

# **Stakeholder Engagement Plan**

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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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## Abbreviations

CARDI	-	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CDB	-	Caribbean Development Bank
CERC	-	Contingent Emergency Response Component
CRESAP	-	Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture Project
CRESAP	-	Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture Project
CSA	-	Climate Smart Agriculture
DFC	-	Development Finance Corporation
EIA	-	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESF	-	Environmental and Social Framework
ESMF	-	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESS	-	Environmental and Social Standards
FAO	-	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
GBV	-	Gender Based Violence
GM	-	Grievance Mechanism
IDB	-	Inter-American Development Bank
IICA	-	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IPPF	-	Indigenous People Policy Framework
LMP	-	Labour Management Procedures
MAFSE	-	Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise
MSM	-	Men who have sex with Men
NMS	-	National Meteorological Service
OIPs	-	Other interested parties
OIRSA	-	Organismo Internacional Regional de Sanidad Agropecuaria
PAPs	-	Project-affected parties
PIU	-	Project Implementation Unit
RPF	-	Resettlement Policy Framework
SA	-	Social Assessment
SEP	-	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
VIGs	-	Vulnerable individuals or groups
UNDP	-	United National Development Program

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1. Objectives of Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The World Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) sets out the World Bank’s commitment to sustainable development 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 set of guidelines and instructions with the main objective being to foster efficient and effective identification and mitigation of potentially adverse environmental and social impacts that may occur in the development projects, though proper stakeholder engagement. More information on the ESF can be found at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/projects-operations/environmental-and-social-framework>.

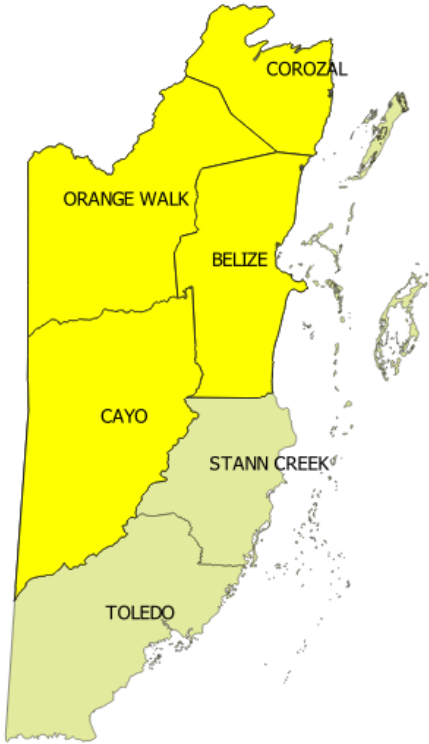
This Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is an instrument under the ESF that seeks to strengthen the participation of the sectors involved or stakeholders from the beginning of the project, through specific inter-institutional workshops to align policies, objectives and incentives related to land use planning, multisectoral workshops for integrated landscape management, establish sustainability indices, improve capacities for the reconversion of land use based on water balances, and the creation of multi-stakeholder roundtables. Specifically, therefore, this stakeholder engagement plan aims to:

- a) Identify and outline effective strategies of collaboration among stakeholders of the project,
- b) Promote widespread acceptability and participation of the project interventions among the target beneficiaries, and
- c) Identify potential barriers that will negatively affect the accelerated implementation of the project and address them collectively.

## 1.2. Project Description

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

Figure 1 Project Districts (Priority Districts in bright yellow)



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

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

### **Component 1: Institutional Strengthening (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: Strengthen the capacity of SIRDI to manage sugarcane pests (IBRD: US\$2 million).**
- Under this subcomponent, the Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute (SIRDI) capacity will be strengthened to provide integrated pest management services of the Fusarium fungal disease in sugarcane and to enhance resilience of the sugarcane sector. The allocation will finance an integrated pest management unit, research and development, awareness and capacity building to strengthen extension services, production of biological agents, upgraded mechanical services and innovative technologies such as drones, and expansion of the SIRDI biological lab.

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

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

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

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

## **1.3. Regulatory Context**

### **1.3.1. National Requirements for Stakeholder Engagement**

There are no national laws which require or stipulate stakeholder engagement. The EIA regulations under the Environmental Protection does stipulate stakeholder engagement but only for projects undergoing full scale EIAs under the charge of the Department of the Environment.

### **1.3.2. World Bank Requirements for Stakeholder Engagement**

Under the World Bank's ESF, ESS 10, "Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure", 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:

- 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.
- Borrowers will engage in meaningful consultations with all stakeholders. 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.
- 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.
- 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.

An SEP is to be proportionate to the nature and scale of the project and its potential risks and impacts. It has to be disclosed as early as possible, and the borrower must 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 during implementation, the Borrower has to disclose the updated SEP.

## 2. Brief Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Table 1 Summary of previous stakeholder engagement

Date of Consultation	Location	Project Stakeholders & Number of persons consulted	Major comments/feedback
December 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Ministry of Agriculture Conference Room		Inception meeting
December 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Beltrade	Beltrade (4 persons)	Need for strengthening partnerships with BAHA and Belize Bureau of Standards. Need for training in sanitation and standards procedures. GoB should look at crops such as Cacao and seaweed and may target niche market.
December 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Development Finance Cooperation	Development Finance Cooperation (9 persons)	Discussion centred on most convenient way for farmers to obtain the money without too much bureaucracy while still adhering to compliance and regulations put in place. Modality of funds to farmers may be matching grant or credit line. The government should also look at disaster recovery and try to channel support into this area particularly since farmers are vulnerable to shocks. Timing for project implementation is critical and all lessons learned should be documented. DFC also working in getting GCF accredited, and they are also working on Gender, Social and Environmental management plans.
December 10 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Ministry of Agriculture	Ministry of Agriculture Staff (8 persons)	Explanation of the various agriculture programs was presented to the WB team. Challenges encountered in the various programs ranges from staff, transportation, and equipment, in addition to capacity building.
December 10 <sup>th</sup> 2019	University of Belize	University of Belize (11 persons)	Discussion at the University of Belize Agriculture Campus centred around improvement of the dormitories for students and the said dormitories can be used to facilitate farmer trainings as well. The UB also express interest in exchange programs with other regional universities. They express keen interest in fixing their cover structures, improve their breeding animals and note that more collaboration can be done in central farm since it hosts the Ministry of Agriculture, CARDI, BAHA and PCB.

December 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Mennonite communities	Community Leaders from Shipyard, Indian Creek and Neuland (7 persons)	They require assistance from the GOB in terms of better and improved seeds and animal breeds, reduced interest rate and also if the GOB can remove tax on certain agricultural equipment's and inputs. They also ask if the GOB can assist them with well drilling which can assist in irrigation. Most of the women from the communities' work in food processing area in either the dairy or poultry establishments.
December 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	St. Margret's	St. Margret's Farmers (20 persons)	Farmers in the St. Margret's Cooperative indicated that they will be appreciative if the technical assistance is provided to them, likewise they would appreciate if the ministry introduced them to the various technology they are promoting. The group is also very much interested in irrigation technology since they have suffered severely during the 2019 drought.
December 12 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Belize Credit Union League	Belize Credit Union League	They indicated that the Ministry should provide more capacity building to farmers as well a credit union staff.
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Nagu Bank	Los Pequeños Ganaderos de Nagu Bank (15 persons)	They have access to irrigation water but during the peak of the dry season the water becomes salty and affects crop production. They are very aware of the preservation of the environment and try to minimize the use of inorganic chemicals as much as possible.
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	National Meteorological Service (NMS)	National Meteorological Service (NMS) (8 persons)	Discussion focused on closer collaboration with them and products that can be developed to assist farmer with real time weather data which will assist them with better decision making out in the field.
28 <sup>th</sup> February, 2020	Central Bank	Deputy Governor – Kareem Michael (6 persons)	They expect the approach to leverage significant excess liquidity in the commercial banks for the agricultural sector. Felt that more discussions with commercial banks would be needed to discuss implementation modality so that Central Bank could provide the framework that will be needed.
24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	La Immaculada Credit Union	Chairlady of the Board – Ena Martinez	Felt their institution needed additional training although they are already getting some level of training on climate change.
24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Blue Creek Credit Union	Chairman of the Board – Albert Remple	They need training as they currently have no previous training on climate change and climate smart agricultural practices.

9 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 2021	Farmer organisations and farmers		Ensure that interest rates and existing loans do not disadvantage farmers from being able to access the project funds.
10 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 2021	IP communities	National Association of Village Councils, San Antonio Women's Group, Chairpersons of villages, Heritage Education Network Belize	Concerned around how the project will be disseminated to farmers, considering their remote locations, language barriers/ability to read and write. Concerned about ability to access funds when there have been issues in the past registering with the agricultural offices as a farmer, which is a prerequisite to access financing from FIs.
10 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 2021	Vulnerable communities	Our Circle	Must ensure that there is a mechanism to capture the data on vulnerable communities that have access to the project funds, explicitly including such questions in registration and application forms
12 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 2021	Mennonite communities	Blue Creek, Indian Creek	Prefer to have initial consultations with leaders first, concerned as well about interest rates and access to financing due to communal lands.
18 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 2021	Vulnerable communities	UNIBAM, Autism Belize, BAPDA, National Council on Ageing	Outline structural issues that would impede vulnerable groups from accessing loans from financial institutions, such as the definition of spouse for loan applications and age limitations for elderly persons.
17 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 2024	SIRDI	SIRDI, SIF, CRESAP PIU, MAFSE WB, CCCCC, BSI, Florida Crystals Corp., NSCGA, PSCPA	Restructuring of CRESAP subcomponent 2.3 to include integrated pest management and relocate funds to Component 1 to strengthen SIRDI's capacity to manage pests in the sugarcane sector.
20 <sup>th</sup> Dec, 2024	SIRDI	SIRDI, SICB, CRESAP PIU	Presentations by SIRDI and CRESAP PIU on proposed activities for CRESAP support and E&S Screening.

Further details on consultations regarding additional comments and how such comments were incorporated in the project are outlined in Annex 4.

### 3. Stakeholder Identification and Analysis

#### 3.1. Project Stakeholders

Project stakeholders are people who have a role in the Project, or could be affected by the Project, or who are interested in the Project. The WB ESS 10 recognizes two broad categories of stakeholders:

- Project Affected Parties and
- Other Interested parties
  - With particular focus on disadvantaged/vulnerable individuals or groups

The design and delivery of each of the CRESAP project's components will involve several supporting partners led and coordinated by the Government of Belize through relevant ministries, departments, and agencies. At this stage, the total number of producers who will directly benefit from Component 2 (Promotion of Private and Public CSA Approaches and Investments) activities is estimated to be approximately 2,500. Component 1 (Institutional Strengthening) will directly or indirectly benefit a higher number of other stakeholders, including but not limited to the staff of the several departments of the MAFSE, students from the Agriculture Department of the University of Belize, members of farmers' organizations and others associated with the agri-food systems in the project districts.

