



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Response to Food Crisis in South Sudan (SEPAREF)

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ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK (ESMF)

This document is intended to use solely for the purpose of FAO projects disclosure

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ACRONYMS

AfDB	African Development Bank
EA	Environmental Assessment
EGS	Early Generation Seed
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESA	Environmental and Social Assessment
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Programme
GHG	greenhouse gas
ESMMP	Environmental and Social Monitoring and Management Plan
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GOSS	Government of South Sudan
HIV/AIDS	Human Immune Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IP	Implementing Partner
ISS	Integrated Safeguards System
ITCZ	Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forestry
OS	Operating System
PIA	Project Implementing Agency
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PPE	Personal Protection Equipment
SEPAREF	Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Response to Food Crisis In South Sudan
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SPCU	Single project Coordination Unit
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background

South Sudan is a landlocked nation spanning approximately 640,000 square kilometers with an estimated population of 12.5 million, positioning it among the less densely populated countries in Africa, with a population density of about 19.53 people per square kilometer. The country operates under three tiers of government: national, state, and local. The local government further divides into County, Payam, and Boma administrations, with Payam and Boma roughly corresponding to district and village levels, respectively. Presently, South Sudan comprises ten states and over 79 counties.

About 90% of the land is arable, with half of it being regarded as fertile and prime agricultural land. Of the total population, 80% live in rural areas and 20% in urban areas. Remarkably, a mere 5% of the available prime agricultural land is now being utilised, while approximately 12-15% of the area is characterized by Arid and Semi-Arid conditions. The economic potential of agriculture is widely recognized, but, it also serves as a source of contention, leading to conflicts among pastoralists, agro-pastoralists, and crop-based agricultural communities. Consequently, agriculture can be seen as a key contributor to food security.

Climate change pose significant threats to the economy, infrastructure, and agricultural yields. Currently, there are no early generation seeds management plans, actionable strategies, or forums for coordinating, deliberating, allocating, and optimizing agricultural produce across sectors. Simultaneously, rapid urbanization and the construction boom over the past decade have introduced a plethora of challenges, including development in drought-prone zones, compromised water drainage, and both historical and emerging issues of inadequate land use and land degradation in rural areas. These challenges compound existing climate issues, leading to water shortages, ecosystem degradation, pollution, and water-related diseases, particularly in the eastern part of the country.

South Sudan's diverse habitats encompass grasslands, high-altitude plateaus, escarpments, wooded and grassy savannas, floodplains, and wetlands. Noteworthy wildlife species include the endemic white-eared kob and Nile Lechwe, along with elephants, giraffes, common eland, giant

eland, oryx, lions, African wild dogs, cape buffalo, and topi (referred to locally as tiang). The Boma-Jonglei Landscape region encompasses Boma National Park, extensive pasturelands and floodplains, Bandingilo National Park, and the Sudd, an expansive area of swamp and seasonally-flooded grasslands that incorporates the Zeraf Wildlife Reserve.

Since achieving independence in 2011, South Sudan has encountered significant obstacles within its political landscape. The nation has been afflicted by internal conflicts, frequently characterised by ethnic divisions, resulting in the displacement of populations, violations of human rights, and the emergence of a multifaceted humanitarian catastrophe. The presence of a power struggle among political elites has impeded the formation of durable governance frameworks, hence exacerbating political instability. The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of 2005, which facilitated the process of achieving independence, exhibited limitations in adequately addressing the fundamental issues. Consequently, the separation of South Sudan from Sudan was succeeded by a civil conflict that commenced in 2013. The signing of the Revitalised Agreement for the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) in 2018 provided a ray of optimism on the potential for achieving stability in the region. However, despite this positive development, there continue to be persistent problems in the implementation process. The political environment of the nation continues to be complex, necessitating ongoing endeavours to tackle fundamental concerns and establish a resilient political structure.

South Sudan faces formidable economic obstacles, made worse by the ongoing conflict. The economy is primarily dependent on the exportation of oil, with oil constituting a significant proportion of the government's fiscal income. The country's budgetary health is directly influenced by fluctuations in global oil prices. The ongoing fighting has resulted in significant disruptions to both oil production and infrastructure, exacerbating the economic hardship experienced by the affected region. Economic progress is hindered by the presence of elevated levels of corruption and inadequate infrastructural development. The ongoing humanitarian crisis has placed significant demand on public resources, resulting in the diversion of cash away from critical services and development initiatives.

1.2. Environmental and Social Management Framework requirements

This Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) provides a procedure for environmental and social assessment of the proposed program in Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Response to Food crisis (SEPAREF) in South Sudan . The selection of this ESMF results from the fact that, despite awareness of the project's footprint, detailed design and specific project locations remain unavailable ahead of the scheduled appraisal mission in the upcoming months. This framework is intended to serve as guidance for both the government of South Sudan and the African Development Bank in ascertaining the suitable level of environmental and social assessment needed for the project, including its sub-projects. It will aid in the identification of anticipated impacts and the formulation of requisite environmental and social mitigation measures.

1.3. Purpose of the ESMF

This Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is an assessment tool that will guide the implementation of the proposed program SEPAREF in South Sudan. The overall goal of the proposed Multinational project is to increase agricultural production, productivity, and resilience of the agricultural production systems in South Sudan to mitigate the short, medium and long-term risks aggravated by the war in Ukraine.

The borrower shall establish an ESMF in accordance with the AfDB's environmental and social safeguards policy. The ESMF shall ensure that any project implementing agency (PIA) conducts preliminary environmental and social assessments (ESAs) of its proposed activities prior to their implementation, and outlines, in general terms, the mitigation, monitoring and institutional measures to be undertaken during the implementation and operation of the program to avoid, minimize or compensate for adverse environmental and social impacts. The ESMF shall also include a grievance redress mechanism (GRM) to address any complaints or concerns arising from the program's environmental and social performance. To conform with the donor agreement and FESM provisions, FAO shall develop and operationalize the GRM for the implementation of SEPAREF (Annex 1)

1.4. Objectives of the ESMF

Both at the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) and AfDB levels, it is mandated that preliminary environmental assessments be conducted during the identification, preparation, or appraisal stages of any development project. The primary objective of this Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is to guarantee that, during the implementation of the SEPAREF program—where the sub-project sites are yet to be determined—a preliminary assessment is undertaken to ensure the environmental and social sustainability of the program. The ESMF is designed to equip project implementers with a process for environmental and social screening, enabling them to identify, assess, and mitigate potential environmental and social impacts associated with sub-project activities. This includes the preparation of site-specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) or Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) where applicable.

The screening results will determine whether additional environmental and/or social assessments will be conducted or not. Moreover, the ESMF is designed to ensure an appropriate level of environmental and social management, which could range from the application of simple mitigation measures (through the environmental checklists) to the preparation of an ESIA Report (according to South Sudan’s Environmental Impact Assessment & Audit Regulations). More specifically, the objectives of ESMF are:

- Establishing explicit procedures and methodologies for the environmental and social screening, planning, review, approval, and implementation of sub-projects financed under the Project;
- Specifying the appropriate roles and responsibilities, along with outlining necessary reporting procedures, for the management and monitoring of environmental and social concerns related to sub-projects;
- Identifying the training, capacity building, and technical assistance necessary for the successful implementation of the provisions outlined in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and subsequent Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs);
- Proposing and instituting the funding required to fulfill the ESMF requirements and facilitate subsequent environmental and social assessments, monitoring, and

management; and,

- Providing practical information resources to support the implementation of the ESMF.

This initial assessment ensures the development of the screening process considering the types of sub-projects based on the proposed project components, even though the actual locations of these sub-projects are not yet clearly known. It also ensures the allocation of funds, although more accurate identification of potential impacts will occur during appraisal missions and the actual design phase of the infrastructural works in the project. It is anticipated that most sub-project activities will entail short-term, site-specific, confined, and reversible negative environmental and social impacts, manageable through well-defined and straightforward mitigation and monitoring measures. The Project Management Unit (PMU) at the Project Implementing Agency (PIA) bears the responsibility for implementing the requirements of the ESMF. In cases where ESMF approvals are mandated by national legislation, the relevant authority within the government system will be tasked with assuming full responsibility.

1.5. Environmental and Social Screening

Environmental and social screening is a requirement globally in project implementation. The objective of the Environmental and Social Screening is to ensure that the projects are designed and implemented in an environmentally and socially sustainable manner. The laws and regulations of South Sudan, the African Development Bank (AfDB)'s ISS and Food Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s Framework for Environmental and Social Management (FESM) Safeguard Policies as well as international laws and the conventions will be taken into consideration during the preparations and actual implementation of SEPAREF project.

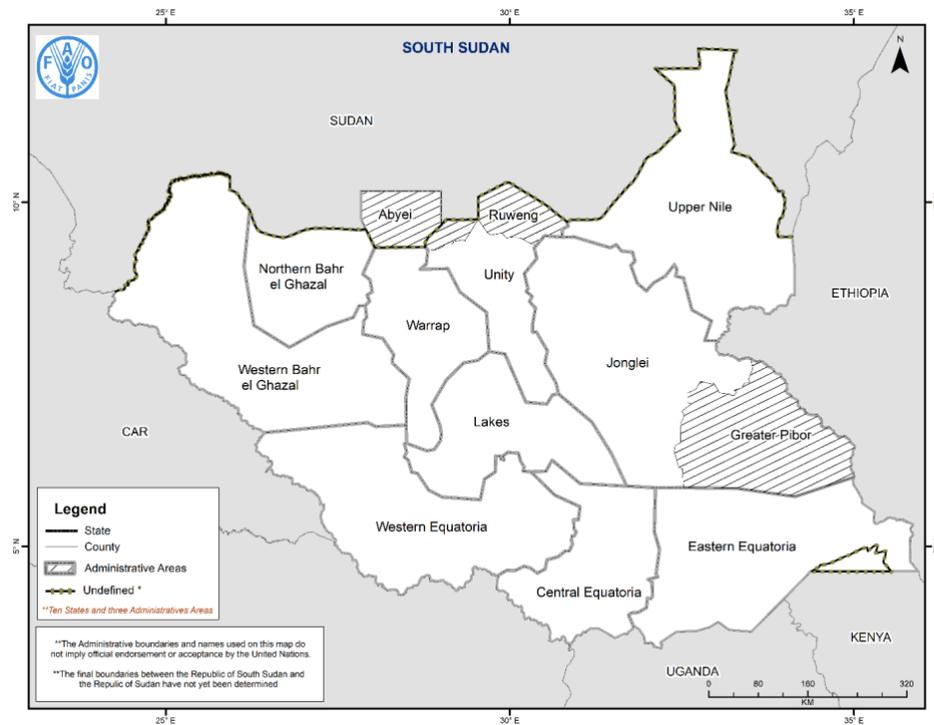
1.6. Preparation and use of ESMF

This ESMF was prepared by Food Agriculture Organization (FAO) working on behalf of the Government of the Republic of South Sudan based on previous experience on similar projects that have been handled. The ESMF provides a guidance to be used within existing Government Policy regulations for environment and social processes and other international legislation by donor organizations. This ESMF will be a living document that will be subject to periodic reviews to address specific concerns raised by stakeholders, and emerging policy requirements. It will complement the Environmental and Social Impact provided for operationalization of provisions of the Environmental Management System in South Sudan.

