

# **Resettlement Policy Framework**

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

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

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

CERC	-	Contingent Emergency Response Component
CRESAP	-	Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture Project
CSA	-	Climate Smart Agriculture
DFC	-	Development Finance Corporation
ESS	-	Environmental Social Standards
GOB	-	Government of Belize
GRM	-	Grievance Redress Mechanisms
MAFSE	-	Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security & Enterprise
NMS	-	National Meteorological Service
PIU	-	Project Implementation Unit
PSC	-	Project Steering Committee
RPF	-	Resettlement Policy Framework
RP	-	Resettlement Plan
MNR	-	Ministry of Natural Resources
SEP	-	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
VLD	-	Voluntary Land Donation
WB	-	World Bank

# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Principles and Objectives of Resettlement Framework

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

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

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

- a. To avoid involuntary resettlement or, when unavoidable, minimize involuntary resettlement by exploring project design alternatives as it relates to activities, in particular activities outlined in Subcomponent 2.3 such as water harvesting, irrigation systems, drainage systems or greenhouses.
- b. To avoid forced eviction of residents of communities due to project activities.
- c. To mitigate unavoidable adverse social and economic impacts from land acquisition or restrictions on land use that may be required by this project by: (i) providing timely compensation for loss of assets at replacement cost and (ii) assisting displaced persons in their efforts to improve, or at least restore their livelihoods and living standards in real terms, to pre-displacement levels or to levels prevailing prior to the beginning of project implementation, whichever is higher.
- d. To improve living conditions of poor or vulnerable persons who are physically displaced within the project site, through provision of adequate access to services and facilities, and measures for inclusion in decision-making.

- e. To conceive and execute resettlement activities as sustainable development programs, providing sufficient investment resources to enable displaced persons to benefit directly from the project, as the nature of the project may warrant.
- f. To ensure that resettlement activities are planned and implemented with appropriate disclosure of information, meaningful consultation, and the informed participation of those affected and local government authorities in Belize.

## **1.2 The CRESAP Project**

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

## **1.3 Work Bank Environmental and Social Standards**

The proposed project must comply with World Bank Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) for World Bank-funded projects. ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement has been triggered for the CRESAP. The Bank's ESS5 (Involuntary Resettlement) aims to address the social risks involved in resettlement activities under the project. The World Bank's experience indicates that involuntary resettlement under development projects, if unmitigated, often gives rise to severe economic, social, and environmental risks. This policy includes safeguards to address and mitigate these impoverishment risks.

Given that the specific subprojects to be financed under the CRESAP have not yet been determined, a Resettlement Framework instead of a Resettlement Plan has been developed. This Resettlement Policy Framework is intended to cover all aspects of resettlement activities including land acquisition, relocation and economic impacts that may result as a consequence of the project. Specifically, it addresses the involuntary taking of land and the resulting adverse effects on individuals, their livelihoods and general wellbeing as a consequence. It provides guidelines that ensure that affected persons are consulted and provided with compensation and assistance where appropriate. Though acquisitions and resettlements are not anticipated in any of the project components, specific Resettlement Plans for each sub-project developed during project implementation will need to be prepared in accordance with this Framework, should the need to do so arise. Under subcomponent 2.3, some activities, including the development of drainage and water harvesting systems, may involve land acquisition, livelihood impacts or voluntary land donation.

## 1.4 Project Description

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

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

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

Figure 1: Project Districts (Priority Districts in bright yellow)



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

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

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

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

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

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

This component will finance three subcomponents: The three subcomponents are interrelated and complementary leading to the objective of strengthening the capacity of farmers and participating financial intermediaries engaging in climate-smart agricultural investments under the Project, as to be able to take advantage of the provision of financing to farmers (matching grants and loans from PFIs) to adopt CSA technologies and practices, and increasing their productivity, levels of income and resiliency to climate change and weather events.