#### 3.2. Stakeholder Categorization

For the purposes of effective and tailored engagement, stakeholders of the project can be divided into the following three core categories and defined as follows:

- a) **Affected Parties** – persons, groups and other entities within the Project Area of Influence (PAI) that are directly influenced (actually or potentially) by the project and/or have been identified as most susceptible to change associated with the project, and who need to be closely engaged in identifying impacts and their significance, as well as in decision-making on mitigation and management measures;
- b) **Other Interested Parties** – individuals/groups/entities that may not experience direct impacts from the project but who consider or perceive their interests as being affected by the project and/or who could affect the project and the process of its implementation in some way; and
- c) **Vulnerable Groups** – persons who may be disproportionately impacted or further disadvantaged by the project(s) as compared with any other groups due to their vulnerable status<sup>1</sup>, and that may require special engagement efforts to ensure their equal representation in the consultation and decision-making process associated with the project(s).

Engagement with all identified stakeholders will help ensure the greatest possible contribution from the stakeholder parties toward the successful implementation of the project(s) and will enable the project(s) to draw on their pre-existing expertise, networks, and agendas. It will also facilitate both the community's and institutional endorsement of the project(s) by various

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<sup>1</sup> Vulnerable status may stem from an individual's or group's national, ethnic or social origin, color, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, property, age, culture, literacy, sickness, physical or mental disability, poverty or economic disadvantage, and dependence on unique natural resources.

parties. Access to the local knowledge and experience also becomes possible through the active involvement of stakeholders.

### **3.2.1. Project Affected Parties (PAPs)**

Project Affected Parties include local communities, community members, organizations and other parties that may be subject to direct impacts from the Project during implementation activities. Specifically, the following individuals and groups fall within this category:

- Communities in the vicinity of the project's planned activities in the Corozal, Orange Walk, Cayo and Belize districts, including San Antonio, Cayo and Libertad, Corozal where Indigenous Peoples and Garifuna reside, respectively;
- Farmers and local population in rural villages, including Mennonite farmers from various communities (Shipyard, Indian Creek, Neuland, Blue Creek, Little Belize, Springfield, Upper Barton Creek, Lower Barton Creek);
- Community-based groups and farmer organizations that represent local residents and other local interest groups, and act on their behalf, including St. Margret's Cooperative and San Carlos Cooperative;
- Residents, business entities, and individual entrepreneurs in the area of the project that can benefit from the employment, training, and business opportunities;
- Government officials, including government Ministries and departments who will be required to participate in the project either as beneficiaries or collaborators, including the Ministry of Economic Development, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Works, National Meteorological Service, and Village councils;
- Financial institutions that will participate directly in the project, including Development Finance Corporation, La Inmaculada Credit Union, Blue Creek Credit Union, etc.;
- Contractors and their employees, Non-government Organizations with interest and operations in the project areas, including Cooperatives of Livestock Producers, Cane Farmers Associations, Belize Sugar Industries Limited (BSI), Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute (SIRDI), the University of Belize and Protected Areas Conservation Trust.

### **3.2.2. Other Interested Parties**

The project's stakeholders also include parties other than the directly affected communities, who may not necessarily be in the project's direct area of influence, including:

- a) Residents of the other rural settlements within the project area, who can benefit from infrastructure investments, employment and training opportunities stemming from the project;
- b) Civil society groups and NGOs at national and local levels, that pursue environmental and socio-economic interests who may also work with local farmers
- c) Business owners and providers of services, goods and materials within the project area that will be involved in the project's wider supply chain;
- d) Government of Belize – government officials, permitting and regulatory agencies at the national and district levels, including environmental, technical, social protection and labour authorities.
- e) Mass media including local, and national print and broadcasting media
- f) Development partners and IFIs – CARDI, FAO, UNDP, IICA, OIRSA, CDB, IDB

### 3.2.3. Vulnerable Groups

A significant factor in achieving inclusiveness of the engagement process is safeguarding the participation of vulnerable individuals in public consultations and other engagement forums established by the project. The vulnerability may stem from person's origin, gender, age, health condition, economic deficiency and financial insecurity, disadvantaged status in the community, dependence on other individuals or natural resources, etc. Engagement with the vulnerable groups and individuals often requires the application of specific measures 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. General measures to incorporate views of vulnerable groups in consultations can be found in Section 4.5.

Within the Project Area of Influence, the vulnerable groups may include and are not limited to the following:

- a) Elderly persons;
- b) Persons living with diverse abilities;
- c) Persons living with HIV/AIDs;
- d) Low-income families dependent or working poor;
- e) Women-headed households or single mothers with underage children;
- f) Indigenous peoples;
- g) Garifuna;
- h) Unemployed persons with limited skills or training;
- i) LGBTQ+ community;
- j) Mennonites;
- k) Immigrant farmers; and
- l) Young people.

*Non-exhaustive list of civil society organisations representing vulnerable groups:*

The following groups were invited to consultations on project design and the draft ESF documents and should be considered for future consultations, trainings, and GRM trainings.

- Autism Belize – persons living with diverse abilities
- Belize Assembly for Persons with Diverse Abilities (BAPDA) - persons living with diverse abilities
- National Aids Commission – persons living with HIV/AIDS
- National Council on Ageing – elderly persons
- United Belize Advocacy Movement (UNIBAM) – LGBTQ+ community
- Our Circle - LGBTQ+ community

Full list of IP organisations found in the CRESAP IPPF, including the following:

- Heritage Education Network Belize – indigenous peoples
- San Antonio Women's Group – indigenous peoples and women
- Northern Maya Association of Belize
- National Indigenous Council of Belize
- National Garifuna Council
- The Xunantunich, Ukuxtal Masewal Association
- Maya Institute of Belize



## Identification of Stakeholder Needs

Table 2 Identified stakeholders' Needs for Consultations in the context of COVID-19 mobility constraints and distancing measures

Stakeholder group	Key characteristics of the group	Preferred Notification Means	Language needs	Specific Needs for Consultation
<b>Affected Parties</b>				
Communities in the vicinity of the project activities	Communities in the four project districts, speaking primarily Spanish and then English.	Phone call, text messages/whatsapp, flyer	Spanish, English, and potentially Yucatec Maya	Language translation, childcare especially for women
Farmers and local populations in rural villages	Farming population include Mennonite communities of Ship Yard, Neuland, and Blue Creek as well as over 5000 cane farmers	Phone call, text messages/whatsapp, flyer	English, Spanish, Yucatec Maya, Plautdietsch	Language translation, childcare especially for women
Government officials	Primarily Ministry of Agriculture technical and field staff	Email, Letter of notice	English	Adequate notice period
Financial institutions	Member-owned credit unions, DFC	Email, Letter of notice	English	Adequate notice period
Community-based organizations and farmers cooperatives	Local, small membership organizations	Phone call, text messages/whatsapp, flyer, email	English, Spanish, Yucatec Maya	Time off work
Contractors and their employees	Both resident and immigrant contractors and employees that may recruit temporary workers, primarily from Central America to supplement labourers from local communities	Email, Letter of notice, phone call	English and Spanish	Time off work
Non-government Organizations with interest and operations in the project areas	Organizations that represent specific groups, including Cooperatives of Livestock Producers, Cane Farmers Association as well as academic institutions working within the broader agricultural sector, including the University of Belize	Email, letter of notice	English, Spanish, Yucatec Maya	Adequate notice period Language translation
<b>Other interested parties</b>				

Residents of the other rural settlements within the project area	Rural population of four districts of the project is 98,207 <sup>2</sup>	Phone call, text messages/whatsapp, flyer	English, Spanish, Yucatec Maya	Language translation
Civil society groups and NGOs	Organizations including the Belize Audubon Society, The National Garifuna Council, Maya Institute of Belize that pursue environmental and social issue at a national and local level	Social media, email, written information	English, Spanish	
Business owners and providers of services, goods and materials within the project area	Business in the project area tend to be family-run enterprises with employees ranging from <10 to 50, which would still classify them as small enterprises	Social media, email, letter of notice	English, Spanish	Time off work
Government of Belize	Government officials, permitting and regulatory agencies at the national and district levels, including environmental, technical, social protection and labour authorities	Email, Letter of notice	English	Adequate notice period
Mass media	local, and national print and broadcasting media	Email, letter of notice	English	Information on project activities
Development partners and IFIs	Various partners conducting work in the agricultural sector: CARDI, FAO, UNDP, IICA, OIRSA, CDB, IDB	Email, letter of notice	English	
<b>Disadvantaged / vulnerable individuals or groups</b>				

<sup>2</sup> Belize Population and Housing Census Country Report (2010). Statistical Institution of Belize.

Elderly persons	Growing number of elderly persons across the country, with an increasing number suffering from diabetes, hypertension and heart disease <sup>2</sup>	Phone call, letter of notice	English, Spanish, Yucatec Maya	Large print materials, accessibility
Persons living with HIV/AIDS	In 2018, there was an estimated 4,915 persons living with HIV. In 2017 a total of 57%, 125/220 of all new cases were reported in Belize District which continues to be the most affected region, with HIV prevalence being high amongst MSM (men who have sex with men). Represented by groups such as the National Aids Commission and Belize Family Life Association.	Phone call, email, text message/whatsapp	English, Spanish	Small-group sessions may be required for confidentiality
Persons living with disabilities	Authorities estimate some 70,000 Belizeans, 15 percent of the population, are living with some kind of disability with blindness and deafness being most common forms of disability	Phone call, text messages/whatsapp, subtitles during virtual consultations	English, Spanish, Yucatec Maya	Accessibility
Low income families	Between 15 – 20% of families in project areas are in the poorest wealth index quantiles <sup>3</sup> according the UNICEF MICS Survey 2015-2016	Phone call, text messages/whatsapp, flyer	English, Spanish, Yucatec Maya	Time off work, compensation for lost working hours
Women-headed households or single mothers with underage children	High number of single mothers particularly in the Belize district, represented and supported mainly by the Women and Family Support Department	Phone call, text messages/whatsapp, flyer	English, Spanish, Yucatec Maya	Childcare
Indigenous people	10,221 persons identifying as Maya in project area and 8,336 Garifuna persons <sup>2</sup>	Phone call, text messages/whatsapp,	Yucatec Maya	Day time meetings, language translation, childcare

<sup>3</sup> UNICEF Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2015-2016. (2017). Statistical Institute of Belize.

		email to representative		
Unemployed persons	Belize district registered in 2019 the highest levels of unemployment (12.5 percent) in the country. Orange Walk district closely followed with the second highest levels of joblessness (11.6 percent) with most persons in the labour force that could not get a job, with young people showing highest rates of unemployment <sup>4</sup>	Phone call, text messages/whatsapp, flyer	English, Spanish, Yucatec Maya	
LGBTQ+ community	Community represented by organizations including Our Circle and United Belize Advocacy Movement.	Phone call, email, text messages/whatsapp	English, Spanish, Yucatec Maya	Small-group sessions may be required if any confidentiality concerns
Mennonites	11,193 members of the Mennonite community in project areas <sup>2</sup> . Most communities prefer any outside interaction and consultation to be between Government and their community leaders.	Phone call, text messages/whatsapp	English, Spanish, Plautdietsch	Consultations with Mennonite communities will include in the first instance be with leaders. They will then indicate persons from the community that will serve at the focal point
Immigrant farmers	To serve as a basis for estimation of current numbers, a total of 3,534 temporary workers were actively insured with the Social Security of Belize in 2012. The majority (63.4%) were between the ages of 20- 39 years of age. The top three countries of origin of temporary workers were Guatemala	Phone call, text messages/whatsapp, flyer	Spanish	Time off work Language translation