2. GENERAL BASELINE INFORMATION

2.1. The country – Location and size

South Sudan is a land-locked country, situated in the Greater Horn of Africa, specifically Eastern Africa. It is bordered by Ethiopia to the east, Kenya to the southeast, Uganda to the south, the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the southwest, the Central African Republic to the west, and Sudan to the north. The geographical features of the nation include the expansive swamp region known as the Sudd, created by the White Nile, locally referred to as the Bahr al Jabal, which stands out as a significant landscape element. The country is geographically bisected by the White Nile, coursing from the southern to the northern reaches. Covering a vast expanse of 619,745 square kilometers, South Sudan is subdivided into ten states and three administrative states, each delineated in the accompanying map.



Map of South Sudan showing the ten states and the three administrative Areas

**The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.*

2.2. Environmental conditions

2.2.1. Physiographical characteristics of the country

South Sudan is a sovereign nation that was formerly a constituent of Sudan until the year 2011¹. The country exhibits a diverse array of ecosystems, encompassing verdant savannas, wetlands, and tropical rainforests, which provide habitats for several wildlife species. The majority of South Sudan's land area is characterised by the presence of tropical forest, comprising around 29% of its total land coverage². South Sudan is characterised by significant geographical elements, namely the White Nile, which originates from the uplands of Central Africa and traverses the central region of the nation in a northward direction. Additionally, South Sudan is home to the expansive Sudd marsh, recognised as one of the world's largest wetlands. The Sudd wetland, which receives its water supply from the White Nile, encompasses an expansive region of over 100,000 km², constituting more than 15 percent of the total landmass of the country. The southern highlands, situated along the border with Uganda and Kenya, emerge from the northern and central plains. The Ethiopian highlands are situated near the eastern boundary of the country, while the Congo River basin highlands are located in the southern and western peripheries³.

The Republic of South Sudan exhibits a tropical climate characterised by consistently elevated temperatures and regular precipitation throughout the entirety of the year. The mean annual maximum temperature in Juba is recorded as 94.1 degrees Fahrenheit (34.5°C), while the mean annual minimum temperature is observed to be 70.9 degrees Fahrenheit (21.6°C). In South Sudan, the period between April and October is characterised by the highest precipitation levels, with an average annual accumulation of 37.54 inches (953.7 mm). The nation also has a period of reduced precipitation, known as the dry season, which spans from November to March.

2.2.2. Climate

The climate of South Sudan is notably characterized by its hot and arid nature, marked by seasonal

¹ [South Sudan | Facts, Map, People, & History | Britannica](#)

² [South Sudan - The World Factbook \(cia.gov\)](#)

³ <https://www.unep.org/resources/report/south-sudan-first-state-environment-and-outlook-report-2018>

rains that are intricately influenced by the migration of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) between the Tropic of Cancer in the north and the Tropic of Capricorn in the south. The southernmost region, forming the green belt zone, witnesses substantial rainfall, reaching up to 2500 millimeters. Across a significant portion of the country, annual rainfall ranges between 800 mm and 2,000 mm. In marginal areas, the annual rainfall diminishes to a range of 300 mm to 700 mm. The greenbelt zone experiences a bimodal rainfall pattern occurring between April and June and then between August and October. Conversely, the remainder of the country experiences mono-modal rainfall, concentrated between April and October.

Temperature fluctuations in South Sudan range between 25°C and 45°C, and the duration of the growing season spans from 100 to 250 days, contingent upon the agro-ecological zones. Concerning land cover, the southwestern part of the country, where rainfall is more abundant, showcases a higher density of vegetation, exhibiting conditions akin to a tropical rainforest. The majority of the country is characterized by wooded grassland or Savannah-type vegetation. Drier regions are adorned with bushed grassland.

2.2.3. Climate change

Similar to many African nations, South Sudan contributes minimally to global carbon emissions, yet it remains exceptionally susceptible to the repercussions of climate change, primarily manifested in elevated temperatures and heightened rainfall variability. The vulnerability of South Sudan is profoundly intensified by its limited resilience, stemming from factors such as pervasive poverty, low household incomes, and inadequate infrastructure. These challenges have been further compounded by armed conflicts and insecurity, exacerbating the country's susceptibility to climate-related adversities.

The ramifications of a warmer climate and drier conditions extend to biological productivity, impacting food security by diminishing harvests and constraining the availability of livestock feed, leading to reduced grazing and browsing supplies. The impacts of climate change on South Sudan include the escalation of famines and widespread food insecurity due to the loss of agricultural production potential. Negative consequences on rain-fed agriculture, diminished pastureland productivity, and restricted access to water resources for livestock further amplify the challenges.

Additionally, an increase in disease and pest occurrences affects humans, livestock, and crops alike. Habitat degradation leading to a reduction in production potential may instigate human conflicts, particularly inter-community disputes over resources. The intermittently occurring flooding and drought associated with climate change pose a significant threat by causing the destruction of infrastructure.

2.2.4. Natural hazards and disasters

Natural hazards encompass natural processes or phenomena that have the potential to result in loss of lives, injuries, adverse health impacts, property and infrastructure damage, livelihood and service losses, and disruptions to social and economic activities. It's crucial to recognize that human activities contributing to environmental degradation can exacerbate the impacts of these natural hazards and disasters. The categorization of natural hazards includes: (1) geophysical hazards, such as earthquakes, volcanoes, landslides, avalanches, tsunamis, and similar events; (2) meteorological hazards, encompassing storms, cyclones, hurricanes, typhoons, blizzards, etc.; (3) hydrological hazards, including floods, storm surges, flash floods, etc.; (4) climatic hazards, like droughts, extreme temperatures, wildfires, etc.; and (5) biological hazards, involving epidemics, infestations, and the like.

In South Sudan, prevalent natural hazards leading to subsequent disasters include earthquakes, with recorded instances in 2006, 2007, 2010, and 2014. The frequency of earthquakes in the region is attributed to South Sudan's location in the western Rift Valley, where earth crust ruptures and tectonic actions and reactions occur. Additionally, the country experiences common hazards like extreme weather conditions, notably droughts, torrential rains, and seasonal flooding. These extreme weather conditions can also give rise to secondary hazards such as disease outbreaks and pest infestations.

2.3. Socio-economics

According to the IPC report (2022)⁴, about 6.6 million people, or over half of South Sudan's population (54%), are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity, classified in Crisis (IPC Phase

⁴ South Sudan: Acute Food Insecurity Situation October - November 2022 <https://www.ipcinfo.org/ipc-country-analysis/details-map/en/c/1155997/>.

3) or worse between October and November 2022. Of those, 2.2 million people are experiencing worse conditions in Emergency (IPC Phase 4) acute food insecurity and an estimated 61,000 people in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) acute food insecurity in Fangak, Canal/Pigi and Akobo of Jonglei State; Pibor County in the Greater Pibor Administrative Area. The most food insecure states between October and November 2022, where more than 50% of their populations are facing Crisis (IPC Phase 3) or worse acute food insecurity, are Jonglei (68%), Unity (66%), Northern Bahr el Ghazal (62%), Upper Nile (58%), Warrap (57%), and Lakes (57%).

The prevalent crops cultivated in South Sudan encompass sorghum, maize, rice, sunflower, cotton, sesame, cassava, beans, and groundnuts. Despite the considerable production potential, these agricultural products often struggle to penetrate markets due to inadequate infrastructure and a lack of market access. Consequently, they are not traded on a substantial scale. This situation contributes to widespread impoverishment among households, hindering the improvement of their living standards. The enduring conflicts during the civil war, coupled with recent internal military conflicts, have inflicted significant damage and deterioration on existing markets and general infrastructure, aggravated by minimal routine maintenance efforts. Consequently, there is a pressing need for the rehabilitation of most existing infrastructure.

Presently, markets face challenges such as overcrowding, surpassing their carrying capacities, and a deficiency in essential facilities, including electricity, storage rooms, hygiene facilities like toilets, drainage, and sewage systems. Access to markets compounds the issue, with only two percent of the existing road network being paved. Most roads become impassable during the wet season, presenting a formidable obstacle for rural residents seeking to reach markets. The exorbitant transportation costs further impede the movement of goods from rural areas to urban centers and markets, contributing to artificial scarcities within the country.

Following the conclusion of the civil war, which endured for more than 22 years and concluded with the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005, South Sudan initiated the formidable task of reconstruction. The aftermath of the conflict resulted in a staggering loss of approximately 2 million lives, displacement of over 4 million residents, and a near-complete breakdown of infrastructure. A substantial influx of internally displaced individuals and returning refugees exacerbated the strain on already overburdened basic services and rudimentary

infrastructure. Various development partners undertook projects encompassing livelihoods, capacity-building, infrastructure development, water and sanitation, civic awareness and participation, as well as initiatives addressing issues like gender-based violence.

The notably low level of economic development in South Sudan raises significant concerns regarding the identification of effective and sustainable reintegration opportunities. Managing expectations and aligning reintegration programs with the aspirations of former combatants and affiliated groups is imperative. The country grapples with limited access to essential social services and a scarcity of adequately trained human resources. A comprehensive effort to enhance the capacity of both human resources and institutions is indispensable for fostering effective socio-economic development in South Sudan. Recent civil conflicts have further impeded economic progress, exacerbating the destruction of socio-economic infrastructure.

3. METHODOLOGY

3.1. Introduction

This Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been prepared using several methods to meet the standard requirements. The primary focus in developing this ESMF was to establish a screening procedure for identifying potential environmental and social impacts related to the proposed project activities. Subsequently, the aim was to propose a management plan that enhances the positive impacts while addressing the negative repercussions associated with the project. These considerations are rooted in the distinct components and activities inherent to the project. The methods used include:

3.2. Document Analysis

Several documents were examined, incorporating internet searches as part of the information-gathering process. Noteworthy among the reviewed documents are the 2018 State of the Environment Report and the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification report for the same year. Additionally, a comprehensive review was conducted on the Project background document, offering intricate insights into project development objectives, key indicators, components, and activities. The examination encompassed vital baseline information pertaining to recent macroeconomic developments in South Sudan, particularly in initiatives related to agricultural sector development. Diligent efforts were exerted to acquire various policy, legal, regulatory, and administrative framework documents relevant to the proposed project. Furthermore, a thorough review of the African Development Bank's (AfDB's) ten Operational Safeguard Policies was undertaken to identify potential policies triggered by the operational components of the project.