- Subcomponent 2.1: Strengthening the capacity of PFIs, individual farmers and farmer organizations participating in the CRESAP matching grants program in support of CSA investments (IBRD US\$1 million).** This subcomponent will finance training courses and advisory services for PFIs, such as Belize's Development Finance Corporation (DFC), the Belize Credit Union League and its member credit unions, commercial banks, and beneficiary farmers and farmer groups applying for grants under Subcomponent 2.2. In particular, Subcomponent 2.1 will: (i) build capacity among PFIs to develop and implement environmental and social management systems (ESMSs) that are consistent with the Bank's Environmental and Social requirements, evaluate climate change considerations in underwriting loans, and provide gender-sensitization training, including on addressing and mitigating risks related to gender-based violence (GBV); (ii) support training courses on climate-smart agriculture approaches for PFIs; (iii) promote the matching grants program among targeted beneficiaries; (iv) strengthen the organizational and business capacities of farmer groups and organizations applying for matching grants under CRESAP; (v) provide specific TA to individual farmers via MAFSE's extension agents and/or service providers for the preparation of business plans and subproject proposals for financing via the matching grants subcomponent to promote the adoption of CSA approaches. The preparation of these business plans would constitute an important aspect of the capacity building for farmers and would address not only the adoption of CSA approaches in production, but also marketing strategies to strengthen commercial linkages for beneficiary farmers and ensuring improved market access; and (vi) tailor technical assistance and financial and business training to women's needs, including holding training events at convenient locations and times for women farmers.
- Subcomponent 2.2: Promotion of CSA technologies and practices via matching grants and leveraging of private capital (Total cost: US\$ 36.7 million; of which IBRD: US\$16 million, PFIs: US\$18.2 million and beneficiary farmers: US\$2.5 million).** This subcomponent will promote the adoption of tested and properly selected CSA technologies, approaches and practices. Agricultural technologies and practices are considered "climate smart" if they enhance food security while addressing at least one of three additional objectives: (1) sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and farmers' incomes, (2) adapting and building resilience to climate change, and (3) reducing and/or removing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Many CSA practices have potential to deliver "triple wins" by sustainably increasing productivity, enhancing resilience, and/or reducing GHG emissions. Examples that have been proven effective in Belize include crop rotation, intercropping, use of improved drought- and heat-tolerant varieties, integrated pest management, water harvesting, investment in drainage and irrigation infrastructure, integrated soil and land management, and agroforestry, among others. In the livestock sub-sector, CSA technologies and practices include the use of quality breeds, pasture improvement, use of forage banks, and adoption of conservation techniques for forage, silage, and hay. Many farmers in Belize are already practicing CSA to some degree, but more widespread adoption of CSA technologies has been hindered by a lack of information and technical knowledge, as well as by a lack of resources to pay for initial investment costs, as the economic benefits typically take several years to be realized. The Project will provide matching grants to partially finance CSA investment subprojects (the subprojects) promoting the uptake of CSA technologies and practices, which will be complemented by private loans from Participating Financial Intermediaries (PFIs) covering the financial assistance needed for the implementation of the CSA investment subprojects. Respective responsibilities will be set forth in the PFI Agreements to be signed between BSIF and PFIs. The matching grants will be provided via two windows, targeting different groups of farmers, with 30 percent of grants targeted to women farmers:
- Window 1: Smallholder farmers (IBRD: US\$10 million; PFIs: US\$6.6 million).** The first window will provide matching grants to about 3,300 individual smallholder farmers who are transitioning to



commercial production to enable them to adopt climate-smart approaches. These grants will cover up to 60 percent of the investment cost of each subproject financed, with a maximum limit of US\$6,000 (corresponding to an investment of US\$10,000). Based on estimated investment, operating, and TA costs for smallholder farmers' subprojects, the overall expected average investment would be around US\$5,000 per subproject with an average matching grant of around US\$3,000. The matching grants will leverage financing from PFIs, and may also leverage contributions from smallholder farmers, although the latter will not be mandatory (see Annex 3).

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

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

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

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

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

## **2 Legal Framework**

### **2.1 Constitution of Belize**

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

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

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

### **2.2 Compulsory Land Acquisition For Public Purposes**

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

Land that is held as private property can only be acquired for a public purpose and there is the right of access to the courts to determine whether the acquisition was for a public purpose and

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

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

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

### **2.3 Compensation under Land Acquisition Act**

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

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

The Board holds a public inquiry and follows the civil procedure rules of the Supreme Court with respect to the conduct of the inquiry. At the conclusion of the inquiry, the Board decides on the amount of compensation and the apportionment. The decision is a majority decision. In the event the decision of the members differ regarding compensation, the mean between the amount decided upon by the Chairman and that one of the amounts decided upon by the other two members which approximates most nearly the amount decided by the Chairman, shall be deemed to be compensation awarded by the Board. In awarding compensation, the Board may

add interest to the compensation and is to be guided by the rates payable by the commercial banks on fixed deposits. An award of the Board is enforced in the same manner as a judgment of the Supreme Court and either party is entitled to appeal the Board's decision to the Belize Court of Appeal.