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<sup>4</sup> Labour Force Survey Report (2019). Statistical Institute of Belize

	(57.6%), Honduras (21.6%) and to a lesser extent El Salvador (8.8%). Men far outnumbered women temporary workers with 2,923 and 611, respectively. migrant workers may be at risk of exploitation because employers apply for permits on their behalf and are not allowed to change jobs. <sup>5</sup>			
Young people	According to the 2010 Census, over 30% of the population are between the ages of 15-34. The MAFSE also indicate that the proportion of young farmers relative to elderly persons is decreasing.	Text message/whatsapp; social media invite	English, Spanish	

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<sup>5</sup> Diagnostic on Belizean Migration Trends and Migration Management Regulation. (2013). International Organization for Migration

### 3.3. Stakeholder Identification and Analysis

Table 3 Stakeholder identification according to project components

Project Components		Project Stakeholders		
Components	Description	National	District	Community
Component 1: Strengthen the capacity of key public institutions that are part of the project.	<p>a) Strengthen key institutions such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security &amp; Enterprise (MAFSE), and key Government bodies engaged in the project, including the National Meteorological Service (NMS) and the University of Belize;</p> <p>b) Strengthen the capacity of the financial institutions such as Development Finance Corporation (DFC) and the credit unions potentially involved in project activities; and</p> <p>c) Build the capacity of Farmers' Organizations.</p>	<p>Affected parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>• National Meteorological Service</li> <li>• University of Belize</li> <li>• Development Finance Corporation</li> <li>• Belize Sugar Industries Limited</li> <li>• Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute</li> </ul>	<p>Affected parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture Department</li> <li>• Credit Unions</li> </ul>	<p>Affected parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmer Organizations</li> </ul>
Component 2: Promotion of Private and Public CSA Approaches and Investments	<p>a) Implement Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) technologies and practices at the individual level (farmer level).</p> <p>b) Finance studies, technical assistance, goods and works for complementary infrastructure of collective use that will increase the impacts of the subcomponent relating to on-farm CSA investments and/or eliminate constraints.</p>	<p>Affected parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>• Ministry of Works</li> </ul>	<p>Affected parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agriculture Department</li> <li>• Private Contractors</li> </ul>	<p>Affected parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmer Organizations</li> <li>• Targeted individual farmers</li> <li>• Village Councils</li> </ul>

<p>Component 3: Project Management, and Monitoring and Evaluation</p>	<p>a) Finance the activities of the PIU. The team has opted to utilize the existing Department of Projects of the MAFSE to set up a dedicated PIU and augment its capacity for the implementation of the project. Activities would include monitoring and evaluation system, financial management and procurement systems, the capacity for implementation and monitoring of the Environmental and Social Framework requirements, and the organization of all project-related work and project reporting. It will also finance incremental and operating costs as well as equipment and goods for the purpose of the project.</p>	<p>Affected parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>• Project Implementation Unit</li> <li>• Ministry of Economic Development</li> <li>• Ministry of Finance</li> </ul>	<p>Affected parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suppliers of goods and services</li> </ul>	<p>Affected parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmer Organizations</li> <li>• Targeted individual farmers</li> <li>• Village Councils</li> </ul>
<p>Component 4: Contingent Emergency Response Component</p>	<p>a) Project supported producers are able to get back into operation and ensure business continuity, repair infrastructure damage, and help recover from losses, after a disaster. A Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) will be established and managed in accordance with the provisions of World Bank Policy and World Bank Directive on Investment Project Financing.</p>	<p>Affected parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>• Project Implementation Unit</li> <li>• Ministry of Economic Development</li> <li>• Ministry of Finance</li> </ul>	<p>Affected parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suppliers of goods and services</li> </ul>	<p>Affected parties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmer Organizations</li> <li>• Targeted individual farmers</li> <li>• Village Councils</li> </ul>

## **4. Stakeholder Engagement Program**

The CRESAP Project, due to its design will include stakeholder engagement during all phases of the project cycle to ensure that stakeholders are aware of the project's planned activities, scope and expected results. The table at 4.2 below outlines the stakeholder engagement plan outlining the timing and methods of engagement. The purpose of the engagement plan for this project is to:

- Consult stakeholders on the proposed project design, anticipated environmental and social risks and impacts, mitigation measures, and environmental and social risk management instruments, and
- Provide regular information on the implementation progress and feedback to stakeholders and any other emerging issues throughout the project cycle.

### **4.1. Feedback Mechanism**

The feedback from consultations made at different levels during the project cycle will inform project design process, improve implementation efficiency, and ensure that the project has an effective exit strategy. The project will ensure that the consultation platforms provided for are well facilitated through technical support from experienced professionals and provide enough time (minimum of five days) and resources for stakeholders to give feedback. During consultations, feedback will be collated through designated rapporteurs and the GM structures, including email provided in Section 5, will be designed to receive complaints as well as feedback. The Project Implementation Unit will be the main entity responsible for receiving feedback and ensure that issues raised are addressed.



## 4.2. Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Table 4 Stakeholder Engagement Plan

No.	Project Phase	Engagement Activity	Objective	Targeted Stakeholders	Time Frame
1	Project Preparation Phase	National stakeholder consultation meetings	Collect views on the design of the project, environmental and social risks, mitigation measures, Grievance Mechanisms, SEP, RPF, ESMF, IPPF and LMP.	Representatives of government Ministries, beneficiary institutions, local farmers, and vulnerable groups.	Pre-appraisal stage
		Community level stakeholder consultation meetings	Collect views on the design of the project, environmental and social risks, mitigation measures, Grievance Mechanisms, SEP, RPF, ESMF, IPPF and LMP.	Farmers, farmer organizations and vulnerable groups	Pre-appraisal stage
2	Project Implementation Phase	Social Assessment Activities	Identify and characterize targeted communities, organizations, and persons and assess social issues and potential social impacts.	Representatives of government Ministries, beneficiary institutions, local farmers, and vulnerable groups.	Within 90 days after Effectiveness
		Project inception meetings with National and District and Community	Provide feedback on approved project design and orient all level of stakeholders on their roles in promoting CSA, climate adaptation measures and the preparation of ESF instruments such as the ESMP, RPs, IPP, and promoting the GM	National, District and Community stakeholders	Q1-Y1

		level Stakeholders			
		Community mobilization meetings	Mobilize and prepare target communities for project implementation and formation of subproject implementation structures, determination of PAPs, identification of vulnerable groups, and preparation of ESF instruments such as the ESMPs, RPs, IPP, and promoting the project GM.	Members of target beneficiary communities, Project affected persons/households, Village Councils, vulnerable groups	Q2-Y1
		Project implementation monitoring and supervision meetings	Provide and obtain updated information that can support project performance	National, district, and community level stakeholders including Beneficiary communities, Project affected persons/households, vulnerable groups	Ongoing throughout project implementation
		Project review meetings with selected stakeholders from National, District and Community level	Provide and get periodic feedback on Project implementation progress and any emerging issues	Selected National, District and Community level stakeholders including Beneficiary communities, Project affected persons/households, vulnerable groups	Continuous throughout project implementation (twice yearly but also as and when needed)
3	Project Close Out Phase	Project close out meetings	Increase the stakeholders' understanding on the project exit strategy	Beneficiary communities and groups, national and district stakeholders, vulnerable groups	Q3-Y5

### 4.3. Strategy for Information Disclosure

While all the project environmental and safeguard instruments will be made public, appropriate information to various targeted groups will be provided including the availability of the grievance mechanism. Such information will also be dependent on the project cycle including nature of the project design, the anticipated environmental and social risks and impacts, the proposed mitigation measures, the stakeholder engagement plan, and how stakeholder views were incorporated in the project design and implementation and management of environmental and social risks.

The early consultation took into account the Bank technical guidance on *“Public Consultations and Stakeholder*

*Engagement in WB-supported operations when there are constraints on conducting public meetings, March 20, 2020.”* The project therefore used a combination of methods to disclose information pertaining to the project in manner that was commensurate with the nature of the identified stakeholders and environmental and social sensitivity of the project. COVID restrictions have now been lifted in Belize.

For community level stakeholders, notification of information disclosure will be primarily through various mediums that avoid face-to-face contact as much as possible. These include phone calls and email. WhatsApp groups should be utilised to reach more remote communities alongside traditional methods including TV, newspaper, radio, posters, illustrations, and dedicated phone lines when applicable. Deliberate efforts will be made to ensure that vulnerable groups of people such as women and children, the elderly and disabled are adequately represented and heard in such meetings, including holding separate online meetings and forums, such as WhatsApp groups, if deemed appropriate. Other strategies to incorporate views of vulnerable groups are outlined in Section 4.5. Electronic copies of relevant documents will be made available on the MAFSE website at <https://www.agriculture.gov.bz/climate-resilient-agriculture-project-cresap/> at least two weeks prior to consultations.

At National and District level, similar methods of notification of information disclosure will be utilised. It is envisaged that consultations will continue to be conducted during implementation primarily through virtual means until legal protocols allow for small-group sessions in the target districts and locations to enable participation of project stakeholders including vulnerable and disadvantaged groups of people, where deemed necessary.

All final environmental and social safeguards instruments will be publicly disclosed on the MAFSE website at <https://www.agriculture.gov.bz/climate-resilient-agriculture-project-cresap/>. In addition, the site will provide details about the Grievance Mechanism and contact details for submitting a complaint. The PIU will ensure that the project information on the site is regularly updated. The GRM will also be socialized during the consultation sessions, and further disseminated in the communications campaign of the project.