The specific locations of the SEPAREF program remain broadly known focusing in South Sudan while the specific states and counties have not been identified hence the preparation of this ESMF rather than an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or an Environmental and Social Impacts Assessment (ESIA) report. The document analysis and review was also carried out to further generate information to provide an overview of the state of the general environment in South Sudan. Hence, efforts have been made that point out the policies and legal regulatory

frameworks for implementation of such program in South Sudan.

3.3. Interactive discussions and consultations

In the course of formulating this ESMF, consultations were conducted with various individuals and institutions, including staff from the relevant Ministries. While initial consultations involved internal stakeholders, broader public consultations, stakeholder engagements, and solicitation of personal contributions, including those from project beneficiaries, will be conducted once the specific states and counties for project implementation are identified. These forthcoming consultations are slated to take place during the project appraisal mission and the subsequent site-specific environmental and social assessments. The significance of these stakeholder consultations and engagements is paramount in shaping the ESMF and, subsequently, the ESMP and ESIAs. They will serve as the foundational basis for accurately assessing the project impacts on beneficiaries at various levels, identifying sector-specific implications, and determining viable mitigation measures to be implemented.

3.4. Preparation of the ESMF

Preparation of this ESMF included the following stages:

- Collection of baseline data on the environmental conditions of the country in general;
- Identification of positive and negative environmental and social impacts of the proposed projects at potential sector level;
- Identification of environmental and social risk and their mitigation measures;

3.5. Description of the Strengthening Emergency Preparedness and Response to Food (SEPAREF) Program

3.5.1 The objective of the program

The overall objective of the program is to increase agricultural production, productivity and resilience of agricultural production systems in South Sudan to mitigate risks in the short and

medium terms aggravated by the war in Ukraine. The specific project objective is to strengthen national institutions in South Sudan to better respond to current and future crises by scaling up the production and availability of early generation seeds (EGS), leveraging existing tools and frameworks for emergency preparedness and developing investment operations to safeguard food security, particularly in the most vulnerable regions within the countries. The project will be implemented through three (3) components: (i) Scale up production of early generation seeds; (ii) Expand and integrate digital platforms on early warning and anticipatory actions; and (iii) Institutional strengthening and Project coordination and management.

3.5.2 The components of the program

Component 1: Scale up production of Early Generation Seeds

This component will be implemented under three outputs that include:

Output 1.1: Enhanced regional and national availability of foundation seeds with focus on fodder and drought-tolerant staple-food seeds. This output will focus on enhancing regional and countries availability of foundation seeds of drought-tolerant staple-food crops (maize, rice, cowpeas, sorghum and fodder). Main activities include:

- Identify most adapted varieties (from countries and regional data bases) in collaboration with relevant National institutions and CGIAR centers.
- Source and bulk foundation seeds (through national and regional bodies).
- Avail foundation seeds for further on-site multiplication.
- Secure conservation of foundation seeds for further bulking.

Output 1.2: Regional seed framework with focus on fodder and drought tolerant staple food seeds developed. This output will focus on analysis/review of existing seed frameworks at country and regional levels (policies, regulations, and implementation guidelines) with focus on fodder and drought tolerant staple food seeds. Main activities include:

- Conduct comprehensive analysis of the National seed frameworks.
- conduct comprehensive analysis of regional IGAD/EAC seed's frameworks.
- Based on the analyses conducted propose a regional approach to seed security with

strong focus on fodder and drought tolerant staple food seeds.

Output 1.3 Improved capacity in seed security assessment.

The output will focus on establishing a core team of experts in East Africa to lead seed security assessments in their countries. Main activities include: _

- Sensitization of the government of South Sudan and policy support where relevant and/or applicable, engaging with food security cluster coordinators and members
- Conduct SSA training at two levels, depending on the experience of participants, defining an implementation framework and modality will be necessary.
- Conduct seed security assessment in South Sudan.

Component 2: Expand and integrate digital platforms on early warning and anticipatory actions.

This component will be implemented under three outputs that includes:

Output 2.1 Establish digital platforms for farmers registration and extension services.

Main activities include:

- Review of existing digital platforms for farmer registration and provision of extension services in South Sudan.
- Consolidate pathways for rolling out farmer registration and provision of extension services in South Sudan.

Output 2.2 Establish regional early warning framework.

This output will focus on “ecosystem of information,” and building coordinated analysis within it.

Main activities include:

- Establish country and regional technical groups for the definition of a coordinated-implementation framework; from analysis of the EW-data to coordinated.

Output 2.1 Establish digital platforms for farmers registration and extension services. Main activities include:

- Review of existing digital platforms for farmer registration and provision of extension services in South Sudan.
- Consolidate pathways for rolling out farmer registration and provision of extension services in South Sudan.

Output 2.2 Establish regional early warning framework. This output will focus on “ecosystem of information,” and building coordinated analysis within it. Main activities include:

- Establish country and regional technical groups for the definition of a coordinated-implementation framework; from analysis of the EW-data to coordinated implementation and accountability.
- Sensitizing the government South Sudan and partners and defining modalities of the roll-out of the multi-indicator and people centered, early warning for anticipatory action framework and tools.

Output 2.3: Establish/strengthen animal feed data, information, reporting and communication systems. The output will focus on scaling up the implementation of the IGAD-FAO Animal Feed Action Plan (2019). Activities include:

- Adapt and roll-out of the livestock early warning tools in South Sudan and Comoros.
- Consolidate ongoing work on livestock early warning systems in Somalia.
- Cross-fertilize IGAD and EAC strategies on animal feed and potential roll-out of the FAO-led feed balance sheet system in Burundi.

Component 3: Institutional strengthening, Project Coordination and Management

This component will be implemented in two outputs including:

Output 3.1: Enhanced project preparation and implementation capacity

- Ensure technical support and backstopping of AEFPP projects, including implementation support, capacity building, knowledge management, and experience sharing.
- Support countries and the region to develop future investment proposals in the sector to secure a continuum in the implementation of food security resilience and development agenda.

Output 3.2: Project management and coordination

- Plan, manage, and implement project activities, including monitoring and progress reporting, etc.
- Prepare and submit semi-annual progress and supervision reports, ensuring gender-disaggregated data are collected and analyzed.
- Prepare and submit the certified financial statements to the Bank by FAO.

3.5.3 Program alternative solutions

To succeed the SEPAREF, South Sudan undertook several initiatives in particular the actions of implementation of Scaling up production of early generation seeds, Expanding and integrating digital platforms on early warning and anticipatory actions, and Institutional strengthening and Project coordination and management.. However, taking into account the SEPAREF implementation will enhance the production and productivity of EGS in response to food security in South Sudan. In addition, these initiatives cover neither the acquisition of fertilizers, pesticides and agricultural tools. To reject the implementation of SEPAREF constitute the status quo and therefore the life conditions of the beneficiaries would remain as they are and the poverty, food insecurity and environment degradation will continue and will accentuate more accordingly.

4. LEGAL, POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

4.1. Environmental Governance

The foundation document guiding the future of South Sudan in terms of development is the draft South Sudan Vision 2040: Towards Freedom, Equality, Justice, Peace and Prosperity for All. The overarching goals of Vision 2040 are to create a vibrant, competitive and diversified economy driven by agriculture, industry, mining, tourism and services that attracts investors. The Vision does also promise the Government of South Sudan's commitment to sustainable environmental management alongside limiting environmental pollution due to other development programmes such as industrialization. The Vision emphasizes the need to minimize greenhouse gas emissions as a measure against climate change while building on traditional knowledge and supporting community-based resilience.

In terms of institutional framework to govern the environment, it is important to note that South Sudan is still at its nascent stage of building its institutions. Institution building has been further hampered by recent armed conflicts that have been on-going in the country. Technical capacity in environmental management remains a great challenge. Environmental management has also been greatly affected by limited financial resources. Despite all these challenges, the government has put in place the following institutions that are playing a major role in addressing environmental issues: (i) the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF); (ii) the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management; (iii) South Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Commission; (iv) South Sudan Directorate of Meteorological Services; (v) Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security (MAFS); (vi) Ministry of Livestock/Animal Resources and Fisheries; (vii) Ministry of Energy and Mining; (viii) Ministry of Wildlife Conservation and Tourism; (ix) the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources; and, (x) Ministry of Finance, Commerce and Economic Planning, (xi) Ministry of Petroleum, (xii) Ministry of Mining, etc. These are among the institutions that are, if well coordinates, will assist in managing and improving environmental management in South Sudan

4.2. National Policy, legal and regulatory framework

All multilateral development and financing institutions require that all development projects be subjected to safeguards frameworks. The safeguards frameworks criteria adopted will be based on to those of AfDB's ISS⁵ 2023 and FAO's FESM⁶ 2022. The screening provided in the ESMF includes relevant questions which will help determine if any other environmental and social safeguards are triggered and the measures needed to be taken into account to mitigate the impacts associated with the implementation of the project as well as any sub-projects that may result from the implementation of the project. The screening and review process will identify any sub-projects/activities that may have potentially significant impacts which require more detailed study and the need for a sub-project specific Environment and Social Assessment (ESA). This will ensure that all concerns related to South Sudan environmental legislations, AfDB's safeguard policies, and FAO's 2022 FESM are taken into account during the screening of sub-projects for potential impacts, and that the appropriate mitigation measures can be adopted to address them.

South Sudan attained independence in July 2011. Since the attainment of Independence, the Government of South Sudan has adopted a new Constitution, and a number of new policies and legislations have been prepared while others are still being drafted, with the ultimate aim of enhancing sustainable socio-economic development in the country. The policies and laws provide procedures to be followed in the planning and implementation of government activities in order to utilize resources and execute government programs to maximum benefit. Below are some selected policies and laws, which are applicable in the planning and implementation of public sector projects, more especially those projects in the agricultural and forestry sector.

4.2.1. The Transitional Constitution of 2011

The Transitional Constitution of the Republic of South Sudan of 2011 is the overarching legal instrument in the management of the country. It incorporates numerous provisions

⁵ <https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/african-development-bank-groups-integrated-safeguards-system-2023>

⁶ Framework for Environmental and Social Management <https://www.fao.org/documents/card/en?details=cb9870en>

that have a bearing on the environment. Article 41 (1) provides that the people of South Sudan shall have a right to a clean and healthy environment; Article 41 (2) states that every person shall have the obligation to protect the environment for the benefit of the present and future generations; Article 41 (3) states that every person shall have the right to have the environment protected for the benefit of the present and future generations, through reasonable legislative actions and other measures that include: (i) prevention of pollution and ecological degradation; (ii) promoting conservation; and, (iii) securing ecologically sustainable development and use natural resources while promoting rational economic and social development so as to protect the biodiversity of South Sudan. Article 166 (6) expects local governments to involve communities in decision making in the promotion of a safe and healthy environment.