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

#### **2.4 Compulsory Land Acquisition Under The Public Roads Act**

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

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

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

#### **2.5 Correspondence of Domestic Legislation with WB ESS5**

WB ESS5 amounts to a higher and more detailed standard for resettlement than the provision of domestic legislation related to land acquisition and displacement. The WB standards augments national law consultation requirements by outlining specific steps that must be taken in consulting affected persons. The WB policy envisions greater participation of community members especially affected persons in this regard. Similarly, the steps for compensating owners whose lands have been compulsorily acquired are outlined and a valuation process is specified, under the Public Roads Act, however the ESS5 is more stringent in that it requires 'replacement value'. Under ESS5, all impacted persons are eligible for resettlement and livelihood assistance and compensation for assets in order to minimize injuries to the livelihoods of persons and even

improve them where possible. In terms of grievance redress, the relevant laws provide for access to local Courts to resolve claims and other forms of grievance, the project's GRM exists alongside the local options, and people can pursue resolutions through both paths at the same time if they so choose

**Table 1: Comparison of Local Law and Bank Standards**

Domestic legal provisions	Bank Policy Requirements	Gaps Identified	Bridging Measures
<i>Land Acquisition</i>			
<p>LAND ACQUISITION (PUBLIC PURPOSES) ACT CHAPTER 184</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addresses compulsory acquisition of land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Covers involuntary taking of land resulting in:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relocation, or loss of shelter</li> <li>Loss of assets or access to assets</li> <li>Loss of income sources or means of livelihood, whether affected persons must move to another location.</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Law does not stipulate a stringent participatory and consultative process with affected persons or groups as outlined in this framework, for compulsory acquisition of land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compulsory land acquisition will be based on provision of the laws of Belize, WB Policy ESS5 and this Framework. GOB policy and practice is that legal acquisition is very often avoided. If unavoidable, compulsory acquisition will be through the participatory and consultative process outlined in this Framework. This is to ensure that affected persons are provided with adequate level support and have the opportunity to provide input and share concerns early on, as necessary.</li> </ul>
<i>Consultation</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Publication of declaration in two issues of the Gazette in six weeks intervals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Displaced persons consulted about their options and rights pertaining to resettlement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National law ensures persons are informed but not necessarily consulted by the definition of meaningful</li> </ul>	<p>Affected persons allowed under law to make presentations to the responsible government agency on impacts and loss suffered. Affected persons can also make use of the</p>

		consultation by the Bank	Grievance Mechanism under this Framework.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land vested absolutely in the Crown at second publication of notice in Gazette. As soon as any declaration has been published, the authorised officer shall, without delay, enter into negotiations or further negotiations for the purchase of the land</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult, offer choices, and provide technically and economically feasible resettlement alternatives.</li> <li>Provide timely and relevant information and offer opportunities to participate in planning, implementing, and monitoring resettlement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National law ensures persons are informed and allowed to negotiate, but not necessarily consulted by the definition of meaningful consultation by the Bank and provided with alternatives.</li> </ul>	<p>For the CRESAP, community level consultations will be carried out prior to land acquisition to inform affected communities on the nature of the project and measures on addressing resettlement, compensation and grievance redress. Affected persons will be consulted on options and rights pertaining to resettlement as per WB ESS5. Legal process to compulsorily acquire land will also be followed.</p>
<i>Compensation and Benefits</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Open market value of land at the time of acquisition.</li> <li>Alternative practice is to provide land as replacement for land acquired.</li> <li>Compensation value determined by a Board of Assessment.</li> <li>Claim must be made within 12 months.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prompt and effective compensation at full “replacement cost” for loss of assets attributable directly to the project.</li> <li>Provide assistance (such as moving allowance) during relocation.</li> <li>Payment of cash compensation for lost assets where appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other costs beyond the market value of the value are not taken into consideration by national law, such as the loss of means of livelihood or loss of assets other than the land due to the acquisition</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local law allows for full market value of land to be given to property owner according to specific guidelines. This will be supplemented by provisions of the WB ESS5 to ensure full compliance with Policy requirement to provide compensation at full “replacement cost.”</li> <li>Loss of other assets will be compensated at full replacement cost (calculation outlined in more detail in section 6.6)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide residential housing, or housing sites, or, as required, agricultural sites for which a combination of productive potential, locational advantages, and other factors is at least equivalent to the advantages of the old site.</li> <li>• Offer support after displacement, for a transition period.</li> <li>• Provide with developmental assistance in addition to compensation measures such as land preparation, credit facilities, training, or job opportunities.</li> <li>• Provide infrastructure and public services necessary to improve, restore and maintain accessibility and levels of service.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of means of livelihood as a direct consequence of project will be compensated for.</li> <li>• Affected people losing property and or being physically resettled will be provided options between cash and in-kind compensation.</li> </ul>
<i>Eligibility</i>			



