>• Communicating and disclosure to stakeholders should be translated into Hausa for easy understanding.</li> <li>• Stakeholders at the grassroots level can be contacted through their community associations, townhall meetings, FNGO activities, their traditional leaders, CIGs and radio jingles.</li> </ul> <p><b>Concerns:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stakeholders get fatigued from very frequent consultations, especially when the time frame between initial consultations and actual implementation is protracted. There should be a way to factor in strict adherence to time frame. This ensures that disclosure to stakeholders can contain realizable timeline of projects.</li> </ul> |
| April 2026 | Kano  | <p>SPMU Commissioner, Permanent Secretaries and Heads of departments, agencies, of all relevant ministries such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner for Environment</li> <li>• Commissioner for Women Affairs</li> <li>• Ministry of Land and Housing</li> <li>• Ministry of land</li> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>• Ministry of Local Government and Rural development</li> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture</li> </ul> | <p>The Stakeholders expressed enthusiasm towards the proposed project and welcomed it. Permanent Secretary Ministry of Agric Kano State expressed his happiness on the incoming ACREsAL project especially to Kano State considering the desert encroachment faced by some parts of Kano State.</p> <p><b>Suggestions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On existing GRM, the Social Livelihood Officer Kano</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| DATE        | STATE | STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | KEY SUGGESTIONS, CONCERNS AND INFORMATION GATHERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|             |       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Finance</li> <li>CSOs/CBOs/NGOs</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <p>informed the consultant on the existing GRM structure in the project sites. Community stakeholders were engaged through Focal NGOs. The Focal NGOs came up with and established “Ten CIGs” (5 for men, 5 for women) comprising of vulnerable persons, youths, people living with disability in each of the four water conservation sites of Kano.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Site Committee, Community Associations, Resettlement Implementation Committee are committees through which grievances can be collected in addition to the GRC.</li> </ul> <p><b>Concerns:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders’ fatigue occurs due to protracted length of time between introductory consultations and actual implementations. All involved stakeholders and agencies can work towards speedy and timely implementation of projects under the ACRE SAL.</li> </ul> |
| April, 2026 | Gombe | <p>SPMU<br/>Permanent Secretaries and Heads of departments, agencies, of all relevant ministries such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministry of Environment</li> <li>Ministry of Information</li> <li>Ministry of Water Resources,</li> <li>Ministry of Women and Children Affairs</li> <li>Ministry of Local Government and chieftaincy affairs.</li> <li>Ministry of Agriculture,</li> <li>Ministry of land and Survey,</li> <li>Ministry of Finance,</li> </ul> | <p>Stakeholders welcomed the project and pledged their support to the success of the project.</p> <p><b>Suggestions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stakeholders at the grassroots level can be contacted through community associations, radio jingles, flyers in local language, traditional leaders. MDAs can be contacted through phone calls, letters and emails, Virtual</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

| DATE | STATE | STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED                                                                                                 | KEY SUGGESTIONS, CONCERNS AND INFORMATION GATHERED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|      |       | In attendance where representatives from relevant CSOs/CBOs/NGOs, State Media House Reps, Community Associations, etc. | <p>meetings and social media (Webinars, skype etc).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry of Local Government should be carried along in SEP as it is actively involved in grievance redress at community level – Traditional report grievances to the Ministry and the ministry sends a team to distressed communities to facilitate peace and community wellbeing. The ministry also has synergy with NGOs working in the communities. The functions of the Ministry include granting entrance permits into local government and settling disputes that are not settled at the community level.</li> <li>• Traditional Leaders actively participate in and should be carried along in grievance redress.</li> <li>• When project commences, consultants should respect the tradition of seclusion of females and provide female specialists to hold meetings with these women away from public.</li> </ul> <p><b>Concern:</b></p> <p>There are conflicts in some communities involving herdsmen and farmers. SEP GRM provisions should be able to address such conflicts if any arise in the cause of the project, but none is envisaged.</p> |