Table 5 Reflecting information to be disclosed alongside methods and timing

Project Phase	Engagement Activity	Objective and material to disclose	Targeted Stakeholders	Method and Timing Proposed of Information Disclosure	Responsible
Project Preparation Phase	National and community level outreach	<p>Disseminate information on</p> <p>(a) the purpose, nature, and scale of the project;</p> <p>(b) The duration of proposed project activities;</p> <p>(c) Potential risks and impacts of the project on local communities, and the proposals for mitigating these, highlighting potential risks and impacts that might disproportionately affect vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, and describing the differentiated measures taken to avoid and minimize these;</p> <p>(d) The proposed stakeholder engagement process highlighting the ways in which stakeholders can participate;</p> <p>(e) The time and venue of any proposed public</p>	<p>Representatives of government Ministries, beneficiary institutions, local farmers, and vulnerable groups.</p> <p>Members of target beneficiary communities,</p> <p>Project affected persons/households, Village Councils, vulnerable groups</p>	<p>At least two weeks prior to consultation meetings</p> <p>Documents will be made available on the MAFSE website for download. The GRM will also be made available in easy-to-understand language</p> <p>Phone calls, emails and texts will be sent directly to relevant stakeholders</p>	<p>MAFSE– Environmental and Social Focal Point in coordination with the BSIF PIU E&amp;S Specialist</p>

		<p>consultation meetings, and the process by which meetings will be notified, summarized, and reported; and</p> <p>(f) The process and means by which grievances can be raised and will be addressed.</p> <p>These are summarised in the project design document and ESF instruments including the Grievance Mechanisms, SEP, RPF, ESMF, IPPF and LMP.</p>			
Project Implementation Phase	Social Assessment	Disclose the Social Assessment, project information and activities	Representatives of government Ministries, beneficiary institutions, local farmers, and vulnerable groups.	<p>At least two weeks prior to consultation meetings</p> <p>Documents will be made available on the MAFSE website for download. The GRM will also be made available in easy to understand language</p> <p>Phone calls, emails and texts will be sent directly to relevant stakeholders</p>	MAFSE– Environmental and Social Focal Point in coordination with the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist

National stakeholder outreach	Prior to consultation, provide documents to stakeholders on approved project design, ESF instruments such as the ESMPs, RPs , IPP, and promoting the project GM., and the roles of all level of stakeholders in promoting CSA, climate adaptation measures and the of ESF instruments	Representatives of government Ministries, beneficiary institutions, local farmers, and vulnerable groups.	At least two weeks prior to consultation meetings  Documents will be made available on the MAFSE website for download. The GRM will also be made available in easy to understand language  Phone calls, emails and texts will be sent directly to relevant stakeholders	MAFSE– Environmental and Social Focal Point in coordination with the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist	
Community-level outreach	Provide documentation ahead of consultation to target communities for project implementation and subproject implementation structures, proposed PAPs, vulnerable groups, and ESF instruments such as the	Members of target beneficiary communities, Project affected persons/households, Village Councils, vulnerable groups	At least two weeks prior to consultation meetings  Documents will be made available on the MAFSE website for download. The GRM will also be	MAFSE– Environmental and Social Focal Point in coordination with the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist	

		ESMPs, RPs, IPP, and promoting the project GM.		made available in easy to understand language  Phone calls, emails and texts will be sent directly to relevant stakeholders	
	National and community level outreach	Provide progress reports throughout Project implementation progress including any emerging issues	Selected National, District and Community level stakeholders including Beneficiary communities, Project affected persons/households, vulnerable groups	At least two weeks prior to consultation meetings  Documents will be made available on the MAFSE website for download. The GRM will also be made available in easy to understand language  Phone calls, emails and texts will be sent directly to relevant stakeholders	MAFSE– Environmental and Social Focal Point in coordination with the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist

Project Close Out Phase	National and community level outreach	Provide documentation to stakeholders on the project exit strategy and share reports on Monitoring and Evaluation of the project	Selected National, District and Community level stakeholders including Beneficiary communities, Project affected persons/households, vulnerable groups	At least two weeks prior to consultation meetings  Documents will be made available on the MAFSE website for download. The GRM will also be made available in easy-to-understand language  Phone calls, emails and texts will be sent directly to relevant stakeholders	MAFSE– Environmental and Social Focal Point in coordination with the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist
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#### 4.4. Proposed Strategy for Consultations

Consultation will use in person formats because the Government of Belize has lifted social distancing protocols. Consultations must use a format whereby participants can register and ensure their voices are adequately represented and noted as opposed to an open social media format whereby persons outside of the stakeholder groups may overshadow identified groups.

If there is a need to reinstate such protocols virtual meetings can be done on platforms including Zoom and/or Teams meetings with the direct stakeholders or representatives of such groups in the event stakeholders are unable to access online forums.

The format of virtual consultations could follow the steps outlined below to ensure maximum participation as opposed to simply sharing information:

- **Virtual registration of participants:** Participants can register online through a dedicated platform.
- **Distribution of workshop materials** to participants, including agenda, project documents, presentations, questionnaires and discussion topics: These can be distributed online to participants.
- **Review of distributed information materials:** Participants are given a scheduled duration for this, prior to scheduling a discussion on the information provided.
- **Discussion, feedback collection and sharing:**
  - Participants can be organized and assigned to different topic groups, teams or virtual “tables” provided they agree to this.
  - Group, team and table discussions can be organized through social media means, such as Teams or Zoom, or through written feedback in the form of an electronic questionnaire (such as SurveyMonkey) or feedback forms that can be emailed back.
- **Conclusion and summary:** The chair of the workshop will summarize the virtual workshop discussion, formulate conclusions, and share electronically with all participants.

#### 4.5. Proposed Strategy to Incorporate Views of Vulnerable Groups

Vulnerable groups’ specific needs are considered when organizing consultations to ensure active participation. This may involve providing special invites to known groups in the project vicinity. Vulnerable groups may also benefit from small-group virtual sessions to ensure they are provided sufficient opportunity to share thoughts and concerns. Where virtual sessions are entirely unsuitable for the specific group, representatives of these groups may attend on their behalf.

#### 4.6. Timelines & Scheduling of Consultations

Project Phase	Engagement Activity	Objective and material to disclose	Targeted Stakeholders	Method and Timing Proposed of Information Disclosure	Responsible
Project Preparation Phase	National and community level consultation prior to Appraisal	<p>Gather further feedback on</p> <p>(a) the purpose, nature, and scale of the project;</p> <p>(b) The duration of proposed project activities;</p> <p>(c) Potential risks and impacts of the project on local communities, and the proposals for mitigating these, highlighting potential risks and impacts that might disproportionately affect vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, and describing the differentiated measures taken to avoid and minimize these;</p> <p>(d) The proposed stakeholder engagement process highlighting the</p>	<p>Representatives of government Ministries, beneficiary institutions, local farmers, and vulnerable groups, Members of target beneficiary communities,</p> <p>Project affected persons/households, Village Councils</p>	<p>At least two weeks after disseminating documents</p> <p>Stakeholder were notified of consultation by phone call/text/WhatsApp, email, and flyers</p> <p>Consultations were done virtually, whereby at least representatives of stakeholders groups were present when stakeholders themselves were unable to attend</p> <p>Stakeholders had an additional five days to provide further feedback and comments</p> <p>*small-group virtual sessions were facilitated for vulnerable groups where this option was preferred</p>	MAFSE– Environmental and Social Focal Point

		<p>ways in which stakeholders can participate;</p> <p>(e) The time and venue of any proposed public consultation meetings, and the process by which meetings will be notified, summarized, and reported; and</p> <p>(f) The process and means by which grievances can be raised and will be addressed.</p> <p>These are summarised in the project design document and draft ESF instruments including the Grievance Mechanisms, SEP, RPF, ESMF, and LMP.</p>			
	<p>Consultation with IPs prior to Appraisal</p>	<p>Gather feedback on the design and applicability of the IPPF</p>	<p>IPs and/or IP representatives</p>	<p>At least two weeks after disseminating documents</p> <p>Stakeholder were notified of consultation by phone call/text/WhatsApp, email, and flyers</p> <p>Consultations were done virtually, whereby at least representatives of stakeholders groups were present when stakeholders themselves were unable to attend</p>	<p>MAFSE– Environmental and Social Focal Point</p>

				Stakeholders had an additional five days to provide further feedback and comments	
National and community level consultation prior to Effectiveness	Outline how previous comments have been incorporated and gather further feedback and confirmation of the final Grievance Mechanisms, SEP, RPF, ESMF, and LMP.	Representatives of government Ministries, beneficiary institutions, local farmers, and vulnerable groups, Members of target beneficiary communities, Project affected persons/households, Village Councils	At least two weeks after disseminating documents Stakeholder were notified of consultation by phone call/text/WhatsApp, email, and flyers Consultations were done virtually, whereby at least representatives of stakeholders groups were present when stakeholders themselves were unable to attend Stakeholders had an additional five days to provide further feedback and comments *small-group virtual sessions were facilitated for vulnerable groups where this option was preferred	MAFSE– Environmental and Social Focal Point	
Consultation with IPs prior to Effectiveness	Outline how previous comments have been incorporated and gather further feedback and confirmation of the final IPPF	IPs and/or IP representatives	At least two weeks after disseminating documents Stakeholder were notified of consultation by phone call/text/WhatsApp, email, and flyers Consultations were done virtually, whereby at least representatives of stakeholders groups were present when stakeholders themselves were unable to attend Stakeholders had an additional five days to provide further feedback and comments	MAFSE– Environmental and Social Focal Point	

Project Implementation Phase	Social Assessment Activities	Identify and characterize targeted communities, organizations, and persons and assess social issues and potential social impacts.	Representatives of government Ministries, beneficiary institutions, local farmers, and vulnerable groups  Project affected persons/households, Village Councils	At least two weeks after disseminating documents  Stakeholder will be notified of consultation by phone call/text/WhatsApp, email, and flyers  Consultations will be done virtually, whereby at least representatives of stakeholder's groups can be present if stakeholders themselves are unable to attend  Stakeholders will then have an additional five days to provide further feedback and comments	MAFSE– Environmental and Social Focal Point in coordination with the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist
	Inception Meeting	Obtain feedback on approved project design and orient all level of stakeholders on their roles in promoting CSA, climate adaptation measures and the preparation of ESF instruments such as the ESMP, RPs, IPP, and promoting the GRM	Representatives of government Ministries, beneficiary institutions, local farmers, and vulnerable groups, Members of target beneficiary communities,  Project affected persons/households, Village Councils	At least two weeks after disseminating documents  Stakeholder will be notified of consultation by phone call/text/WhatsApp, email, and flyers  Consultations will be done virtually, whereby at least representatives of stakeholder's groups can be present if stakeholders themselves are unable to attend  Stakeholders will then have an additional five days to provide further feedback and comments	MAFSE– Environmental and Social Focal Point in coordination with the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist

Community-level mobilisation meetings	Mobilize and prepare target communities for project implementation and formation of subproject implementation structures	Members of target beneficiary communities,  Project affected persons/households, Village Councils, vulnerable groups	Stakeholder will be notified of consultation by phone call/text/WhatsApp, email, and flyers  Consultations will be done virtually, whereby at least representatives of stakeholder's groups can be present if stakeholders themselves are unable to attend	MAFSE– Environmental and Social Focal Point in coordination with the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist
Community-level monitoring and supervision meetings (monthly during construction phase, every two months post construction)	Provide and obtain updated information that can support project performance	Members of target beneficiary communities,  Project affected persons/households, Village Councils, vulnerable groups	Stakeholders will be notified by phone call/text/WhatsApp, email, and flyers	MAFSE– Environmental and Social Focal Point in coordination with the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist
National and community level – Project Review Meetings (twice a year)	Obtain feedback on progress reports and make note of any emerging issues	Selected National, District and Community level stakeholders including  Beneficiary communities,  Project affected persons/households, vulnerable groups	At least two weeks after disseminating documents  Stakeholder will be notified of consultation by phone call/text/WhatsApp, email, and flyers  Consultations will be done virtually, whereby at least representatives of stakeholder's groups can be present if stakeholders themselves are unable to attend  Stakeholders will then have an additional five days to provide further feedback and comments	MAFSE– Environmental and Social Focal Point in coordination with the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist

				*small-group virtual sessions may be facilitated for vulnerable groups if indicated by such groups that this option would be preferred	
Project Close Out Phase	National and community level – Project Close Out Meeting	Obtain feedback on the project exit strategy and reports on Monitoring and Evaluation of the project. Ensure stakeholders understand the exit strategy clearly.	Representatives of government Ministries, beneficiary institutions, local farmers, and vulnerable groups, Members of target beneficiary communities,  Project affected persons/households, Village Councils	At least two weeks after disseminating documents  Stakeholders will be notified by phone call/text/WhatsApp, email, and flyers  Stakeholders will then have an additional five days to provide further feedback and comments	MAFSE– Environmental and Social Focal Point in coordination with the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist

#### **4.7. Review of Comments**

Dedicated rapporteurs during consultations will record both oral and written comments left during engagements. Stakeholder will have up to five days post the consultation to provide additional comments. The MAFSE Environmental and Social Focal Point in coordination with the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist

will review such comments and report back to relevant stakeholders on final decisions and how such comments were taken into account. The procedure for comments will follow the steps outlined in the Grievance Redress Mechanism as it is also designed to consider feedback in addition to complaints. Although the action on comments will manifest in the next reiteration of documents, the GRM timelines of a response within one week will be followed by ensuring stakeholders are notified of the receipt of their comment within that timeframe.