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private lands that fall within the provisions of the General Registry Act, Registry Land Act, Law of Property Act.</li> <li>• Customary land tenure.</li> <li>• Interest acquired through adverse possession (squatting).</li> <li>• Person having the “ostensible possession or enjoyment of the rents and profit” until the contrary is proved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Persons who have no recognizable legal right or claim to land they are occupying are not required to be compensated or assisted with resettlement according to national law</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local law and policy are similar in this instance as legal entitlements are fully recognized. For legal property owners with lost assets, they will be compensated accordingly.</li> <li>• Displaced persons who have no recognizable legal right or claim to the land they are occupying will be provided with resettlement assistance in lieu of compensation for the land they occupy, and other assistance, as necessary, to achieve the objectives of WB ESS5. Furthermore, all persons are provided compensation for loss of assets other than land.</li> <li>• Persons who encroach on the area after the cut-off date are not entitled to compensation or any other form of resettlement assistance.</li> </ul>
<i>Resettlement and cost</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compensation for land compulsory and other properties near roads acquired allowed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Included in the total costs of the project and part of resettlement plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Other relocation assistance beyond compensation not provided for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land acquisition and compensation costs (monetary and in-kind) will be covered by the Government of Belize and other resettlement costs to be covered under the project.</li> </ul>
<i>Grievance Redress</i>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judicial System</li> <li>• Office of the Ombudsman</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish appropriate and accessible grievance mechanisms.</li> <li>• Formal judicial process also an option under the Project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National process is more complex without simplified guidance on procedures or clear timelines for responses to complaints</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism is developed for the project that will cover grievances related to RPs and IPPs in addition to a separate GRM for labour related grievances, further detailed in the CRESAP LMP.</li> </ul>
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## **2.6 Voluntary Land Donation**

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

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

- a. The BSIF PIU must demonstrate that the potential donor or donors have been appropriately informed and consulted about the project and the choices available to them.
- b. Potential donors are aware that refusal is an option and have confirmed in writing their willingness to proceed with the donation.
- c. The amount of land being donated is minor and will not reduce the donor's remaining land area below that required to maintain the donor's livelihood at current levels.
- d. No household relocation is involved.
- e. The donor is expected to benefit directly from the project.
- f. Community or collective land donation can only occur with the consent of individuals using or occupying the land. The BSIF PIU will maintain a transparent record of all consultations and agreements reached.

## **2.7 Documentation of Land Transfer by WB guidelines**

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

### **3 Process for Development of Resettlement Plans**

#### **3.1 Scope of Resettlement Plans**

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

Given the nature of the CRESAP, it is not expected that there will be the displacement and resettlement of large populations given the fact land to be used by farmers are already considered their property. Furthermore, under Component 2.2 of the CRESAP, the resettlement is in the exclusion list so this is not anticipated.

Resettlement Plans must consider the following:

- a) For projects with minor land acquisition or restrictions on land use, as a result of which there will be no significant impact on incomes or livelihoods, the plan will establish eligibility criteria for affected persons, set out procedures and standards for compensation, and incorporate arrangements for consultations, monitoring, and addressing grievances;
- b) For projects causing physical displacement, the plan will set out the additional measures relevant to relocation of affected persons; (c) For projects involving economic displacement with significant impacts on livelihoods or income generation, the plan will set out the additional measures relating to livelihood improvement or restoration; and
- c) For projects that may impose changes in land use that restrict access to resources in legally designated parks or protected areas or other common property resources on which local people may depend for livelihood purposes, the plan will establish a participatory process for determining appropriate restrictions on use and set out the mitigation measures to address adverse impacts on livelihoods that may result from such restrictions.