4.2.2. Environment Policy of South Sudan, 2010 (Draft)

This policy was drafted in 2010 on the eve of independence. The policy provides guidelines for a wide range of responses to environmental management challenges to enable decision makers and resource users make development choices for environmental sustainability. The guidelines can be used to ensure that development projects are economically efficient, socially equitable and environmentally friendly to ensure realization of sustainable development. The National Environment Policy does ensure protection and conservation of the environment and sustainable management of renewable natural resources for long term goals. The objectives of the Policy are: (i) to improve livelihoods of South Sudanese through sustainable management of the environment and utilization of natural resources;(ii) to build capacity of the government at all levels of governance and other stakeholders for better management of the environment; (iii) to integrate environmental considerations into the development policies, plans, and programs at the community, government and private sector levels; and, (iv) to promote effective, widespread, and public participation in the conservation and management of the environment;

This policy is adopted in this ESMF because it provides general guidelines and principles to be followed in environmental management during the implementation of the proposed project and other projects in the agriculture sector.

4.2.3. The Environment Protection Bill, 2010 Cap 7 (Draft)

The Environment Protection Bill (Cap 7) of 2010 is another very critical piece of legislation in the implementation of the proposed project. Section 32 of the Draft Environment Protection Bill, 2010 Cap 7 introduces the requirement for Environmental Audits. An Environmental Audit, according to this Bill, is defined as the systematic, documented, periodic and objective evaluation of how well Environmental organization, management and equipment are performing in conserving the Environment and its resources during a project implementation process. The principles guiding the Environmental Audit include:

(i) The Project Implementer being responsible for carrying out an Environmental Audit of all activities that are likely to have a significant effect on the Environment, in consultation with the Lead Agency; (ii) An Environmental Inspector being able to inspect any project or anywhere, land or premises for the purpose of determining how far the activities carried out on that land or premises conforming to the statements made in the Environmental Impact Assessment or Environmental and Social Management Plan in respect to the project being implemented; (iii) orders a project implementer for which an Environmental Impact statement has been made to keep records and make quarterly and annual reports to the Ministry of Environment and Forestry describing how far the project conforms in operation with the statements made in the Environmental Impact statement; (iv) requires that a Project Implementer takes all reasonable measures to mitigate any undesirable effects not contemplated in the Environmental Impact Statement and prepares and submits an Environmental audit report on those measures to the Ministry on quarterly and/or annually or as the Authority may, in writing, require.

4.2.4. The Environmental Protection Act, 2001

The Environmental Protection Act of 2001 remains an important piece of legislation in ensuring

environmental conservation in South Sudan. Its principal objectives are: (i) To protect the environment in its holistic definition for the realization of sustainable development; (ii) To improve the environment while ensuring sustainable exploitation of natural resources; (iii) To create a link between environmental and developmental issues, and to empower concerned national authorities and organs to assume an effective role in environmental protection.

Section III of this Act outlines general policies and principles for the protection of the environment. Even though these policies and principles are not legally binding, observation of these guidelines remain important for concerned authorities when setting up development policies. Article 17 of the Act required during the earlier days that any individual who intended to implement any project that was likely to have a negative impact on the environment to present an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for approval by the Monitoring and Evaluation Committee of the Higher Commission for Environment and Natural Resources (HCENR) of the then Federal Government of Sudan. Such study was expected to contain the following information: (i) the anticipated impact of the project on the environment; (ii) The negative impacts that could be mitigated during implementation of the project; (iii) Alternative options for the proposed project; (iv) A clear undertaking that the short-term utilization of natural resources and the environment will not jeopardize their long-term sustainability; and, (v) The precautionary measures to be taken to mitigate the negative impacts of the project.

Article 18 lists the duties of the competent authority in complying with the general environmental policies and directives to include the follows: (i) To lay down quality control standards for the protection of the environment; (ii) To preserve water sources from pollution; (iii) To protect air, food, soil and vegetation cover from pollution and degradation; (iv) To preserve the flora and fauna from extinction as a result of illegal hunting or any other human threat; (v) To protect food from contamination or pollution by chemicals or any other factor; (vi) To protect the air from pollution caused by physical operations or chemicals; and, (vii) To preserve the soil from any pollution resulting from harmful industrial and other types of waste.

4.2.5. Forests and Renewable Natural Resources Act, 2002

This is an Act that was used during the days of the unified Sudan. As a result of the adoption of the Federal Government System (FGS), the 1989 laws were revised in 2002 and merged into one law, namely the Forests and Renewable Natural Resources Act. The 2002 Act attempts to follow a more holistic approach by providing a framework for the management and protection of forests and renewable natural resources, including pastures, rangelands and certain aspects of agricultural land use. It also provides a framework governing the management of the forestry sector. Investors are obliged to convert the cleared trees into forest products. The Act also obliges any driver of any vehicle used for transporting forest produce to obtain a permit from the respective authority. Furthermore, it imposes a deterrent penalty, namely the confiscation of any property, including the means of transport used in the commission of the forest offence, for the benefit of the corporation. Unsuccessful attempts were subsequently made to revise this Act in the light of the many changes that had taken place in the country, namely the adoption of a new constitution following the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), the federal system adopted by government, the division of authority and wealth among the various levels of government, the development of an oil industry, the risks posed by the current rate of deforestation, including the loss of the country's place in the international gum arabic market, and the growing awareness of forestry's role in environmental conservation. The Act remains relevant in the management of forests in South Sudan.

4.2.6. The Food and Agriculture Policy Framework, 2007

The Food and Agriculture policy framework of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry emphasizes the need to transform agriculture from traditional/subsistence system to achieve food security through science-based, market oriented, competitive and profitable agricultural system without compromising the sustainability of the natural resources for generations to come. In order to achieve the objectives of this act, several strategic objectives were developed. Key among them include: (i) priority policies that quickly boosts agricultural production; (ii) making available

agricultural inputs, including credit facility, at affordable cost; (iii) rehabilitation and expansion of rural infrastructure including feeder roads, markets; (iv) developing and providing research and extension services, and market linkages; (v) developing and strengthening institutional and human resource capacity; (vi) protecting, regenerating and conserving natural resources; and, (vii) formulating policy incentives for rational and sustainable management and utilization.

4.2.7. Pesticides and Pest Control Products Act 1994

This is another Act that was inherited from the United Sudan. Pesticides for all purposes including public health are currently regulated in the Sudan by the same Act namely the Pesticides and Pest Control Products Act 1994 which replaced the Pesticides Act of 1974. The Act regulates all activities related to pesticides registration, importation, storage, transportation, use, formulation and any other related activities in the country through the National Pesticides Council (NPC). The NPC is a multidisciplinary inter-ministerial council which has representatives from all stakeholders within the country including the Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Animal resources, Research Institutions, Customs, Universities, etc. The council is chaired by the Undersecretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security. The registrar of the council is the Director General, Plant Protection Directorate (PPD). The registrar is responsible for all administrative and executive functions of the council. Pesticides were classified according to World Health Organization (WHO) regulations as acute, high, moderate and low toxicity based on the LD50 level. According to these criteria the NPC licenses the retailers to only deal with the pesticides of low toxicity.

4.2.8. The Land Act, 2009

One of the key objectives of the Land Act is to promote a land management system to protect and preserve the environment and ecology for the sustainable development of South Sudan. It also provides for fair and prompt compensation to any person whose right of occupancy, ownership or recognized long standing occupancy of customary use of land is revoked or otherwise interfered with by the Government.

The Land Act reinforces government recognition of customary land tenure. The Act states that “Customary land rights including those held in common shall have equal force and effect in law with freehold or leasehold rights”. The Act further states that Community land can be allocated to investors as long as investment activity reflects an important interest for the community and contributes economically and socially to the development of the local community. It also requires that state authorities approve land acquisitions above 250 feddans (105 hectares) and create a regulated ceiling on land allocations. The Land Act requires government to consult local communities and consider their views in decisions about community land. The Act also gives pastoralists special protection and states that ‘No person shall without permission ... carry out any activity on the communal grazing land which may prevent or restrict the residents of the traditional communities concerned from exercising their grazing rights. Project proponents must also conduct environmental and social impact assessments (ESIAs) before undertaking any activity that might affect people or the environment.

4.2.9. Draft Forest policy 2023

The Forest Policy was formulated in 2012 now under review for 2023. The Policy is broadly intended to protect the roles forests play in stabilizing the global systems including the hydrological balance, the carbon balance, atmospheric systems, etc. The policy broadly aims to achieve ecological stability of rivers systems, the lakes, swamps, agricultural production and other natural ecological systems. It is also meant to ensure that there are optimal benefits from forestry and agro-forestry activities for food security and poverty alleviation among our rural communities through provision of woody and non-wood forest products. The policy integrates forest sector actions with rural development efforts to ensure that the rural population of South Sudan has access to basic needs which include sustainable household food security, shelter, wood fuel, safe clean water, as well as sanitation and health facilities.

The resources derived from forest resources are important in supporting primary education, local governance and community empowerment. The guiding principles of the Forest Policy include: (i) sustainable management of all forests and tree resources of South Sudan to ensure continuous accrual of benefits to the present and future generations; (ii) Establishment and management of permanent forest estates (PFE) to ensure conservation of biodiversity and steady flow of benefits; (iii) forests and tree resources will be managed in accordance with set criteria and indicators for sustainable management; (iv) regular development of appropriate policies, legislation, institutional reforms that will be implemented to support growth and sustainability of the forest sector; (v) establishment of industrial and other plantations for sustainable supply of forest resources to meet the increasing demands; (vi) increased community participation in forest management through collaborative management schemes while the community sustainably benefit from forest resources; (vii) development of forest products based industrial development (forest products processing) to promote and support increased economic benefits from forest resources; (viii) strengthening of forestry management institutions increase productivity, achieve household food security, alleviate poverty and contribute to the macro-economy of South Sudan; (ix) sustained commitment to forest related regional and international agreements and conventions; and, (x) human capacity development in the management of forests and tree resources.

4.2.10. Public Health Act of 1975

This Act protects general public health by regulations issued by the Public Health Council, whose members include the Ministries of Agriculture and Forests, Federal Rule, Animal Health and various administration departments of the Ministry of Health. The proposed project will be implemented in accordance with the Act, especially in the value addition processes, marketing and trade as well as transportation of the agricultural produce and agro-industry outputs.