#### **4.8. Future Phases of Project**

Generally, stakeholders will receive at least twice a year an update report on the progress of the project during the implementation phase at project review meetings.

The report will include information about the environmental and social performance, implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the Grievance Redress Mechanism. This ensures that stakeholders are reminded of the process to make complaints and to flag additional environmental and social issues that might not have been considered.

### **5. Grievance Redress Mechanism**

#### **5.1. 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 Bank policy and standards.

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



To avoid or minimize the risk of leaving certain vulnerable groups behind, Section 4 of the SEP, in particular, describes the measures that are used to remove obstacles to participation and how the opinions of the different affected groups are captured. The SEP includes differentiated measures to allow the effective participation of those identified as vulnerable, focusing on small farmers without connections to formal organizations. In accordance with ESS7, the project requires a dedicated approach for communication and participation of indigenous groups that may be affected, ensuring that there are effective channels of communication, access to participation tables and agency in making decisions about problems that will potentially affect them (positively or negatively).

## **5.2. Principles of the GRM**

Effective GMs usually embody seven core principles:

- a) **Fairness:** Grievances are treated confidentially, assessed impartially, and handled transparently.
- b) **Objectiveness:** The GRM is to operate in a fair, objective manner and give impartial treatment to each case. GRM officers have adequate means and powers to investigate grievances (e.g., interview witnesses, access records, etc.).
- c) **Simplicity and accessibility:** Procedures to file grievances and seek action are simple enough that community members can easily understand them. Community members will also have a range of contact options including, at a minimum, a telephone number, an email address, and a postal address. The GRM will be accessible to all stakeholders, irrespective of the remoteness of the area they live in, the language they speak, and other characteristics. The GRM will not use complex processes that create confusion or anxiety (such as only accepting grievances on official-looking standard forms or through grievance boxes in government offices).
- d) **Responsiveness and efficiency:** The GRM will be responsive to the needs of all complainants. Accordingly, officials handling grievances will be trained to take effective action upon and respond quickly to grievances and suggestions.
- e) **Speed and proportionality:** All grievances, simple or complex, will be addressed and resolved as quickly as possible. The action taken on the grievance or suggestion is swift, decisive, and constructive.
- f) **Participatory and socially inclusive:** A wide range of project-affected people, community members, members of vulnerable groups, civil society, and the media – will be encouraged to bring grievances and comments to the attention of project authorities. Special attention is given to ensure that the poor and marginalized groups, including those with special needs, are able to access the GRM.
- g) **Confidentiality:** GRM officers will be trained on confidentiality procedures, including anonymising personal information when discussing actions to be taken with the Project Steering Committee by the PIU Environmental and Social Specialist. Training will emphasize that there must be absolutely no reprisals and the participation of community members in the GRM does not diminish their rights or entitlement to benefit from the project in any way. The same information can be shared with local communities. Emails, letters, and transcripts of telephone

conversations containing personal information will be accessed only by the assigned project staff.

### 5.3. Definition of Grievance

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

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

### 5.4. GRM Administration Process

The table below shows the overall GRM roles and the process for handling complaints.

<p><b>Step 1: Clear system to report grievances</b></p>	<p>Members of the public can inform the MAFSE or BSIF PIU Staff or MAFSE 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</p>
<p><b>Step 2: Register and Acknowledge</b></p>	<p>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&amp;S Specialist at the BSIF PIU. The GRM Contact records the complaint in the GRM intake form.</p>
<p><b>Step 3: Follow up</b></p>	<p>The BSIF PIU E &amp; S Specialist in collaboration with the MAFSE E&amp;S Focal Point will formally respond and acknowledge the issue within seven (7) working days. Periodic updates will be provided to the complainant on the status of the grievance.</p>
<p><b>Step 4: Evaluate, Investigate and Take Action</b></p>	<p>The BSIF PIU E&amp;S Specialist in collaboration with the MAFSE E&amp;S Focal Point will make efforts to resolve a grievance within 30 days of</p>

	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 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.

#### 5.4.1. Registration and acknowledge.

Receiving and registering complaints will be a simple process where members of the public can inform the BSIF PIU, MAFSE Staff or personnel at any of the MAFSE offices in the districts, considering that not all members of the community will have access to a phone and/or email. Respective Chairpersons of the various Village Councils may also make a report on behalf of a villager. Representative NGOs may also register complaints on behalf of the community they represent. These respective persons will be trained on the GRM by the E and S specialist of the PIU and be fully equipped to pass on the information in a secure method and within 24 hours to the GRM Contact person identified below:

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

GRM Contact:  
Agriculture Department  
National Agriculture and Trade Show Grounds  
Hummingbird Highway  
City of Belmopan  
Telephone: 611-1753  
Email: CRESAP.GRM@sifbelize.org

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

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

Although grievances can be received from respective persons, the responsibility for consolidation and formal logging of grievances will be that of the GRM Contact. Once a complaint has been received, it will be recorded in the complaints log or data system which will be established by the MAFSE and will be kept confidential. The GRM Contact will acknowledge the receipt of the complaint within 48 hours.

A log will be developed based on the example provided in Annex 2. The log can be kept in hardcopy or electronic form. Various types of grievances typically require different follow-up actions—for example, some grievances can be resolved by means of a simple explanation or apology, while others may require more extensive investigations. Therefore, grievances will be categorized, assigned priority, and routed as appropriate.

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

**Eligible complaints** may include those where:

- a) The complaint pertains to the project.
- b) The issues raised in the complaint fall within the scope of issues the grievance mechanism is authorized to address.
- c) The complainant has standing (stake, interest, or assets to be impacted, or representing a person with any of these characteristics) to file.

**Ineligible complaints** may include those where:

- a) The complaint is clearly not project related.
- b) The nature of the issue or complaint is outside the mandate of the grievance mechanism.

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

The GRM will also accept and resister all anonymous complaints.

Once a complaint is registered, the GRM Contact will acknowledge its receipt in a correspondence that outlines the grievance process and provides contact details for the responding officer. The MAFSE Social and Environmental Focal Point in collaboration with the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist will formally respond and acknowledge the issue within 7 working days, by email if appropriate. Complainants will then receive periodic updates on the status of their grievances.

#### **5.4.2. Follow up, Evaluate, Investigate and Take Action**

These steps involve gathering information about the grievance to determine its validity and resolving the grievance. Grievances that are straightforward (such as queries and suggestions) can often be resolved quickly by contacting the complainant and providing an appropriate response. Every effort will be made to resolve a grievance within 30 days of receipt. If this is not possible, clear steps being taken to address the grievance will be communicated to the

complainant. Grievances that cannot be resolved at the Project Management level will be referred to the Project Steering Committee.

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

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

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

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

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

### **5.4.3. Build Awareness of GRM**

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

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

- All community awareness activities regarding the GRM must adhere to the COVID 19 protocols established for stakeholder engagement above.

### **5.5. Train Staff for GRM**

Project staff and MAFSE staff will be educated about the GRM and procedures by the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist in collaboration with the MAFSE E&S Focal Point. This is to ensure that staff members are able to accept complaints, or to participate in on-the-spot resolution of minor problems. The following will be considered when developing training sessions for project staff:

- a) Sessions will focus on why the grievance redress mechanism is in place, its goals, benefits, and how it operates.
- b) Roles and expectations of project staff including what to do if a member of the community approaches them with a grievance, how best to respond to aggrieved stakeholders and the importance of listening, remaining objective, and taking stakeholder concerns seriously.
- c) The constructive role of community dissent in project operations, by encouraging the view that complaints and opposition are a source of valuable information that can lead to improved operations, reduce risk, and develop a supportive relationship with the community.
- d) Emphasize that there must be absolutely no reprisals and the participation of community members in the GRM does not diminish their rights or entitlement to benefit from the project in any way. The same information can be shared with local communities.
- e) The program will also cover topics related to sexual harassment, particularly towards women and children, violence, including sexual and/or gender-based violence and respectful attitude while interacting with the local community.

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

### **5.6. World Bank Grievance Redressal Service (GRS)**

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

Email: [grievances@worldbank.org](mailto:grievances@worldbank.org)

Fax: +1-202-614-7313

By letter:

The World Bank

Grievance Redress Service (GRS)

MSN MC 10-1018 NW, Washington, DC 20433, USA

## 5.7. Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

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

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

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

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

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

If the victim is a child, according to the Child Abuse Reporting Regulations, it is mandatory for all family members, teachers, social workers, school administrators and all other persons to report all suspected cases of child abuse to the police. Regarding adults, the MAFSE E&S Focal Point, BSIF PIU E&S Specialist and the Women's Department must respect the privacy of the complainant and are not obligated to report the case.

If the complainant would like to pursue a criminal case against the offender, the MAFSE E&S Focal Point in collaboration with the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist will support the complainant by

providing information on the process to make such a report with the Belize Police Department and what can be expected regarding steps forward.

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

- The Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) responds to allegations of domestic violence within the family which may include sexual violence.
- Criminal Investigations Branch (CIB) responds to allegations of sexual violence outside of the home setting and related crimes classified as indictable offences in the Supreme Court.

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

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

In both cases whether a criminal case is to be pursued or not, the MAFSE E&S Focal Point in collaboration with the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist will also ensure that victims and survivors of sexual violence are made aware during their initial response to the complainant that they can seek support at the Women's Department in each district. The Women's Department is a key referring agency for services to survivors of sexual violence. It will follow the following procedures<sup>6</sup>:

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

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<sup>6</sup> Women's Department. (2012). Handbook on Sexual Violence, Belize.



## *Trafficking in Persons*

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

### **5.8. Monitoring and Reporting of the GRM**

The MAFSE E&S Focal Point in collaboration with the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist should submit monthly internal reports to the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at the BSIF PIU and included in the progress reports submitted to the World Bank every six months, copying in MAFSE. These reports should outline the following:

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

#### **5.8.1. Management Functions**

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

A MAFSE E&S Focal Point has been assigned to the project for the entire period of the project implementation. The BSIF PIU Environmental and Social Specialist will work in collaboration with the MAFSE E&S Focal Point. The management, coordination and implementation of the SEP and its integral tasks will be the responsibility of the BSIF PIU E&S Specialist., the main tasks will be:

- a) Implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). The MAFSE E&S Focal Point and BSIF PIU E&S Specialist presents information regarding the project and receive any community concerns or complaints (grievance forms);
- b) Facilitate all stakeholder engagement events and disclosure of material to support stakeholder engagement events;
- c) Participate during all face-to-face stakeholder meetings;
- d) Preparation of Minutes of meeting from all engagement events;
- e) Maintain the project stakeholder database and update contact information regularly;

- f) Maintain the track results of regular meetings and specific concerns/complaints received. The grievance database needs to be maintained on a regular basis with all received concerns/how the concern/complaint was addressed and/or resolved, etc.;
- g) Resolve grievances and feedback submitted via the GM on Environmental and Social topics according to the GM process outlined above; and
- h) Report on social and environment safeguard issues identified during site visits and via the GM included in progress report submitted to the Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist at the PIU that will also conduct regular site visits to verify reported information and ensure overall project outcomes are being met.