#### **3.2 Minimum Elements of a Resettlement Plan**

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

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

- e) Alternatives considered to avoid or minimize displacement and why those were rejected; and
  - f) The mechanisms established to minimize displacement, to the extent possible, during project implementation.
- 3) *Objectives.* The main objectives of the resettlement program.
- 4) *Census survey and baseline socioeconomic studies.* The findings of a household-level census identifying and enumerating affected persons, and, with the involvement of affected persons, surveying land, structures, and other fixed assets to be affected by the project. The census survey also serves other essential functions:
- a) Identifying characteristics of displaced households, including a description of production systems, labor, and household organization; and baseline information on livelihoods (including, as relevant, production levels and income derived from both formal and informal economic activities) and standards of living (including health status) of the displaced population;
  - b) Information on vulnerable groups or persons for whom special provisions may have to be made;
  - c) Identifying private, public or community infrastructure, property or services that may be affected;
  - d) Providing a basis for the design of, and budgeting for, the resettlement program;
  - e) In conjunction with establishment of a cut-off date, providing a basis for excluding ineligible people from compensation and resettlement assistance;
  - f) Establishing baseline conditions for monitoring and evaluation purposes;
  - g) Land tenure and transfer systems, including an inventory of common property natural resources from which people derive their livelihoods and sustenance, nontitle-based usufruct systems (including fishing, grazing, or use of forest areas) governed by local recognized land allocation mechanisms, and any issues raised by different tenure systems in the project area;
  - h) The patterns of social interaction in the affected communities, including social networks and social support systems, and how they will be affected by the project; and
  - i) Social and cultural characteristics of displaced communities, including a description of formal and informal institutions (e.g., community organizations, ritual groups, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)) that may be relevant to the consultation strategy and to designing and implementing the resettlement activities.
- 5) *Legal framework.* The findings of an analysis of the legal framework, covering:
- a) The scope of the power of compulsory acquisition and imposition of land use restriction and the nature of compensation associated with it, in terms of both the valuation methodology and the timing of payment;
  - b) The applicable legal and administrative procedures, including a description of the remedies available to displaced persons in the judicial process and the normal time frame for such procedures, and any available grievance redress mechanisms that may be relevant to the project;
  - c) Laws and regulations relating to the agencies responsible for implementing resettlement activities; and
  - d) Gaps, if any, between local laws and practices covering compulsory acquisition, imposition of land use restrictions and provision of resettlement measures and ESS5, and the mechanisms to bridge such gaps.

- 6) *Institutional framework*. The findings of an analysis of the institutional framework covering:
  - a) The identification of agencies responsible for resettlement activities and NGOs/CSOs that may have a role in project implementation, including providing support for displaced persons;
  - b) An assessment of the institutional capacity of such agencies and NGOs/CSOs; and
  - c) Any steps that are proposed to enhance the institutional capacity of agencies and NGOs/CSOs responsible for resettlement implementation.
- 7) *Eligibility*. Definition of displaced persons and criteria for determining their eligibility for compensation and other resettlement assistance, including relevant cut-off dates.
- 8) *Valuation of and compensation for losses*. The methodology to be used in valuing losses to determine their replacement cost; and a description of the proposed types and levels of compensation for land, natural resources, and other assets under local law and such supplementary measures as are necessary to achieve replacement cost for them.
- 9) *Community participation*. Involvement of displaced persons (including host communities, where relevant):
  - a) A description of the strategy for consultation with, and participation of, displaced persons in the design and implementation of the resettlement activities;
  - b) A summary of the views expressed and how these views were taken into account in preparing the resettlement plan;
  - c) A review of the resettlement alternatives presented and the choices made by displaced persons regarding options available to them; and
  - d) Institutionalized arrangements by which displaced people can communicate their concerns to project authorities throughout planning and implementation, and measures to ensure that such vulnerable groups as Indigenous Peoples, ethnic minorities, the landless, and women are adequately represented.
- 10) *Implementation schedule*. An implementation schedule providing anticipated dates for displacement, and estimated initiation and completion dates for all resettlement plan activities. The schedule should indicate how the resettlement activities are linked to the implementation of the overall project.
- 11) *Costs and budget*. Tables showing categorized cost estimates for all resettlement activities, including allowances for inflation, population growth, and other contingencies; timetables for expenditures; sources of funds; and arrangements for timely flow of funds, and funding for resettlement, if any, in areas outside the jurisdiction of the implementing agencies.
- 12) *Grievance redress mechanism*. The plan describes affordable and accessible procedures for third party settlement of disputes arising from displacement or resettlement; such grievance mechanisms should take into account the availability of judicial recourse and community and traditional dispute settlement mechanisms. Full information on the GRM is available in Section 8 of this RPF.
- 13) *Monitoring and evaluation*. Arrangements for monitoring of displacement and resettlement activities by the implementing agency, supplemented by third-party monitors as considered appropriate by the Bank, to ensure complete and objective information; performance monitoring indicators to measure inputs, outputs, and outcomes for resettlement activities; involvement of the displaced persons in the monitoring process; evaluation of results for a reasonable period after all resettlement activities have been completed; using the results of resettlement monitoring to guide subsequent implementation.
- 14) *Arrangements for adaptive management*. The plan should include provisions for adapting resettlement implementation in response to unanticipated changes in project conditions, or unanticipated obstacles to achieving satisfactory resettlement outcomes.