4.2.11. Environment Health Act 1975

The Act covers prevention of water pollution, inspection of drinking water, disposal of wastes and sewage, inspection of industrial areas and bakeries, prevention of air pollution and inspection of waste disposal and management systems. The management of wastes and especially the use agrochemicals will be critical in the term environmental sustainability of this project. Listed above are some of the national legal requirements that the proposed project will abide by during its implementation.

4.2.12. Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy 2012-2017

South Sudan's fisheries and aquaculture policy was written and completed in early 2012, but its scope is limited and does not identify strategies for realizing development of the subsector. The development of fisheries and aquaculture is also covered by the FAO Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries which is contained in "Post-Harvest Practices and Trade". Therefore, the Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture Development in the national Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries (MLF) will have to follow FAO Codes of Practices and the other guidelines laid in the National Fisheries Policy 2012-20167 until all other necessary polices are reviewed, passed and harmonized.

The fisheries and aquaculture policy provides direction for sustainable fisheries and aquaculture development and production. This will contribute to economic growth, food security and poverty alleviation. The policy also hopes to:

- i. Attract private investment to aquaculture by creating a conducive environment,

- ii. Management and conservation of fishery resources.
- iii. Promotion of aquaculture development.
- iv. Promotion of fish quality control and preservation techniques.
- v. Enhancing good fish marketing.
- vi. Development and enforcement of fisheries laws and regulation
- vii. Development of research, training and extension services.
- viii. Strengthening the institutional frame work.
- ix. Conducting surveys on fisheries stocks and potential and sharing data on production
- x. Supporting the States in institutional and human resources development (trainings, and provision of fishing gear and equipment)
- xi. Formation of strong linkages with States governments to ensure effective management of fisheries resources.

The policy derives its key principles from the Transitional Constitution, South Sudan Development Plan 2011-2013 and Vision 2040, with sections on sustainable management of natural resources, involvement of communities in decisions regarding exploitation of natural resources and the development of the private sector.

4.3. International Conventions and Treaties

The project will also have to abide by a number of international regulations and requirements, especially those that South Sudan has ratified. South Sudan is party to or in the process of ratifying a number of treaties and agreements. Some of the environmental treaties to which South Sudan is a party include:

4.3.1. African Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

The African Convention of Nature and Natural Resources emphasizes the need for conservation, utilization and development of natural resources in Africa in accordance with the scientific principles and with due regard to the best interest of the people. It requires parties to establish land use

plans based on scientific investigations when implementing agricultural practices and agrarian reforms. Projects in MAFS should utilize agricultural scientific knowledge and interventions in the conservation, utilization and development of natural resources.

4.3.2. Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)

The Convention on Biological Diversity is a broad approach to conservation of biodiversity and natural resources. The Convention requires that Parties to the Convention adopt national strategies, plans and programmes for the conservation of biological diversity, and to integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies.

4.3.3. United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD, 1996).

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was adopted in 1994 and came into force in December 1996. The objective UNCCD is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in in countries seriously affected by droughts, especially in Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia, and Northern Mediterranean. The Convention seeks to achieve this objective through integrated approaches to development, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the affected countries. It lays emphasis on long-term strategies that focus on improved productivity of land and the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources, leading to improved living conditions, in particular at the community level.

4.3.4. United Nations Framework convention on Climate Change (1992)

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was prepared in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992 during the United Nations International Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). The Convention seeks to regulate levels of greenhouse gases (GHGs) concentration in the atmosphere, so as to avoid the occurrence of climate change at levels that would harm economic development, or that would impede food production. The Convention is

founded on the principle that contracting parties should take action, in respect of their economic and social activities, and with regard to the Convention's specific requirements, that will protect the global climate to ensure sustainable development.

4.3.5. The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as waterfowl habitat (1971)

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was prepared at Ramsar in Iran in 1971. The Convention is primarily concerned with the conservation and management of wetlands of international importance. It advocates the conservation of flora and fauna, and especially waterfowl by combining national policies with international actions. It was signed at Ramsar, Iran on 2nd February 1971 and amended by the protocol of 3rd December 1982.

Further amendments were done on 28th May 1987. Parties to the Convention are required to promote the wise use of wetlands in their territories and to take measures for their conservation by establishing nature reserves in wetlands, whether they are included in the Ramsar list or not. During the implementation of this projects it would be important ensure adherence to the Ramsar Convention's principles because South Sudan has one of the largest wetland in the world.

4.3.6. Important Bird Areas

South Sudan is home to one of the world's largest wetlands and the largest in Africa. The Sudd wetland, with an estimated area of approximately 57,000 km² represents one of the largest freshwater ecosystems in the world. The extent of the Sudd wetlands is highly variable, depending largely on the seasons and years as well. In the wet season the size of the wetland increases up to 90,000 km² and gradually decreases to about 42,000 km² depending on high seasonal flood. It is sustained by the flow of the White Nile (or Bahr el Jebel) on its northwards flow from Lake Victoria in Uganda to the Red Sea in Egypt. Additional waters come from rainfall runoff from its surrounding areas. The White Nile dissipates northwards from Juba across a shallow depression to produce a network of channels, lagoons and inundated areas, which harness the nutrients of the underlying

clay soils. Patterns of flood inundation heavily influence the Sudd's vegetation, which consists primarily of permanent swamps, river and rain flooded grasslands, and floodplain woodlands. These habitats exhibit strong environmental gradients with pronounced short and long-term variations in biomass production and distribution. The Sudd Wetland is a UNESCO recognized World Heritage Site. It falls in three states of Jonglei, Unity and Upper Nile States and has been identified as an Important Bird Area (IBA) and migratory region of mammals in South Sudan. As such any project targeting the area must take cognisance of this importance.

4.3.7. The Nile Treaties

Should the proposed project be in sites that will influence the flow of the waters of River Nile, then they must take cognizance of the Nile Treaties. There are about eleven treaties dealing with the consumptive use of the waters of River Nile and Lake Victoria. The riparian countries are under obligations under general international law to permit the lower riparian States an equitable share of the water, but the exact modalities are subject to negotiations. The Nile Basin Initiative is currently addressing the issue of equitable utilization of the common Nile Basin water resources. The Nile Basin Initiative seeks to harness the tremendous potential of the Nile for the benefit of the people of the Basin, both for now and for generations to come. This becomes a major challenge because as economic development accelerates, population increases and demand for water grows. NBI's Shared Vision is to advance the concept of sustainable economic development from the use of the River Nile waters for the benefit of all people of the Nile basins.

4.3.8. The AFDB's environmental policy

According to the African Development Bank, strategic environmental and social assessment (SESA) is an instrument that evaluate the environmental and social effects related to policy, strategy, plan, or program proposal, in particular the proposals for a specific region (regional environmental and social evaluation) or a sector (environmental and social evaluation for sector). In this case, the SESA concerns the program evaluation of SEPARAF. The Bank (2023) had defined procedures for environmental and social assessment for improvement of decision making and ensures the results of the projects to ensure that projects, plans and programs funded by the Bank are viable on

environmental and social plan, and if they are conformed to the Bank's policies and guidelines. The ESAP introduced strategic environmental and social Assessment as a tool to assess, on environmental and social point of view, plans and programs to be funded by the Bank. The ESAP also formalize the use of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), the Environmental and Social Management (ESM) and Environmental and Social Audits (ESA), as instruments to increase the project benefits and, by order of priority, to prevent, minimize, mitigate or compensate the negative impacts. The first step is to develop and to update the basic information on the components, policies, programs and the capacities of PMR to environmental and social capabilities to integrate better these aspects among the priorities during national programming.

During the identification phase, the tri-preliminary (Screening) step focuses on the environmental and social dimensions of a project in order to be classified in one of the following four categories:

- The projects of category 1 are those that are likely to cause the most serious environmental and social impacts and requiring a detailed Environmental and Social Impacts Assessment.
- The projects of category 2 are those that are likely to produce harmful and specific environmental and social impacts assessment is required to the project site. The impacts can be minimized by the application of mitigation measures presented in an ESMP.
- The projects of category 3 cause no significant negative environmental and social impacts and do not require environmental assessment.
- The projects of category 4 involve the investment of the Bank's funds by financial intermediaries in subprojects which may have negative environmental or social impacts. The specific requirements for this type of project include the IF capacity assessment to take into account the environmental and social aspects.

On the environmental categorization issue, the SEPAREF programs is classified category 2 it is anticipated the project could procure fertilizers. However, for the case of South Sudan, procurement of fertilizers will be minimized for sustainability of project.

The program has a regional character and therefore some subprojects will perhaps affect neighboring countries in particular in scaling up production of early generation seeds, expansion and integration of digital platforms on early warning and anticipatory actions. Consequently, the countries which will be affected will be notified prior to the implementation according to the Bank policy.

In this program, the resettlement policy of the Bank will not be applied in because it does not plan the subprojects which will cause the displacement of people and it is a community-based program. Water resources that will be available will be exploited by the communities and therefore, the beneficiaries will be associated in the identification of the site.

The program intends to establish digitalized early warnings systems and production and productivity of EGS. These projects will probably use agrochemicals for implementation of subproject activities.

The environmental and social impacts assessment of this type of subproject should refer to Bank guidelines related to agrochemicals and prepare an integrated management plan of pesticides. These pesticides may have significant ignorant negative effects on human health, should not affect non-target organisms and should be effective on the target insects. The assessment will provide security measures since the transport, storage and the application in accordance with the directives of the WHO and FAO in the matter.

The program will not be executed in national parks, natural reserves, and classified forests habitats. The selection of sites has been carefully made to avoid any impact on natural habitats.

4.3.9. The African Development Bank (AfDB) Safeguards Policy Requirements

All African Development Bank financed projects must undergo environmental and social impacts screening as per the Bank's Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy. As such, the SEPAREF program

will be implemented according to the Bank Operational Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy. This ESMF has been designed to address environmental and social impacts anticipated from the implementation of this project. Thus, this SEPAREF Projects supported shall meet the ISS requirements of all the following E&S Operational Safeguards where applicable:

- OS 1:** Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts.
- OS 2:** Labour and Working Conditions.
- OS 3:** Resources Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management.
- OS 4:** Community Health, Safety and Security.
- OS 5:** Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Access to Land and Land Use, and Involuntary Resettlement.
- OS 6:** Habitat and Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources.
- OS 7:** Vulnerable Groups.
- OS 8:** Cultural Heritage.
- OS 9:** Financial Intermediaries.
- OS 10:** Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

The AfDB's updated 10 Operational Safeguard Policies are outlined below and summarized in in the table below and thereafter a determination has been made on the safeguards that will be triggered.