The MAFSE E&S Focal Point will be based in MAFSE, and BSIF has included an Environmental and Social Specialist in the PIU who will work in collaboration with the MAFSE E&S Focal Point.

Table 6 Budget for Stakeholder Engagement

Category	Units	Unit Cost	Time/Year	Total Cost (BZD)
<b>MEETINGS</b>				
Project Inception Meeting	1	4900	Q1	<b>4900</b>
Community Mobilisation Meetings	10	515	Pre-appraisal and effectiveness	<b>5150</b>
Monitoring and Supervision Meetings	210	100	Y1-Y2 = 1 month Y3-Y5 = every two months	<b>21000</b>
Project Review Meetings	10	4090	Y1-Y2 twice a year	<b>40900</b>
Project Close Out Meeting	1	4900	Y5	<b>4900</b>
<b>TRAININGS</b>				
Social and Environmental Issues	1	1500	Q1	<b>1500</b>
Gender-based Violence	1	1500	Q1	<b>1500</b>
GRM	1	1500	Q1	<b>1500</b>
<b>TOTAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT BUDGET (BZD)</b>				<b>82,250.00</b>

The funds for the stakeholder engagement budget will be sources from project funds.

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.

## 6. Annex

### 6.1. Annex 1: Pre-Appraisal Consultation Plan

Please note that given the circumstances of COVID-19 the time of project preparation, the MAFSE followed the guidelines provided on WB's Technical Note "Public Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement in WB-supported operations when there are constraints on conducting public meetings, March 20, 2020."

[https://biwta.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/biwta.portal.gov.bd/page/f3ca1ff6\\_95b0\\_4606\\_849f\\_2c0844e455bc/2020-10-01-11-04-717aa8e02835a7e778b2fff46f531a8c.pdf](https://biwta.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/biwta.portal.gov.bd/page/f3ca1ff6_95b0_4606_849f_2c0844e455bc/2020-10-01-11-04-717aa8e02835a7e778b2fff46f531a8c.pdf) It is suggested to conduct and prioritize virtual consultations over face-to-face meetings to protect the health of the stakeholders and staff and avoid the spread of COVID-19. MAFSE Environmental and Social Focal Point is responsible for pre-appraisal consultations prior to the formalisation of the BSIF PIU.

Table 7 Pre-Appraisal Consultation Plan

	Activity	Method Used	Date	Target stakeholders	Responsible Staff
Pre-Appraisal	Identify the stakeholders that will be consulted for the draft SEP, ESMF, LMP, RPF.	Desk research, discussions with the MAFSE field officers	May 21, 2021	Affected parties, other interested parties and disadvantage/vulnerable individuals	MAFSE Environmental and Social Focal Point
	Identify the stakeholders that will be invited to attend consultations on the IPPF .	Desk research, discussions with the MAFSE field officers	May 21, 2021	Only IPs & IP organizations participate . (IPs will also participate ESMF, LMP, SEP, RPF consultations.)	MAFSE Environmental and Social Focal Point
	Identify the date for consultations on the IPPF, ESMF, LMP, SEP, RPF	Desk research of any existing consultations scheduled that may create a conflict	Aug 3, 2021		MAFSE Environmental and Social Focal Point

<p>Send invitations to stakeholders and confirm their participation. Share with stakeholders &amp; disclose the draft E&amp;S instruments (on WB and PIU website) prior to the consultations. Request that they take note of feedback on the instruments.</p>	<p><b>Affected parties:</b> Phone call/text, email, flyer</p> <p><b>Interested Parties:</b> Phone call/text, email</p> <p><b>Vulnerable groups:</b> Phone call/text, email, flyer</p>	<p>Sept 1, 2021</p>	<p>Affected parties, other interested parties and disadvantage/vulnerable individuals, including IPs</p>	<p>MAFSE Environmental and Social Focal Point</p>
<p>Prepare the Power Point presentation and define internally who will be presenting each slide/topic.</p>		<p>Sept 2-6, 2021</p>		<p>MAFSE Environmental and Social Focal Point</p>
<p>Conduct the consultations and gather additional comments and feedback</p>	<p><b>Affected parties:</b> Virtual meeting via Zoom/Teams</p> <p><b>Interested Parties:</b> Virtual meeting via Zoom/Teams</p> <p><b>Vulnerable groups:</b> Virtual meeting via Zoom/Teams. Consider in-person small-group session if legally allowed and absolutely necessary</p>	<p>Oct 9-14, 2021</p>	<p>Affected parties, other interested parties and disadvantage/vulnerable individuals</p>	<p>MAFSE Environmental and Social Focal Point</p>
<p>Prepare consultation reports (ESMF,</p>		<p>Oct. 18-19, 2021</p>		<p>MAFSE Environmental</p>

	LMP,SEP, RPF, IPPF)		(allowing for 5 days for any additional comments)		and Social Focal Point
	Share consultation reports with WB and add them as annexes to the ESMF, LMP, SEP, RPF and IPPF		Oct 19th, 2021		MAFSE Environmental and Social Focal Point
	Revise using WB feedback if needed & Disclose final revised ESMF, LMP, SEP, RPF and IPPR with consultations results prior to Appraisal		Oct 21st, 2021		MAFSE Environmental and Social Focal Point
	Report to Participants how feedback was incorporated and share location to find final revised ESMF, LMP, SEP, RPF and IPPR	<p><b>Affected parties:</b> Phone call/text, email, flyer</p> <p><b>Interested Parties:</b> Phone call/text, email</p> <p><b>Vulnerable groups:</b> Phone call/text, email, flyer</p>	Oct 22nd, 2021	Affected parties, other interested parties and disadvantage/vulnerable individuals	MAFSE Environmental and Social Focal Point

\*See full list of Stakeholder Needs for information on language and additional concerns.

## 6.2. Annex 2: 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

### 6.3. Annex 3: Detailed Stakeholder Engagement Budget

Category	Units	Unit Cost	Time/Year	Total Cost	Remarks
<b>MEETINGS</b>					
<b>Project Inception Meeting</b>	1		Q1		one-off meeting
Venue	1	1200		1200	
Stakeholder transport	30	30		900	30 stakeholders
Food	30	30		900	
Staff travel	10	20		200	
Materials/supplies/printouts	40	20		800	
Contacting stakeholders	30	30		900	
				<b>4900</b>	
<b>Community Mobilisation Meetings (prior to Appraisal and Effectiveness)</b>					
			Q1		IP meetings, community meetings, meetings with vulnerable groups
Prepare ESS instruments	7	300		2100	
Promoting the GRM - suggestion box	10	50		500	
Promoting the instruments and GRM - flyers	500	0.3		150	
Transportation	50	30		1500	
Contacting stakeholders	30	30		900	
				<b>5150</b>	
<b>Monitoring and Supervision Meetings</b>					
			Y1-Y5		Once a month Y1-Y2 then every two months Y3-Y5
Transportation	1050	20		21000	staff * communities * months
Contacting stakeholders	30	30		900	
				<b>21900</b>	
<b>Project Review Meeting</b>					
	10		Y1-Y5		2 times for the year for five years
Venue	10	1200		12000	
Stakeholder transport	300	30		9000	
Food	300	30		9000	
Staff travel	100	20		2000	
Materials/supplies/printouts	400	20		8000	
Contacting stakeholders	30	30		900	
				<b>40900</b>	
<b>Project Close Out Meeting</b>					
	1		Y5		one-off meeting
Venue	1	1200		1200	
Stakeholder transport	30	30		900	
Food	30	30		900	
Staff travel	10	20		200	
Materials/supplies/printouts	40	20		800	
Contacting stakeholders	30	30		900	
				<b>4900</b>	
<b>TRAININGS</b>					
Training on social/environmental issues for PIU and contractor staff	1	1500	Q1	1500	
Training on GBV for PIU and contractor staff	1	1500	Q1	1500	
Training on GRM for PIU and contractor staff	1	1500	Q1	1500	
				<b>4500</b>	
<b>TOTAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT BUDGET (BZD)</b>				<b>82,250.00</b>	

## 6.4. Annex 4: Detailed Summary of Consultations

It should be noted that in certain instances, representative consultations were held with leaders of organisations that are able to further disseminate information to the communities they represent. This approach was taken due to high level of COVID infection in Belize and limited access of some to internet.

Table 8 Summary of Initial Consultations during project design

Date of Consultation	Location	Project Stakeholders	Ministry/WB attendees	Major comments/feedback	How comments were incorporated	Evidence (Photos)
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	Ministry of Agriculture Conference Room National Agriculture and Trade Show Grounds (MOA CR NATS)		Soulemane Fofana, Remi Trier, Pablo Valdivia, Hira Channa, Kamau Ndirangu, Jose Alpuche, Victoriano Pascual,	Inception meeting: Discussion centered around the stakeholders that will be met during the mission, approximate budget, proposed reasons for securing the project, proposed objectives and impact of the project and the geographic areas of project implementation, commodities for agriculture diversification		Notes held at the MAFSE
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	BelTrade	Shahera Mckoy	Pablo Valdivia, Soulemane Fofana, Victoriano Pascual	Need for strengthening partnerships with BAHA and Belize Bureau of Standards.  Need for training in sanitation and standards procedures.	BAHA and the Pesticides Control Board are identified as key project stakeholders that will be involved in capacity building	Notes held at the MAFSE