### 3.3 Eligibility Under World Bank ESS5

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

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

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

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

### 3.4 Types of Impacts Covered by ESS5

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

**A. *Economic Displacement*** : (i) If land acquisition for a subproject causes loss of income or livelihood, regardless of whether or not the affected people are physically displaced, they have the right to be compensated economically for their loss of assets or access to assets at full replacement cost; (ii) Provide replacement property (e.g., agricultural or commercial sites) of equal or greater value, or cash compensation at full replacement cost where appropriate, to persons with legal rights or claims to land which are recognized or recognizable (iii) Compensate economically displaced persons who are without legally recognizable claims to land for lost assets (such as crops, irrigation infrastructure and other improvements made to the land) other than land, at full replacement cost. (iv) Those

affected should be provide additional targeted assistance (e.g., credit facilities, training, or job opportunities) and opportunities to improve or at least restore their income-earning capacity, production levels, and standards of living to economically displaced persons whose livelihoods or income levels are adversely affected. (v) Provide transitional support to economically displaced persons, as necessary, based on a reasonable estimate of the time required to restore their income earning capacity, production levels, and standards of living. In the case of projects affecting livelihoods or income generation, the Borrower's plan will include measures to allow affected persons to improve, or at least restore, their incomes or livelihoods.

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

### **3.5 Potential Displacement and Impacts**

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

- a) **Land** – Land may be acquired for drainage purposes, community water harvesting, among others. Where this impacts communities and their assets, no action to resettle these communities is to be taken until a Resettlement Plan is prepared and implemented.
- b) **Crops** – Crops on or near where works must occur may be removed and destroyed for the construction of irrigation, drainage, water harvesting, and greenhouses.
- c) **Fences and driveways** – Fences and driveways constructed on or near where construction will occur may be demolished to allow for works to proceed.
- d) **Access** – Access to private properties, homes, business, and public facilities may be temporarily affected by construction of drainage and water harvesting. These will be kept to a minimum and every effort will be made to ensure that residences and places of business are not unduly inhibited by any construction.



### 3.6 Methods of Valuing Affected Assets

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

Calculation of full replacement costs takes into account the following:

- a) Agricultural (including fallow) land or pastureland: Land of equal productive use or potential, located in the vicinity of the affected land or the new housing site, plus the cost of preparation to levels similar to or better than those of the affected land, and transaction costs such as registration and transfer taxes or customary fees.
- b) Land in urban areas: The market value of land of equivalent area and use, with similar or improved infrastructure and services, preferably located in the vicinity of the affected land, plus transaction costs such as registration and transfer taxes.
- c) Houses and other structures (including public structures such as schools, clinics, and religious buildings): The cost of purchasing or building a replacement structure, with an area, quality, and location similar to or better than those of the affected structure; or of repairing a partially affected structure, including labor and contractors' fees; and transaction costs, such as registration, transfer taxes, and moving costs.
- d) Loss of access to natural resources: The market value of the natural resources, which may include, among others, wild medicinal plants, firewood, and other non-timber forest products, meat, or fish. However, cash compensation is seldom an effective way of compensating for lost access to natural resources.

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

- a) Livelihoods are not land-based;
- b) Livelihoods are land-based but the land taken for the project is a small fraction of the affected asset and the residual land is economically viable; or
- c) Active markets for land, housing, and labor exist, displaced persons use such markets, there is sufficient supply of land and housing, and the Government of Belize must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the World Bank that insufficient replacement land is available.

If lands are acquired under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act then the Ministry of Natural Resources is responsible for the valuation of affected lands, at the request of the Chief Engineer of the Ministry of Works. Section 19 of the Land Acquisition Acts specifically states that the land

must be valued based on the open market value at the time of compulsory acquisition. The process of land valuation under the project will therefore comply with the stipulations of the law.

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

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

## **4 Consultation and Engagement Procedures**

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

### **4.1 Affected Communities and Stakeholders**

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

of the affected household or community throughout the process of resettlement planning, implementation and monitoring of the project.

## **4.2 Engagement Procedures**

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

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

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

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

- f) To establish communication channels to directly address the concerns of the community; and
- g) To provide information on the grievance redress mechanism in place for the project.