Summary of AfDB Operational Safeguards objectives including when they are triggered

OPERATIONAL SAFEGUARD	OBJECTIVE	TRIGGER FOR THE POLICY
<p>OS 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure that the environmental and social risks and impacts of Bank-funded operations are identified, assessed, evaluated, and managed in a systematic manner throughout the project cycle. ▪ To ensure that the Bank and its borrowers/clients adopt a mitigation hierarchy to anticipate and avoid risks and impacts, or where avoidance is not possible, minimize, mitigate, or compensate for them. ▪ To ensure that the Bank and its borrowers/clients comply with the host country's laws and regulations, as well as the Bank's operational safeguard requirements, regarding environmental and social issues. ▪ To ensure that the Bank and its borrowers/clients engage with stakeholders in a meaningful and culturally appropriate way and disclose relevant information in a timely, accessible, and transparent manner. 	<p>This OS is triggered through the Environmental and Social Screening Process. It assists in the categorization of the project in a Category based upon its potential environmental and social risks and impacts. These potential risks and impacts include physical, biological, socio-economic, health, safety, cultural property, transboundary impacts and global impacts including Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and vulnerability to climate change effects.</p>
<p>OS 2: Labour and Working Conditions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure that workers engaged in Bank-funded operations are treated fairly and provided with safe and healthy working conditions. ▪ To ensure that Bank-funded operations do not employ or support the use of child labour, forced labour, or human trafficking. ▪ To ensure that Bank- 	<p>This OS is triggered if the project involves the establishment of a temporary or permanent workforce.</p>

	<p>funded operations respect the rights of workers to form or join workers' organizations and to bargain collectively, in accordance with the host country's laws and international conventions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure that Bank-funded operations promote equal opportunity and non-discrimination in employment practices, and prevent any form of harassment or violence at work. 	
<p>OS 3: Resources Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To promote the sustainable use of resources, including energy, water, and raw materials. ▪ To avoid or minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment by avoiding or minimizing pollution from project activities. ▪ To avoid or minimize project-related emissions of short- and long-lived climate pollutants. ▪ To adopt a mitigation hierarchy to anticipate and avoid risks and impacts, or where avoidance is not possible, minimize, mitigate, or compensate for them. ▪ To manage and reduce pollutants likely to be caused by a project so that they shall not pose harmful risks to human health and the environment, including hazardous, non-hazardous waste and GHG emissions. ▪ To set a framework for efficiently utilizing all a project's raw materials and natural resources especially focusing on energy and water. 	<p>This OS is triggered if the project is likely to cause significant adverse environmental or social impacts owing to the emission of pollutants, waste or hazardous materials covered by national legislation, international conventions, or internationally recognized standards or by unsustainable resource use. It is also triggered by potentially significant levels of GHG emissions.</p>
<p>OS 4: Community Health, Safety and Security.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To anticipate and avoid adverse impacts on the health and safety of 	<p>This OS is triggered when a Bank-funded operation may have adverse impacts on the health, safety, and</p>

	<p>project-affected communities during the project or operation life cycle from both routine and non-routine circumstances.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure that the safeguarding of personnel and property is carried out in a legitimate manner that avoids or minimizes risks to the community's safety and security. ▪ To comply with the host country's laws and regulations, as well as the Bank's operational safeguard requirements, regarding community health, safety, and security. ▪ To engage with stakeholders in a meaningful and culturally appropriate way and disclose relevant information in a timely, accessible, and transparent manner. 	<p>security of project-affected communities, especially those who are vulnerable or marginalized. The Bank requires that its borrowers/clients identify and assess such impacts as part of the environmental and social assessment process, and that they implement measures to avoid, minimize, mitigate, or compensate for them. The Bank also requires that its borrowers/clients comply with the host country's laws and regulations, as well as the Bank's operational safeguard requirements, regarding community health, safety, and security.</p>
<p>OS 5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Access to Land and Land Use. And Involuntary Settlement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To avoid involuntary resettlement where feasible, or minimize resettlement impacts where involuntary resettlement is unavoidable by project designs; ▪ To ensure that displaced people receive significant resettlement assistance, preferably under the project, so that their standards of living, income earning capacity, production levels and overall means of livelihood are improved beyond pre-project levels; ▪ To set up a mechanism for monitoring the performance of involuntary resettlement programs in Bank operations and remedying problems as they arise so as to 	<p>This OS is triggered if projects require the involuntary acquisition of land, involuntary acquisition of other assets or restrictions on land use and on access to local natural resources which result in: Relocation or loss of shelter by the people in the project area of influence. Loss of assets or restriction of access to assets including national parks, protected areas or natural resources; or Loss of income sources or means of livelihood due to the project, whether or not the PAPs are required to move</p>

	safeguard against ill-prepared and poorly implemented resettlement plans	
OS 6: Habitat and Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To preserve biological diversity by avoiding, or if not possible, reducing and minimizing impacts on biodiversity; In cases where some impacts are unavoidable, to endeavor to reinstate or restore biodiversity including, where required, the implementation of biodiversity offsets to achieve “not net loss but net gain” of biodiversity. ▪ To protect natural, modified and critical habitats; and ▪ To sustain the availability and productivity of priority ecosystem services to maintain benefits to the affected communities and to sustain project performance. ▪ To inhibit introduction of new organisms into a local environment 	This OS is triggered if a project is to be located in a habitat where there may be potential biodiversity impacts or in areas providing ecosystem services upon w h i c h potentially affected stakeholders are dependent for survival, sustenance, livelihood or primary income, or which are used for sustaining the project. It is also triggered if the project is designed to extract natural resources as a main purpose (e.g. plantation forestry, commercial harvesting, agriculture, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture). It is also triggered where there is extensive interference with the ecosystem including introduction of new organisms not endemic to the locality
OS 7: Vulnerable Groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure that vulnerable groups are not adversely affected by Bank-funded operations, and that they receive social and economic benefits that are culturally appropriate and gender and age sensitive. ▪ To ensure that vulnerable groups are consulted in a meaningful way and that their free, prior and informed consent is obtained where Bank-funded operations affect their customary rights to lands, territories and resources. ▪ To ensure that vulnerable groups have access to project-level grievance and redress mechanisms that are responsive to their 	This OS is triggered when a Bank-funded operation may affect the dignity, human rights, livelihood systems, or culture of vulnerable groups, or affect the territories or natural or cultural resources that they own, use, occupy, or claim as their ancestral domain. Vulnerable groups are those who may be more likely to be adversely affected by the project impacts and/or more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of a project’s benefits. Such groups are often excluded, marginalized, and disadvantaged by virtue of their identity, culture, ethnicity, disability, age, gender, sexual orientation, or social status.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> needs and concerns. ▪ To ensure that the Bank and its borrowers monitor and report on the implementation of measures to address the impacts and risks to vulnerable groups. ▪ 	
OS 8: Cultural Heritage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure that Bank-funded operations identify and protect cultural heritage in accordance with the host country’s national legislation, obligations under relevant international treaties, and the Bank’s operational safeguard requirements. ▪ To ensure that Bank-funded operations avoid or minimize adverse impacts on cultural heritage and promote its preservation and enhancement where possible. ▪ To ensure that Bank-funded operations consult with affected communities and other relevant stakeholders on matters concerning their cultural heritage and respect their views, preferences, and aspirations. ▪ To ensure that Bank-funded operations provide opportunities for the equitable sharing of benefits from the use of cultural heritage, especially for the communities from whom the cultural heritage originates or who have custodial or use rights over it. 	<p>This OS is triggered when a Bank-funded operation may affect any tangible or intangible cultural heritage that is recognized by the host country or by international conventions as having historical, artistic, scientific, religious, spiritual, or symbolic value. Cultural heritage includes movable or immovable objects, sites, structures, groups of structures, natural features, or landscapes that have such value. It also includes the knowledge, skills, values, and traditions of communities associated with the cultural heritage¹. The Bank requires that any potential impacts on cultural heritage are identified and assessed as part of the environmental and social assessment process, and that appropriate measures are taken to avoid, minimize, mitigate, or compensate for such impacts. The Bank also encourages the preservation and enhancement of cultural heritage where possible, and the equitable sharing of benefits from its use.</p>
OS 9: Financial Intermediaries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure that financial intermediaries (FIs) comply with the Bank’s environmental and social requirements and apply them to the sub-projects they finance. ▪ To ensure that FIs have 	<p>This OS is triggered when a Bank-funded operation involves the provision of funds to or through a financial intermediary (FI) for the purpose of financing sub-projects that may have environmental and social impacts or risks. A financial intermediary is an entity that</p>

	<p>adequate environmental and social management systems and capacity to assess, monitor, and report on the environmental and social performance of their sub-projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure that FIs are financially sustainable and have appropriate operational, governance, and prudential standards. ▪ To ensure that FIs contribute to the Bank’s development objectives and deliver sub-loans to achieve defined country/sector economic outcomes. ▪ 	<p>provides financial services, such as loans, equity, guarantees, or insurance, to clients or investees who are not the original source of the funds. The Bank requires that FIs comply with the Bank’s environmental and social requirements and apply them to the sub-projects they finance. The Bank also requires that FIs have adequate environmental and social management systems and capacity to assess, monitor, and report on the environmental and social performance of their sub-projects.</p>
<p>OS 10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To ensure that stakeholders are well informed about the proposed project and its potential environmental and social impacts and benefits. ▪ To ensure that stakeholders are consulted in a meaningful and culturally appropriate way throughout the project cycle and that their views and concerns are taken into account in project design and implementation. ▪ To ensure that stakeholders have access to effective project-level grievance and redress mechanisms to address any issues or complaints that may arise from the project. ▪ To ensure that the Bank and its borrowers/clients disclose relevant project information in a timely, accessible, and transparent manner in accordance with the Bank’s Disclosure and Access to Information Policy. ▪ 	<p>This OS is triggered for all Bank-funded operations that may have environmental and social impacts or risks, regardless of their risk category. The Bank requires that its borrowers/clients engage with stakeholders throughout the project cycle, from identification to completion, and disclose relevant information in a timely, accessible, and culturally appropriate manner. The Bank also requires that its borrowers/clients establish and operate project-level grievance and redress mechanisms to receive and address stakeholders’ concerns and complaints. The Bank’s own disclosure and consultation obligations are set out in its Disclosure and Access to Information Policy.</p>

The following OSs are anticipated to be triggered by the implementation of SEPAREF project.