				<p>GoB should look at crops such as Cacao and seaweed and may target niche market. Example embassy on Brussels promoted cocoa, chocolate coconut products and honey. Agriculture and agribusiness incubation is necessary in Belize to support small entrepreneurs</p>	<p>activities outlined in Subcomponent 1.1</p> <p>Subcomponent 2.2 also invests in supporting post-production and value addition</p>	
December 9 <sup>th</sup>	Development Finance Cooperation	Assad Magana, Alex Nolberto, Nathalie Goff	Victoriano Pascual Pablo Valdivia, Soulemane Fofana, Hira Channa, Kamau Ndirangu,	<p>Discussion centred on most convenient way for farmers to obtain the money without too much bureaucracy while still adhering to compliance and regulations put in place.</p> <p>Modality of funds to farmers may be matching grant or credit line. Farmers are already in debt as they have recently been hit with massive drought and some are still recovering from previous disasters.</p> <p>If the money is channelled through Credit unions, there is a need to know their absorptive capacity and appetite for the funds. According to the DFC the project should also seek to strengthen value addition. Farmers should look at farming as a business and should also invest in CC adaptation and mitigation measures. The government should also look at disaster recovery and try to channel</p>	<p>Farmers will be provided with additional support to complete Environmental and Social Screening to reduce challenges, as indicated in the CRESAP ESMF</p> <p>Grants will be available to farmers already as outlined in Subcomponent 2.1</p> <p>Regarding disaster recovery, Component 4 explicitly supports farmers to recover and repair after a disaster</p>	Notes held at the MAFSE

				support in to this area particularly since farmers are vulnerable to shocks. Timing for project implementation is critical and all lessons learned should be documented. DFC also working in getting GCF accredited, and they are also working on Gender, Social and Environmental management plans.		
December 10	Ministry of Agriculture	Ms. Ina Sanches. Mr. Belarmino Esquivel, Mr. Jose Novelo. Dr. Victoriano Pascual	Mr. Soulemane Fofana, Mr. Pablo Valdivia, Hira Channa, Kamau Ndirangu,	Explanation of the various agriculture programs was presented to the WB team. Various programs include livestock, horticulture, research, water management and climate change, agro processing, aquaculture. Challenges encountered in the various programs ranges from staff, transportation, and equipment, in addition to capacity building. The group also highlighted achievements and current improvements made in their unit.	The Ministry is identified as a key project stakeholder that will be involved in capacity building activities outlined in Subcomponent 1.1, including financing training	Notes held at the MAFSE
December 10 <sup>th</sup> 2019	University of Belize	Professor Clement Sankatt, Mrs. Zoe Zetina, Mr. Francisco Tzul, Mr. Daniel Juan, Mr. Vasques,	Mr. Pablo Valdivia, Hira Channa, Kamau Ndirangu , Jose Novelo, Victoriano Pascual, Mr.	Discussion at the University of Belize Agriculture Campus centred around improvement of the dormitories for students and the said dormitories can be used to facilitate farmer trainings as well. The UB also express interest in exchange programs with other regional universities. They express keen interest in fixing their cover structures, improve their breeding	The University of Belize is identified as a key project stakeholder that will be involved in capacity building activities outlined in Subcomponent 1.1	Notes held at the MAFSE

			Souleman Fofana	animals and note that more collaboration can be done in central farm since it hosts the Ministry of Agriculture, CARDI, BAHA and PCB.		
December 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	Mennonite Farmers	Community Leaders from Shipyard, Indian Creek and Neuland	Hira Channa, Kamau Ndirangu, Jose Novelo, Victoriano Pascual, Mr. Souleman Fofana, Mr. Barry Palacio, Mr. Elsner Campos.	The farmers are mostly livestock, grains and vegetables farmers. They reported that many farmers are highly indebted, and some are moving from bank to bank and also out of Belize and starting their life in Peru as there is thriving Mennonite community there. Some farmers have invested in irrigation system pivot systems and also rented land, but the returns are minimal and most are in debts. They require assistance from the GOB in terms of better and improved seeds and animal breeds, reduced interest rate and also if the GOB can remove tax on certain agricultural equipment's and inputs. They also ask if the GOB can assist them with well drilling which can assist in irrigation. Most of the women from the communities' work in food processing area in either the dairy or poultry establishments.	As water harvesting systems are costly investments, subcomponent 2.2 covers Ministry-led collective goods projects including irrigation, drainage and water harvesting to remove financial burden from communities	Sign in sheet
December 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2019	St. Margret's Farmers		Mr. Pablo Valdivia, Hira Channa, Kamau Ndirangu, Jose Novelo,	Farmers in the St. Margret's Cooperative indicated that they will be appreciative if the technical assistance is provided to them, likewise they would appreciate if the ministry introduced them to the various	St. Margaret's is an explicit project stakeholder that will be allowed to benefit from project activities, including	Photo 1, Photo 2

			Dr. Victoriano Pascual, Mr. Soulemane Fofana. Mr. Gareth Murillo	technology they are promoting. The group is also very much interested in irrigation technology since they have suffered severely during the 2019 drought. They have a variety of fruit trees and have witnessed drastic decrease in production and fruit size.	capacity building under subcomponent 1.2, and subcomponent 2.1 regarding access to financing	
December 12	Belize Credit Union League	Mrs. Corrine Fuller Executive Director, Mr. Linsbert Godoy	Dr. Victoriano Pascual, Soulemane Fofana	The Credit Union League indicated that several credit unions have been working with other IFI and it is nothing new that most of them will encounter should they choose to participate in this program. Most credit unions especially those in the northern districts supports the farming community. They indicated that the farmers have been struggling due to various reasons however the credit unions choose to work closely with their clients. They indicated that the Ministry should provide more capacity building to farmers as well a credit union staff. Capacity building should be in climate change and other technical areas pertaining to farming. Such trainings should also be done with the credit union staff so that they truly understand the situation in the field.	Financial Institutions, and explicitly the Credit Union League are key stakeholders that will benefit from capacity building as part of subcomponent 1.2, including training in new technologies and approaches promoted by the project	Notes held at the MAFSE
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	Nagubank	Los Pequenos Ganaderos de Nagu Bank	Mr. Clifford Martinez, Hira Channa,	Farmers in the Area are appreciative of the ministry assistance but indicated that there is much more that	Irrigation and water harvesting systems will be	Notes held at the MAFSE

			Kamau Ndirangu,	can be done. They suffered in the 2019 drought and indicated that they hope the GoB can still assist them. They have access to irrigation water but during the peak of the dry season the water becomes salty and affects crop production. They are very aware of the preservation of the environment and try to minimize the use of inorganic chemicals as much as possible.	improved/installed as part of subcomponent 2.2 and will observe the salinity of the water as part of the ESMF	
December 12 <sup>th</sup>	National Meteorological Service (NMS)	Shanea Young, Ronald Godon, Dwane Scott	Mr. Pablo Valdivia, Hira Channa, Jose Novelo, Dr. Victoriano Pascual, Mr. Souleman Fofana	Discussion focused on closer collaboration with them and products that can be developed to assist farmer with real time weather data which will assist them with better decision making out in the field. The idea of including more weather stations to provide more accurate data particularly in agriculture producing areas. The data precision can also further lead to information required if crop insurance is considered.	The National Meteorological Services identified as key project stakeholder that will be involved in capacity building activities outlined in Subcomponent 1.1, including the improvement of agrometeorological data quality	Notes held at the MAFSE
28th February, 2020	Central Bank	Deputy Governor – Kareem Michael	Jose Novelo, Sandra Broka	They are in support of the project and the involvement of the financial institutions, and the proposed mechanism for implementation. They expect the approach to leverage significant excess liquidity in the	Subcomponent 2.1 incorporates mechanism by which matching grants and credits from financial	Notes held at the MAFSE

				<p>commercial banks for the agricultural sector</p> <p>Felt that more discussions with commercial banks would be needed to discuss implementation modality so that Central Bank could provide the framework that will be needed.</p>	institutions will operate	
24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	La Immaculada Credit Union	Chairlady of the Board – Ena Martinez	Jose Novelo, Sandra Broka	<p>Confirmed support for the project design on matching grants and technical assistance to support for farmers</p> <p>Felt their institution needed additional training although they are already getting some level of training on climate change</p> <p>Availability of grant financing and technical assistance would allow them to engage excess liquidity which has resulted from a lack of bankable business proposals</p>	Subcomponent 1.2 ensures training is provided to financial institutions on relevant topics	
24 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Blue Creek Credit Union	Chairman of the Board – Albert Remple	Jose Novelo , Sandra Broka	<p>Confirmed support for the project design on matching grants and technical assistance to support for farmers</p> <p>They need training as they currently have no previous training on climate change and climate smart agricultural practices</p>	Subcomponent 1.2 ensures training is provided to financial institutions on relevant topics	

				Availability of grant financing and technical assistance would allow to engage excess liquidity which has resulted from a lack of bankable business proposals		
9 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 2021	Zoom	<p><b>PAP: Farmer organizations/cane farmers</b></p> <p>Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association - OW</p> <p>National Sugar Cane Producers: Corozal</p> <p>Progressive Sugar Cane Producers Association office</p> <p>Progressive Sugar Cane Producers Association office</p> <p>Belize Agroproductive Sector Group</p>	Clifford Martinez, Jose Tillett	Ensure that interest rates and existing loans do not disadvantage farmers from being able to access the project funds	<p>Component 2 will aim to strengthen the capacity of farmers in climate-smart agriculture and provide them with financing (matching grants and loans from PFIs) to adopt CSA technologies and practices.</p> <p>Guidance on matching grants and loans are included in the CRESAP Matching Grant Operations Manual.</p>	
10 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 2021	Zoom	<p><b>Vulnerable: IP communities/rural communities</b></p>	Clifford Martinez, Jose Tillett	Concerned around how the project will be disseminated to farmers, considering their remote locations, language barriers/ability to read and write. Concerned about ability to access funds when there have been issues in the past registering with the	Under Subcomponent 2.1, the matching grants program will be promoted among all targeted	

		National Association of Village Councils, San Antonio Women's Group, Chairpersons of villages, Heritage Education Network Belize		agricultural offices as a farmer, which is a prerequisite to access financing from FIs.	beneficiaries in the four districts, and farmers will be assisted in developing their business plans and subproject proposals for financing.  Considering that subproject activities will be carried out across four districts in remote rural areas and among numerous farmers, the volume of workload for project staff will be mitigated through: (a) the development of clear and specific annual work plans for subproject implementation, (b) ensuring that the BSIF PIU is properly staffed and trained, and (c) by MAFSE providing backstop support to the BSIF PIU.	
10 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 2021	Zoom	<b>Vulnerable: LGBTQ+</b>	Clifford Martinez,	Must ensure that there is a mechanism to capture the data on vulnerable	CRESAP E&S Instruments,	



		Our Circle	Jose Tillett	communities that have access to the project funds, explicitly including such questions in registration and application forms	including the SEP and SA, provide guidance on engagement with vulnerable communities.  Additionally, the CRESAP will make provisions to ensure that technical assistance is available to vulnerable stakeholders, to help them to prepare and submit their applications for matching grant funds.	
12 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 2021	Zoom	<b>Mennonite Communities</b>  Blue Creek, Indian Creek	Clifford Martinez, Jose Tillett	Prefer to have initial consultations with leaders first, concerned as well about interest rates and access to financing due to communal lands	Subcomponent 2 will aim to strengthen the capacity of farmers in climate-smart agriculture and provide them with financing (matching grants and loans from PFIs) to adopt CSA technologies and practices.  CRESAP E&S Instruments,	

					including the SEP and SA, provide guidance on how Mennonite communities should be engaged.	
18 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 2021	Zoom	<b>Vulnerable: diverse abilities, LGBTQ+, elderly</b>  UNIBAM, Autism Belize, BAPDA, National Council on Ageing	Clifford Martinez, Jose Tillett	Outline structural issues that would impede vulnerable groups from accessing loans from financial institutions, such as the definition of spouse for loan applications and age limitations for elderly persons.	Detailed instructions and guidance for PFIs and all other participants in implementation of the Matching Grant Funds are included in the CRESAP Matching Grant Operations Manual.	