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

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

### **6.3 Consultations Under COVID19 Scenario**

It is important to note that the pandemic is officially over in Belize. If there is a resurgence which requires the government to reinstate the emergency, the below suggestions will ensure effective and meaningful consultations during any restriction place on movement or meeting face to face. The BSIF PIU should:

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

- ii. Distribution of workshop materials to participants, including agenda, project documents, presentations, questionnaires and discussion topics: These can be distributed online to participants.
- iii. Review of distributed information materials: Participants are given a scheduled duration for this, prior to scheduling a discussion on the information provided.
- iv. Discussion, feedback collection and sharing:
  - a) Participants can be organized and assigned to different topic groups, teams or virtual “tables” provided they agree to this.
  - b) Group, team, and table discussions can be organized through social media means, such as WebEx, Skype or Zoom, or through written feedback in the form of an electronic questionnaire or feedback forms that can be emailed back
- v. Conclusion and summary: The chair of the workshop will summarize the virtual workshop discussion, formulate conclusions and share electronically with all participants.
- i. In situations where online interaction is challenging, information can be disseminated through digital platform (where available) like Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp groups, Project weblinks/ websites, and traditional means of communications (TV, newspaper, radio, phone calls and mails with clear description of mechanisms for providing feedback via mail and / or dedicated telephone lines. All channels of communication need to clearly specify how stakeholders can provide their feedback and suggestions.
- j. Engagement with direct stakeholders for household surveys: In the case of resettlement planning it requires direct stakeholder engagement whereby surveys are conducted to ascertain socioeconomic status of the affected people and inventory of their affected assets are taken and the discussion of relocation and livelihood is planned. Such survey activities require active participation of local stakeholders, particularly the potentially adversely affected communities. However, there may be situations involving indigenous communities, or other communities that may not have access to the digital platforms or means of communication, teams should develop specially tailored stakeholder engagement approaches that will be appropriate in the specific setting.
- k. In situations where it is determined that meaningful consultations that are critical to the conduct of a specific project activity cannot be conducted in spite of all reasonable efforts on the part of the client supported by the World Bank, the BSIF PIU should discuss whether the proposed project activities can be postponed by a few weeks in view of the virus spread risks. This would depend on the COVID-19 situation in the country, and the government policy requirements to contain the virus spread. Where it is not possible to postpone the activity (such as in the case of ongoing resettlement) or where the postponement is likely to be for more than a few weeks, the BSIF PIU should consult with the World Bank advice and guidance.
- l. Country specific regulations such as Statutory Instrument No. 78 has been put in place to avoid and manage outbreaks of the virus. The BSIF PIU are expected to fully comply with all regulations passed by the government in regard to COVID 19<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The latest information regarding official COVID 19 measures can be found here: <https://www.covid19.bz/>

## **5 Organization and Implementation**

### **5.1 Administrative Entities**

#### **5.1.1 The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise/Project Implementation Unit**

MAFSE will maintain overall responsibility for the implementation of CRESAP but will be assisted by the Belize Social Investment Fund (BSIF). MAFSE will sign a Subsidiary Agreement with BSIF (as a Condition of Effectiveness), by which BSIF will establish and maintain a PIU for the Project to coordinate and manage all Project activities, manage the Designated Account to cover all eligible expenditures, generate technical and financial reports and submit such reports and withdrawal requests to the World Bank. BSIF will assign technical and fiduciary staff (involved in procurement, FM, accounting, reporting, environmental and social risk management, and M&E) with clear responsibilities for these areas during CRESAP's entire implementation period. The MAFSE has appointed an Environment and Social Focal Point who will take the lead in developing and implementing all required RPs, with the support of the BSIF PIU Environmental and Social Specialist hired during the project implementation stage.

#### **5.1.2 Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR)**

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

#### **5.1.3 Project Steering Committee**

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

#### **5.1.4 Submission of RAPs to World Bank**

After Project Steering Committee has approved the RAP, it will then be forwarded to the WB for approval. The PSC is also responsible for monitoring the implementation of the RPs through reports provided to it by the BSIF PIU.

#### **5.1.5 Linking Resettlement with Civil Works**

The implementation of activities in the RAPs must be linked to the execution of any construction. This is to ensure that land appropriation, acquisition, displacement, and relocation resulting from

such works do not occur before the necessary measures have been prepared and put in place. The RAP is to be prepared by the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist and approved by the WB and implemented before any works can begin. The actions of the main parties involved in this project must be consistent with this Framework and ESS5 during the development and implementation of subprojects.