**Annex 2: Public Consultation Template used as Discussion Guide during Stakeholder Engagement Exercise in the Development of This SEP.**

**STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (SEP) FOR THE PROPOSED  
AGRO-CLIMATIC RESILIENCE IN SEMI-ARID LANDSCAPES**

**SURVEY TEMPLATE**

**SECTION A: RESPONDENTS DATA**

- 1) Name of State.....
- 2) Name of Respondent.....
- 3) Designation/Rank.....
- 4) Name of Ministry, Agency or Department.....  
.....
- 5) Signature & Date of Completion of the Form.....

**SECTION B: STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION & ANALYSIS**

- 1) List the names of MDAs in your state with functions on:
  - 1.1) Afforestation & desertification.....
  - 1.2) Land degradation and rehabilitation.....
  - 1.3) Land Acquisition, Revocation and Compensation.....
  - 1.4) Grievance Redress and Conflict Resolution.....
  - 1.5) Livestock control and Management.....
  - 1.6) Agricultural productivity .....
  - 1.7) Water Resources Supply and Management.....

2) List the names of NGOs and Civil Society Groups in this State with interest/influence in the areas of Environment, Agriculture and Water

Resources.....

.....

3) Are traditional rulers strong and influential in community decision making and conflict resolution in this State? .....

4) What are the mutual or influential associations in which the following groups can be recognized?

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Farmers              |  |
| Herders              |  |
| Livestock rearers    |  |
| foresters            |  |
| Water Users          |  |
| Women in agriculture |  |

5) Please suggest most appropriate and effective means of contacting and consulting with each of these Groups:

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Farmers                       |  |
| Herders                       |  |
| Livestock rearers             |  |
| foresters                     |  |
| Water Users                   |  |
| Women in agriculture          |  |
| NGOs/Civil Society Groups     |  |
| Child Household Heads         |  |
| Internally Displaced Persons  |  |
| Physically Challenged Persons |  |
| MDAs                          |  |

6) Please from the list below suggest most appropriate and effective methods of communicating with each of these Groups: (options include radio program, radio jingle, newspaper, social media, town crier, use of announcement in worship centers, Television, etc)

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Farmers                       |  |
| Herders                       |  |
| Livestock rearers             |  |
| foresters                     |  |
| Water Users                   |  |
| Women in agriculture          |  |
| NGOs/Civil Society Groups     |  |
| Child Household Heads         |  |
| Internally Displaced Persons  |  |
| Physically Challenged Persons |  |
| MDAs                          |  |

## SECTION C: STAKEHOLDERS PRACTICES ON PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

1. Has your Ministry/Agency been involved in any of the following?

- A. Project Design ( )
- B. Project Execution ( )
- C. Project monitoring and evaluation ( )
- D. Consultation and Stakeholder engagement activities ( )
- E. Grievance Redress on Projects ( )

2. Please name the project(s) in which your Ministry/Agency was involved and roles it played

.....  
.....

3. How does your Ministry/Agency resolve conflicts or complaints that are related to projects or functions under its jurisdiction?

.....  
.....

4. Does your Ministry/Agency engage in stakeholder engagement and consultation as formal means of conflict resolution?

.....

5. Does your Ministry/Agency engage in stakeholder engagement and consultation during project development and implementation?

.....

6) If yes to either or both of questions 5 and 6, is the practice of consultation or engagement underpinned by any legislation or policy?.....

7) If yes to question 6, can you please make reference to the legislation (s) and/or policy.

.....  
.....  
.....

8) If there is no legislation on public engagement in the conduct of the affairs of your Ministry/Agency, would you suggest one? (Yes..... No.....)