OPERATIONAL SAFEGUARDS CURRENTLY TRIGGERED BY THE PROJECT	YES	NO
OS1 -Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts	x	
OS2 Labour and Working Conditions.	x	
OS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management.	x	
OS 4: Community Health, Safety and Security.	x	
OS 5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Access to Land and Land Use, and Involuntary Resettlement.	x	
OS 6 Habitat and Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources.	x	
OS 7 Vulnerable Groups	x	
OS 8 Cultural Heritage.		x
OS 9 Financial Intermediaries.		x
OS 10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure.	x	

The OS 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts applies to all Bank-funded operations. It requires that the environmental and social risks and impacts of the proposed operations are identified, assessed, evaluated, and managed in a systematic manner throughout the project cycle. The scope and depth of the environmental and social assessment (ESA) depends on the nature, scale, and potential environmental and social impact of the proposed operations. The ESA leads to the categorization of the operation and determines the level of ESA required – full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). The ESA considers the natural environment (air, water, and land); human health and safety; social aspects (involuntary resettlement, vulnerable groups, and cultural heritage) and transboundary and global environmental aspects.

The environmental and social impacts caused by the SEPAREF will come from the activities resulting

from implementation of its various components. However, since the exact location of these investments will not be identified before bank appraisal of the project, the ESA process has resulted in the preparation of this Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) rather than an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Reports or Statements. This ESMF has established the environmental and social impacts during implementation of SEPAREF project activities, and has set out mitigation measures, monitoring and institutional framework needed during the implementation of the activities, to eliminate or offset adverse environmental and social impacts, or reduce them to acceptable levels.

The OS1 further requires that the ESMF report must be disclosed as a separate and stand-alone document by the Government of South Sudan (GoSS) and the AfDB as a condition for further Bank processing. The disclosure should be in South Sudan where it can be accessed by the general public and local communities and at the Banks website and the date for disclosure must precede Bank approval of the project. The ESA enables the Africa Development Bank system to assign the project to a category in view of the project's impacts.

4.3.10 FAO's Framework for Environmental and Social Management

The FESM adopts a human rights-based approach and uses a risk-informed approach to deal with environmental and social issues in programming. The FESM does not only aim to avoid harm, but also to enhance programming results that support the FAO goal of sustainable food and agriculture systems. All programmes and projects executed directly by FAO or by FAO's Implementing Partners, regardless of the funding source must conform to the requirements of the FESM 2022.

The FESM specifically aims at:

- identify, evaluate and manage the environmental and social risks and impacts of FAO programming;
- set minimum requirements on how social and environmental factors must be integrated into programming;
- adopt the following risk mitigation hierarchy:
 - a. anticipate and avoid adverse environmental and social impacts;
 - b. where avoidance is not feasible, minimize or mitigate risks and impacts to

acceptable levels;

- promote inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems.

The FESM is made up of nine Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) that this SEPAREF program shall include in its programing in management of environmental and social impacts/risk that have been predetermined.

- **ESS 1** – Biodiversity conservation and the sustainable management of natural resources;
- **ESS 2** - Resource efficient and pollution prevention and management
- **ESS 3** – Climate change and disaster risk reduction;
- **ESS 4** – Decent work;
- **ESS 5** – Community health, safety and security;
- **ESS 6** – Gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence;
- **ESS 7** – Land tenure, displacement, and resettlement;
- **ESS 8** – Indigenous Peoples; and
- **ESS 9** – Cultural heritage.

In implementation of the SEPAREF programme, the following environmental and social safeguards are anticipated to be triggered.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS CURRENTLY TRIGGERED BY THE PROJECT	YES	NO
ESS 1 – Biodiversity conservation and the sustainable management of natural resources;	X	
ESS 2 - Resource efficient and pollution prevention and management	X	
ESS 3 – Climate change and disaster risk reduction;	X	
ESS 4 – Decent work;	X	
ESS 5 – Community health, safety and security;	X	
ESS 6 – Gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence;	X	
ESS 8 – Indigenous Peoples; and		X
ESS 9 – Cultural heritage.		X

In the FESM, the ESS - 1 is important in the implementation of other ESSs in FAO projects because it supports the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)⁷, which are aligned with FAO's vision of

⁷ <https://www.fao.org/environmental-social-standards/standards/ess1/en/>

sustainable food and agriculture systems. ESS 1 also helps to avoid and minimize adverse impacts on biodiversity, ecosystems, and genetic resources, which are essential for the livelihoods and well-being of many people, especially women, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities. ESS 1 also promotes the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources, and respects the knowledge and practices of Indigenous Peoples and local communities that contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems. By applying ESS 1, FAO projects can enhance their environmental and social outcomes and comply with the Framework for Environmental and Social Management (FESM), which applies to all projects and programmes implemented by FAO.

5. POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

5.1. Positive environmental and social impacts

The Emergency Preparedness and Response to Food Crisis in South Sudan (SEPAREF) overall objective of the program is to increased agricultural production, productivity and resilience of agricultural production systems in South Sudan to mitigate risks in the short and medium terms aggravated by the war in Ukraine. The specific project objective is to strengthen national institutions in South Sudan to better respond to current and future crises by scaling up the production and availability of early generation seeds (EGS), leveraging existing tools and frameworks for emergency preparedness and developing investment operations to safeguard food security, particularly in the most vulnerable regions within the countries. The project will be implemented through three (3) components: (i) Scale up production of early generation seeds; (ii) Expand and integrate digital platforms on early warning and anticipatory actions; and (iii) Institutional strengthening and Project coordination and management.

5.2. Project beneficiaries

This project will be implemented in three States of South Sudan –Eastern Equatoria, Western Equatoria and Upper Nile. Purposely for the implementation of this project, approximately 600,000 people will benefit targeting 100,000 households.

5.3. Mainstreaming of environmental, social and gender issues

Environmental and social screening is a key step to identify the main environmental and social risks and impacts of the project area. It enables the integration of environmental and social aspects into the project design, implementation, and monitoring. The project design incorporates environmental, social, and gender issues and uses a set of indicators to measure the project performance. The project will be implemented in three states in South Sudan, where poverty, environmental degradation, and low agricultural productivity are prevalent. The project will address the poor agricultural management practices and the inadequate water and land management systems that contribute to environmental degradation and low crop/forage production. The project will also tackle the environmental challenges of deforestation, soil degradation, climate change, loss of biodiversity, and land degradation. The project will adopt a comprehensive catchment management system and a soil and water conservation programme to improve land management practices and natural resources.

5.4. Socio-Economic Aspects

The outputs of this project will translate into multiple positive economic and social outcomes whose indicators will include: (i) improved household and community incomes; (ii) improved nutritional and health standards of the population hence improving social well-being that is likely to lead to cutting down of household health budgets; (iii) improved regional/states and national incomes through international trade in agricultural and livestock produce; (iv) increased employment opportunities both directly and indirectly within the targeted communities; (v) improved agricultural production skills through training and enhanced capacity; (vi) improved production of early generation seeds (EGS) and fodder production.

5.5. Gender and youth Aspects

The Design of the Project is systematically geared towards engaging women and youth without applying any gender discrimination mechanisms. As such the project will contribute to active gender equality and will not lead to unintended negative gender impacts, such as exclusion. Gender perspectives have been integrated into project formulation in line with the South Sudanese

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Strategy 2016 – 2017 while taking due cognizance of the Bank's Gender Policy.

5.6. Involuntary resettlement

Up to this point, there are no indication that the project will require land acquisition. It is assumed that the project sites will be areas already designated for the increase of EGS and fodder productivity. Any land requisitions that will require establishment of the EGS and fodder production may not trigger the bank's OS5 on involuntary resettlement policy.

5.7. Climate change and Green Growth:

The Project will undergo climate change risks screening and adaptation measures proposed. Broadly, though, this project is likely to be classified as **Category 2** according to the Bank's Climate screening score card in view of the possible impacts it is likely to cause or how it is likely to be impacted on by climate change. The design review will include climate change risks and proposal of adaptation measures. Risk management and adaptation options will be integrated into project implementation. The EGS and fodder production management will be incorporated as part of the climate change resilience programme. The proposed project interventions are likely to improve adaptation measures required in EGS and fodder management sub-sectors to secure and improve agricultural productivity against climate change impacts through climate resilient seeds.

5.8. Negative impacts

Most of the activities of the SEPAREF will not cause significant negative environmental impacts. The activities that will have negative impacts include: (1) construction of EGS storage infrastructures; (2) probability of invasives proliferation from seed contamination; (3) conflicts among beneficiaries in EGS seed distribution, (4) threats of OHS and CHS. Broadly, though, all development projects must have negative impacts, environmentally, socially and even affect cultural values and set ups. Identified negative impacts anticipated include: (i) vegetation, habitat and biodiversity destruction and loss during the land preparation/planting; (ii) generation of solid wastes as a result of EGS packaging; (iii) Soil erosion resultant from land preparation activities; (iv) wastewater generation from labour intensive public works; (v) dust, air quality and noise pollution during transportation

of EGS and fodder; (vi) threats of occupational health and safety, especially during land preparation works; (vii) soils, rivers/streams and wetlands pollution from increased use of agro-processing activities; (viii) conflict among project beneficiaries resulting from EGS distribution; and (ix) threats of transmissions of HIV/AIDs and other communicable diseases due to increased social interactions and congregations.

5.9. Analysis of Project Alternatives

To ensure the environmental and social sustainability of the project, this ESMF study evaluated various alternatives in terms of their location, activities, products, materials, and technologies. The study aimed to identify and assess the alternatives that would minimize or avoid adverse impacts on the natural and human environment. The selection of the preferred alternative was based on a rigorous cost-benefit analysis and the application of the precautionary principle.

The “No Project” alternative model is the best alternative since it helps the proponent and various decision making levels to approximate the impacts of project implementation against the non-implementation thereby making the right decision regarding project implementation. The second best alternative which is approximate to the No Project Model is the “relocation of the project to other sites.”

5.9.1. The “No Project” Alternative

This model helps the proponents to measure impacts from the project baseline information and helps in the assessment of impacts in regard to the project’s activities. This alternative implies the project does not proceed thereby maintaining the status quo. The status of the environmental resources neither improves nor worsens since the state of the resources is not interfered with at all. However, project implementation could improve food security, increase household incomes and help to provide employment as well as upgrading the county, state and national economies. The ‘No Alternative’ has various negative and possibly long term impacts to the states which include: (i) the local populations continue to suffer due to poor nutrition; (ii) no incomes hence sustained poverty situations; (iii) no infrastructure improvement; (iv) low agricultural production; (v) sustained poverty levels; (vi) no employment opportunities; (vii) continued food insecurity

situations; (viii) limited water supply; (ix) no efforts to improve livestock production; (x) no efforts to improve the environment.

The economic level of the project area is low and need to be improved so as to promote the fiscal outputs of the area. The 'No Project Alternative' is the least preferred option since the costs far much outweigh the benefits to be accrued.

5.9.2. Alternative Location

Alternative project location seems to have the same impacts as the No Project Alternative. It means transferring project benefits elsewhere leaving people of these areas the same way they have been hence does not change their situation nor does it improve their well-being.