**Table 2 Synchronizing Civil Works with RAP**

<b>Works scheduled</b>	<b>RAP scheduled</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<i>Sub-project selection</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consultation of communities with target sites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Make communities aware of plans beforehand, describe studies to be undertaken and inform of Grievance Redress Mechanism.</li> <li>▪ Obtain feedback from key stakeholders on project design and E&amp;S standards instruments</li> </ul>
<i>Feasibility studies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identification of potential impacts</li> <li>▪ Survey of those who could be displaced and the valuation of assets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Social feasibility will be a factor in the project's feasibility studies</li> </ul>
<i>Preliminary Designs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consultation with displaced persons about acceptable alternatives for compensation and resettlement</li> <li>▪ Development of RAP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Once preliminary designs are complete affected persons can be consulted on resettlement matters and a RAP is fully developed.</li> </ul>
<i>Final Designs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Design and approval of RAP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ RAP must be prepared by the BSIF PIU and approved by the WB.</li> </ul>
<i>Disclosure and Compensation</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Disclosure of RAPs and compensation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Finals RAPs are disclosed and PAPs compensated prior to starting any construction activities.</li> </ul>

## **6 Grievance Redress Mechanism**

### **6.1.1 Background and Aims of GRM**

The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) is designed and established for the overall project and as part of the RPF, IPPF, and resettlement plan. Both this project-level GRM and the separate

LMP GRM include a special channel for Gender Based Violence (GBV) issues to ensure these types of issues are dealt with appropriately. GRMs are intended to be accessible, collaborative, expedient and effective in resolving concerns through dialogue, joint fact finding, negotiation, and problem solving. This is required by the World Bank policy and standards.

### 6.1.2 GRM Administration Process

Table 3 below shows the overall GRM roles and the process for handling complaints.

**Table 3 Summary of design of the GRM**

<b>Step 1: Clear system to report grievances</b>	Members of the public can inform the MAFSE Staff or personnel at any of the MAFSE offices in the districts. Respective Chairpersons of the various Village Councils may also make a report on behalf of a villager. Complaints can also be lodged directly here: GRM Contact: Agriculture Department National Agriculture and Trade Show Grounds Hummingbird Highway City of Belmopan Telephone: 611-1753 Email: CRESAP.GRM@sifbelize.org
<b>Step 2: Acknowledge</b>	Within 48 hours, the GRM Contact will acknowledge its receipt in a correspondence to the complainant that outlines the grievance process, with timeframes, and provides contact details for the E&S Specialist at the BSIF PIU. The GRM Contact records the complaint in the GRM intake form.
<b>Step 3: Follow up</b>	The MAFSE E&S Focal Point in collaboration with the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist will formally respond and acknowledge any environmental and social issues within 7 working days. Periodic updates will be provided to the complainant on the status of the grievance.
<b>Step 4: Evaluate, Investigate and Take Action</b>	The MAFSE E&S Focal Point in collaboration with the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist will resolve a grievance within 30 days of the original receipt date. If this is not possible, clear steps being taken to address the grievance will be communicated to the complainant.
<b>Step 5: Grievances that cannot be solved within 30 days of receipt</b>	Grievances that cannot be resolved by the GRM at the Project Management level will be referred by the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist to the Project Steering Committee for an update and guidance where required.
<b>Step 6: Next steps if unsatisfied with project GRM</b>	The complainant has the option of seeking redress through the national judicial system or the Office of the Ombudsman at their own cost and at any time.

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



## 7 Funding Resettlements

### 7.1 Funding Process

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

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

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

<b>Sample Budget Items</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
Feasibility Studies	Project funds via PIU
Consultations	Project funds via PIU
Preparing resettlement plans	Project funds via PIU
Compensation	Project funds via PIU approved by PSC
Land Acquisition	GOB

## 8 Monitoring Arrangements

The monitoring of and reporting on the implementation of RAPs will be led by the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist in collaboration with the MAFSE E&S Focal Point. The monitoring process will help to determine the extent to which resettlement is being implemented effectively and will help to identify areas that need improvement or require adjustment. The implementation of RAPs will be monitored on a regular basis and a monitoring report will be provided to the PSC at their regular meetings by the MAFSE E&S Focal Point and BSIF PIU E&S Specialist. Monitoring reports will address the following indicators:

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

f) Grievances received from the GRM.

The draft version of this document was disclosed on Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021 on the MAFSE website at <https://www.agriculture.gov.bz/climate-resilient-agriculture-project-cresap/>. This disclosure was to support the first round of consultations on the ESF documents.

Annex 1 – Sample Grievance Registration Form

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