### Annex 3: Consultation Photos



Figure 1: MTR stakeholder Engagement



Figure 2: World Bank Team at the MTR Stakeholder Engagement



Figure 3: World Bank Team at the MTR Stakeholder Engagement



Figure 4: Representatives from State MDAs at the MTR Stakeholder Engagement



Figure 5: Panel Discussion with World Bank Team and MDAs

**Annex 4: Grievance Redress Form**

|                                                                                                  |                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                     |                                                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Grievance Form</b>                                                                            |                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                     |                                                                           |
| Grievance Number:                                                                                |                                                                           | Copies to forward to:                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                     |                                                                           |
| Name of the Recorder;                                                                            |                                                                           | (Original)-Receiver Party:                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                     |                                                                           |
| LG & Community:                                                                                  |                                                                           | (Copy)- Responsible Party:                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                     |                                                                           |
| Date:                                                                                            |                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                     |                                                                           |
| <b>Information About Grievance</b>                                                               |                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                     |                                                                           |
| <b>Define the Grievance</b> .....                                                                |                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                     |                                                                           |
| <b>Information about the Complainant</b>                                                         |                                                                           | Forms of Receipt:<br><input type="checkbox"/> community Information Meetings<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mail<br><input type="checkbox"/> Informal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other                  |                                                                                     |                                                                           |
| Name                                                                                             |                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                     |                                                                           |
| Phone Line                                                                                       |                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                     |                                                                           |
| Village/ Local Govt. Area                                                                        |                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                     |                                                                           |
| Signature of Complainant and Date                                                                |                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                     |                                                                           |
| <b>DETAILS OF GRIEVANCE (addition to list could be made as appropriate)</b>                      |                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                     |                                                                           |
| <b>1. Access to Land and Resources</b>                                                           | <b>2. Damage to</b>                                                       | <b>3. Damage to Infrastructure or Community Assets</b>                                                                                                                                                | <b>4. Decrease or Loss of Livelihood</b>                                            | <b>5. Traffic Accident</b>                                                |
| a) Fishing grounds<br>b) Lands<br>c) Pasturelands<br>d) House site<br>e) Commercial<br>f) Others | a) House<br>b) Land<br>c) Livestock<br>d) Means of livelihood<br>e) Other | a) Road<br>b) Bridge/Passage ways<br>c) Power/Telephone Lines<br>d) Water sources, canals and water infrastructure for irrigation and animals<br>e) Drinking water<br>f) Sewerage System<br>g) Others | a) Agriculture<br>b) husbandry<br>c) Beekeeping<br>d) Small scale trade<br>e) Other | a) Injury<br>b) Damage to property<br>c) Damage to livestock<br>e) others |
| <b>6. Incidents Regarding Expropriation and Compensation (Specify)</b>                           | <b>7. Resettlement Process (Specify)</b>                                  | <b>8. Employment and Recruitment (Specify)</b>                                                                                                                                                        | <b>9. Construction Camp and Community Relations</b><br>a) Nuisance from dust        | <b>10. Other (Specify)</b>                                                |

|  |  |  |                                                                                                                                  |  |
|--|--|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
|  |  |  | <i>b) Nuisance<br/>from noise<br/>c) Vibrations<br/>due to<br/>explosions<br/>d) Misconduct of<br/>the project<br/>personnel</i> |  |
|--|--|--|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|

#### **Annex 4c: Template of a Claim Registration and Follow-up Form**

Prepared by: Date:  
 Aggrieved person:  
 Full name:  
 Residence:  
 Project registration number:  
 Reason for the claim (detailed description of the aggrieved person's version):  
 Composition of the mediation committee:  
 Chair (name, position):  
 LG Chairman/Community Leader/representative (name, position):  
 Project (name, position):  
 Other elders (name, position):  
 Report of mediation efforts:  
 Agreed solution:  
 Implementation of the agreed solution:  
 Close-out:  
 In case no settlement is reached:  
 Reason why no settlement could be reached:  
 Follow-up by claimant:

## Annex 5: A SAMPLE GRIEVANCE LOG