Table 9 Summary of community-level consultations on project design and ESF instruments

Date	Name	Community/Organisation	Contact information	Location	Category
<b>Oct 9th, 2021</b> <b>9:00-10:30am</b>	Mr. Ermin Gonzales-Projects/Environmental Officer	Belize Sugar Cane Farmers Association - OW	ermingonzales.bz@gmail.com	Zoom	PAP: Farmer orgs/cane farmers
	Mr. Ezequiel Palomo	National Sugar Cane Producers: Corozal	<a href="mailto:ezequiel.palomo733@gmail.com">ezequiel.palomo733@gmail.com</a> ; 6141746		
	Mr. Hernandez	Progressive Sugar Cane Producers Association office	ebhdz.pscpa@gmail.com; 6104207; abpech1@gmail.com		
	Abi Pech	Progressive Sugar Cane Producers Association office	abpech1@gmail.com		

	Dale Young	Belize Agroproductive Sector Group	822 2901/6041649/6101649 - dhhy01@yahoo.com		
<b>Oct 10th, 2021</b> <b>9:00-10:30am</b>	Mr. Javier Sabido	National Association of Village Council (district-level)	navcobelize@gmail.com	Zoom	Vulnerable: IP communities/rural communities
	Timotea Mesh	San Antonio Women's Group	mattymesh702@gmail.com		
	Danny Mai	San Antonio Chairperson	mai.danny1981@gmail.com		
	Delmer Tzib	San Antonio	dtzibteach@gmail.com		
	Dr. Fernando Tzib	San Antonio	sukunmayaworld@gmail.com		
	Ediberta Rodriguez	Orange Walk Community	rodriguezedi1976@gmail.com		
	Sergio Tillet	Orange Walk Community	serget090976@gmail.com		
	Orlando Ayuso	San Jose Palmar, OW	landya31@gmail.com		
	David Howe	Caledonia, Corozal	dhowe877@gmail.com		
	Rebecca Friedel	Heritage Education Network Belize	heritagebelize@gmail.com		
	Mr. Pinelo	Bullet Tree Chairperson	Karambapinelo@gmail.com		
	Marliu Hall	Chan Chen Chairlady	634-4514, marihall.84@gmail.com		
<b>Oct 10th, 2021</b> <b>2:00-3:30</b>	Derricia Jael	Our Circle	ourcirclebze@gmail.com	Zoom	Vulnerable: LGBTQ+
	Denae Fairwether	Our Circle	ourcirclebze@gmail.com		

<b>Oct 12th, 2021</b> <b>9:00- 10:30</b>	Adalim Cab	Blue Creek - Caribbean Chicken	<a href="mailto:caribbeanchicken@btl.net">caribbeanchicken@btl.net</a> , isaac@caribbeanchicken.com	Zoom	Vulnerable: Mennonites
	Justina Teigrob	Blue Creek - Mayor's office assistant	bluecreekcom.office@yahoo.com		
	Abram Friesen	Blue Creek - Deputy Mayor	bluecreekcom.office@yahoo.com		
	Franz Thiessen	Indian Creek	frannarempel@hotmail.com		
<b>Oct 18th, 2021</b> <b>1:00- 2:30</b>	Christy- Almeida	Autism Belize, Executive Chair	autismbelize@icloud.com	Zoom	Vulnerable: diverse abilities, LGBTQ+, elderly
	Ix-Chel Poot	National Council of Ageing, Executive Director	ncabelize@yahoo.com		
	Steve Myles	BAPDA, Vice President	stevemyles55@gmail.com; stevemyles17@gmail.com - 6156008		
	Caleb Orosco	UNIBAM, Executive Director	unibambusiness@gmail.com		

# Attendance

## Environmental and Social Standards

The Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) enables **better management of environmental and social risks of projects** and improved development outcomes.

The Environment and Social Standards (ESS) **set out the requirements.**

1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	2 Labor and Working Conditions	3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management	4 Community and Stakeholder Engagement
6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities	8 Cultural Heritage	9 Financial Intermediaries
			10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Overview | Stakeholder Engagement Plan | Environmental and Social Management Framework | Resettlement Planning Framework | Project Grievance Redress Mechanism | Labor Management Plan

Participants (16)

- Kristin Marin (Host, me)
- MAFSE Clifford Martinez Jr.
- DM Danny Mai
- D David
- DT Delmer Tzib
- ER Edilberta Rodriguez
- FT Fernando Tzib

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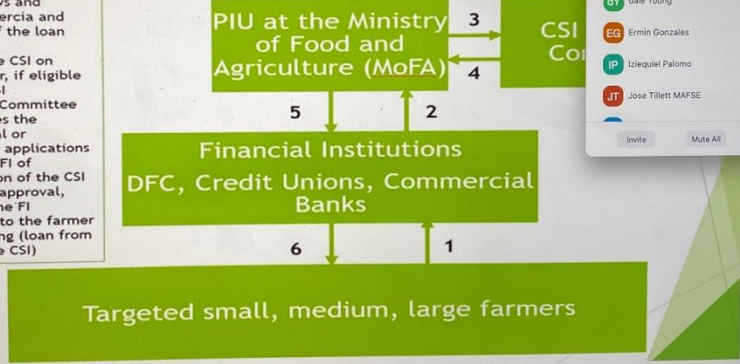
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Figure 4: Implementation Mechanism for the Climate-Smart Matching Grants

**Legend:**  
1- Farmer applies for a loan to the FI; the FI reviews and approves the commercial and financial viability of the loan proposal  
2 - FI applies for the CSI on behalf of the farmer, if eligible  
3 - PIU sends the CSI applications to the Committee  
4 - Committee issues the decision on approval or rejection of the CSI applications  
5 - PIU informs the FI of approval or rejection of the CSI request; in case of approval, funding is sent to the FI  
6 - the FI transfers to the farmer 100% of the financing (loan from own resources + the CSI)

### Implementation Mechanism



Participants (9)

Search

- AP Abi Pech
- CH Cosme Hernandez
- dY Dale Young
- EG Ermin Gonzales
- IP Iztzequel Palomo
- JT Jose Tillet MAFSE

Invite Mute All More

- Overview
- Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Environmental and Social Management Framework
- Resettlement Planning Framework
- Project Grievance Redress Mechanism
- Labor Management Plan

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## PROJECT BENEFICIARIES

Identified stakeholders and actors who play a critical role in improving agricultural sector's efficiency and enhancing producers capacity to adapt to climate change and weather variability in Belize.

It is estimated that approximately 2,500 producers will benefit directly from this funding, with more benefiting indirectly.

small-, medium- and large-scale farmers, members of farmer organizations and others associated with the agriculture 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 (U.B) among others.

National Meteorology  
Agriculture Department of the University of Belize, the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA), and the Pesticides Control Board (PCB),

Participants (5)

- Kristin Marin (Host, me)
- MAFSE Clifford Martinez Jr
- Denae Fairweather
- Derricia Jael
- KC Karla Colocho

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Overview

Stakeholder Engagement Plan

Environmental and Social Management Framework

Resettlement Planning Framework

Project Grievance Redress Mechanism

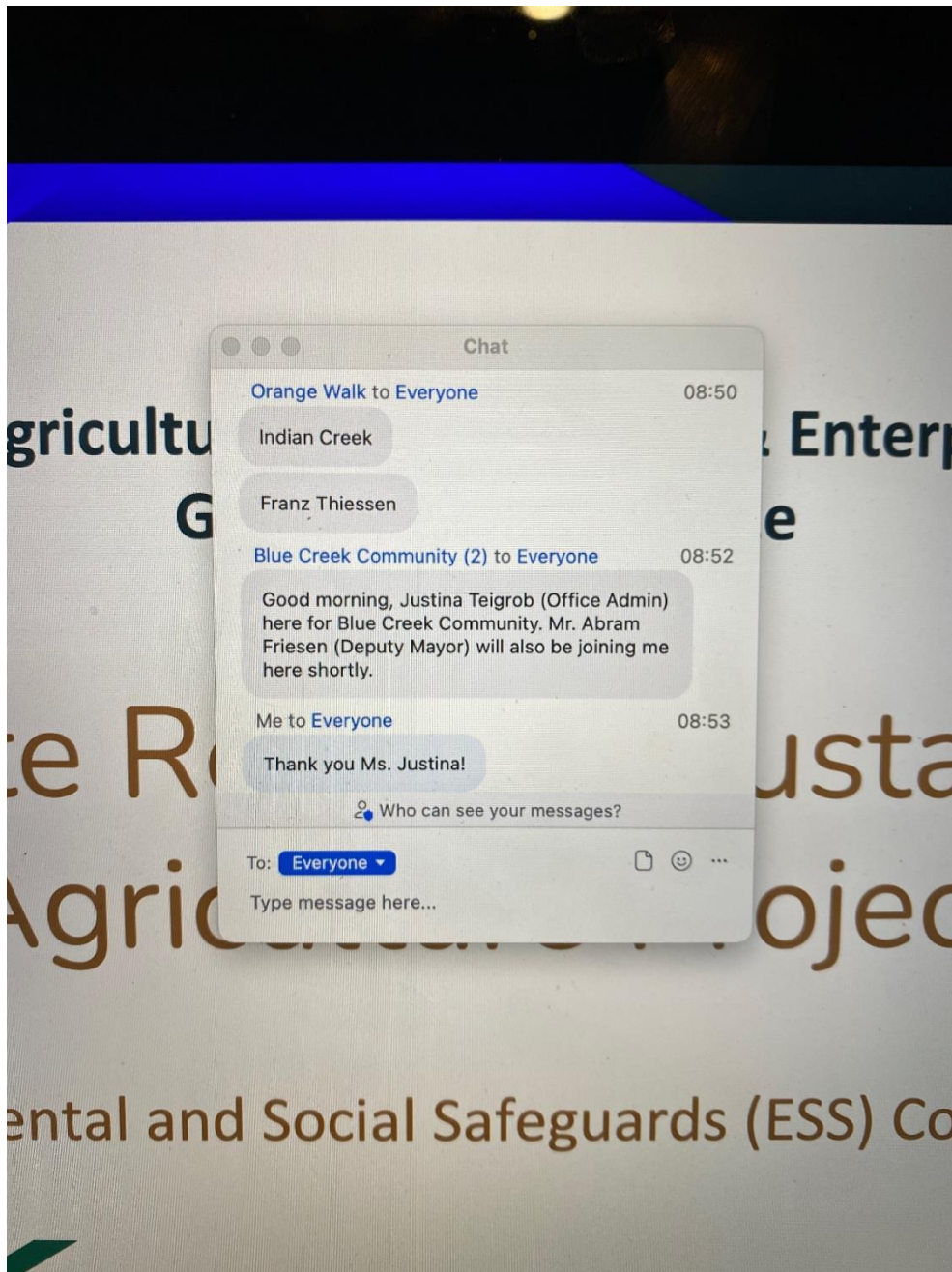
Labor Management Plan

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# Agenda

- Project overview and description
- ESS Introduction
- Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- Environmental and Social Management Framework
- Resettlement Planning Framework
- Labour Management Plan
- Grievance Redress Mechanism

Participants (7)

Search

	Kristin Marin (Host, me)			
	Clifford Martinez Jr.			
	Caleb Orozco			
	National Council on Ageing			
	Christy Almeida, Autism Belize			
	Karla Colacho			
	Steve Myles			

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