6. PROPOSED MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE IDENTIFIED NEGATIVE IMPACTS

The negative impacts of the project must be addressed. Mitigation measures and enhancement mechanisms for the SEPAREF program are outlined in this ESMF. However, further details of mitigation measures of the negative environmental and social impacts will be elaborated in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) as well as in the site-specific environmental and social impact assessment reports. The overall goal is to ensure adherence to laws and regulations governing environmental management in South Sudan and as per the AfDB requirements to ensure long term environmental and social sustainability. Public education and awareness as well as sensitization to enhance long term sustainability of environmental conditions as well as environmental goods and services are important aspects of the mitigation plans.

The main goal of environmental and social monitoring is to verify that mitigation measures are effective and applied. Environmental and social monitoring will also allow for timely and appropriate actions to address emerging issues during the project execution, in line with the environmental standards and requirements of the African Development Bank and the Government of South Sudan. The line ministries, in close cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, will have the overall accountability for managing environmental and social impacts and conducting environmental and social monitoring. The key line Ministries will also collaborate with other relevant agencies and entities in charge of ensuring environmental and social compliance.

Here below are the possible negative impacts that have been identified and the mitigation and enhancement measures to address the impacts during the implementation of the proposed project:

(i) Loss of vegetation and destruction of habitats and biodiversity:

There is anticipated levels of increased clearing of vegetation, destruction of natural habitats and loss of biodiversity during the development phase of the project for construction works facilities and improvement of transportation networks. However, the anticipated destruction will not be massive because only small areas will be cleared for construction. Besides, the project is expected to concentrate on areas occupied by the existing infrastructure.

Mitigation: To mitigate against these, measures that should be taken should include: (i) where possible, the clearing of vegetation, particularly of indigenous trees be avoided as much as possible during construction, and the clearing needs to be carried out only where necessary; (ii) following clearing, land should be landscaped and reclaimed by planting more trees and other vegetation types; (iii) clearing and construction should not be done in areas identified as sensitive habitats such as wetlands, culturally protected areas, unique and special habitats, or any areas protected by law unless special authorizations are sought and granted; and (iv) where possible, buffer the special, sensitive and ecologically important habitats to minimize their destruction.

(ii) Generation of solid wastes as a result of EGS packaging and fodder:

EGS packaging can lead to generation of solid wastes and debris. Such wastes need to be managed.

Mitigation: (i) put in place appropriate waste management mechanisms for solid wastes generated; (ii) the solid wastes must be appropriately transported to an identified site for disposal; (iii) educate and sensitize the workers on appropriate management measures for such wastes and that they must be responsible for their own environments.

(iii) Soil erosion resultant from land preparation activities: The use of agro-tool during work within the project areas is likely to lead to soil erosion which may lead to reduced water infiltration capacities and subsequently resulting in increased run-off. The increased run-off may lead to soil erosion and land degradation. The run-offs may lead to contamination of water systems in the nearby streams and rivers. It may also affect

soil-water balance and subsequently interfere with general hydrological cycle.

Mitigation: To mitigate against the consequences of soil erosion: (i) restrict use of agro-tools within the designated project operational areas; (ii) Avoid unnecessary machinery moved during EGS deliveries; (iii) reclaim and re-vegetate disturbed cultivation areas to reduce surface run off.

(iv) Wastewater generation from labor intensive project works.

During the operation phase of the project, there is likelihood of labor intensive public works in project areas. The high numbers of people are likely to result in increased wastewater generation from project related activities.

Some of the possible mitigation measures are given here below.

Mitigation: (i) development of waste management systems such as construction of latrines and toilets will be required; (ii) there will be need for public education and sensitization against poor disposal of wastes.

(v) Pollution of Soils, Rivers and Wetlands due to increased use of agro-processing:

This project is aimed at EGS and fodder. As such, there is likelihood of increased use of agricultural processing products to improve EGS and fodder production . If not appropriately used and well managed such processing products may find their way into the soils, rivers and wetlands hence degrading the environment. These may ultimately lead to potential degradation of the water quality especially for downstream users and adversely affect the aquatic life. Pollution of water sources may lead to eutrophication due to heavy use of nitrogenous chemicals. There will be need to have these well addressed during the project implementation.

Mitigation: (i) ensure proper and regular checks on the equipment used to apply processing products to ensure they are well maintained and in good working condition to prevent any leakages and spillages; (ii) ensure that used processing products are well managed and guarded against reaching sensitive areas such as wetlands around the project area; (iii) ensure usage of the right processing products types and in right quantities; (iv) ensure that only the right processing products

and in the right quantities are used; (v) put measures to ensure proper disposal of used processing products and other wastes that may include incineration; (vi) good extension services will be required; (vii) regular and appropriate education and public awareness in the use of processing products and (viii) regular monitoring of water quality

- (vi) **Pollution: Noise, Dust and Air Quality Concerns:** The EGS and fodder production and transportation are likely to generate a significant amount of dust as well as emitting smoke and fumes from engines and oil spills that will lead to pollution of air, water and other environmental resources.
- (vii) **Mitigation:** This could be mitigated against by: (i) ensuring that all vehicles transporting EGS and fodder should be covered and avoid overloading to minimize dust being blown anyhow; (ii) the workers in dusty areas should be provided with requisite personal protective equipment such as dust masks and dust coats for preventive and protection purposes; (iii) the movement and speed of the construction vehicles should be controlled and properly managed; (iv) the removal of vegetation should be avoided and denuded surfaces should be adequately re-vegetated and dusty roads sprinkled with water; (v) noisy machinery and vehicles should be fitted with proper silencers to minimise noise emissions (x) ensure the noise levels are kept at the minimum acceptable levels (xi) ensure processing products are well handled and properly stored while disposals should be in accordance with prescribed procedures;
- (viii) **Threats of occupational health, safety and Security:** EGS and fodder production operation activities are likely to result in work hazards. There are possibilities of accidents and other hazards that must be minimized .

Mitigation: (i) The use of proper personal protective equipment and other protective gears including appropriate clothing, use head covering gears and use of masks to prevent inhaling of dust and other processing products; (ii) public education and sensitization; (iii) well labelled and conspicuously placed warnings such as pits, etc.; (iv) provision of First Aid Kits that will be clearly marked and conspicuously placed; (v) dissemination and enhancement of security measures (vi) provision of clean drinking water.

- (ix) **Transmission of HIV/AIDs and other communicable diseases:** HIV/AIDS remains a major challenge where there are increased human interactions. The proposed project is likely to start up economic activities hence increasing social activities and human interactions. As such the prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the area could increase due to free-flow and high influx of people particularly during the EGS and fodder production project. The influx of people into the project areas may result in increased infections of diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS and some communicable diseases. During project implementation activities such trade and employment are also likely to increase hence increased interactions consequently leading to increased infections.

Mitigation: Challenges due to infections could be addressed through: (i) enhancing education and sensitization of project beneficiaries and prevalence of diseases; (ii) regular sensitization campaigns and monitoring the spread of diseases; (iii) dissemination of information about diseases and infections; (iv) regular provision of adequate prevention measures such as condoms; (v) regular counselling and testing; (vi) provision of drugs such as anti-retroviral drugs (ARVs).

7. PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (ESMP)

7.1. Summary of the project impacts and the intended mitigation measures

Activities forming sources of impacts	Impacts identified	Nature of impact (negative/positive)	Duration of impact	Scope of impact (local, regional or global)	Level of risks associated with the impacts	Proposed mitigation measures	Capacity building required	Reporting frequency	Responsibility
Development phase/stage	Vegetation loss, habitat destruction and loss of biodiversity	Negative	One – Two years	Local	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise vegetation clearing • Landscape and reclaim • Control soil erosion • Avoid sensitive habitats • Buffer areas of ecological importance 	Sensitisation and Public awareness campaigns	Weekly as well as monthly	FAO IP Beneficiaries
	Soil erosion from land preparation activities	Negative	One – Two Years	Local	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimize use of heavy machinery • Restrict machinery and vehicular movement • Reclaim, Rehabilitate, and revegetate disturbed sites -Restrict use of agro-tools within the designated project operational areas 	Sensitization and public awareness	Monthly and quarterly	FAO IP Beneficiaries

Generation of solid wastes as a result of land clearance, EGS and Fodder distribution waste	Negative	One – Two years	Local	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop waste management system • Ensure proper and appropriate management and transportation of wastes • Public education and sensitization awareness 	Sensitization and public awareness	Daily, weekly and monthly	FAO IP
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Activities forming sources of impacts	Impacts identified	Nature of impact (negative/positive)	Duration of impact	Scope of impact (local, regional or global)	Level of risks associated with the impacts	Proposed mitigation measures	Capacity building required	Reporting frequency	Responsibility
Development and operational phases	Pollution of Soils, Rivers and Wetlands due to increased use of agro-processing	Negative	Project period	Local	Low to moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop waste management system. • Public awareness and education <p>-Ensure proper and regular checks on the equipment used to apply processing products to ensure they are well maintained and in good working condition to prevent any leakages and spillages</p> <p>-Ensure that used processing products are well managed and guarded against reaching sensitive areas such as wetlands around project area;</p> <p>-Ensure usage of the right processing products types and in right quantities;</p> <p>-Ensure that only the right processing products and in</p>	Sensitization and public awareness	Weekly and Quarterly	FAO/MAFS IP

					<p>the right quantities are used;</p> <p>-Put measures to ensure proper disposal of used processing products and other wastes that may include incineration;</p> <p>-Good extension services will be required;</p> <p>-Regular and appropriate education and public awareness in the use of processing products and</p> <p>-Regular monitoring of water quality.</p>			
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Dust, air and noise pollution	-	One year	Local	low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure EGS & Fodder waste transportation vehicles are covered • Provide appropriate PPEs • Rehabilitate and revegetate denuded areas • Sprinkle water on dusty surface and places • Appropriately choose working agro-tools • Control noise levels • Ensure proper handling of agro-processing products 	Sensitization and public awareness	Daily and Weekly	FAO/MAFS IP
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Activities forming sources of impacts	Impacts identified	Nature of impact (negative/positive)	Duration of impact	Scope of impact (local, regional or global)	Level of risks associated with the impacts	Proposed mitigation measures	Capacity building required	Reporting frequency	Responsibility
Operational Phase	Threats of occupational health and safety	Negative	Project duration/period	Local	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of appropriate PPEs • Public education and sensitization • Well labelled and conspicuously placed warnings • Provision of First Aid Kits • Provision of clean drinking water 	Public education	Weekly or monthly	FAO/MAFS IP
	Conflict among project beneficiaries resulting from EGS distribution	Negative	Project duration/period	Local	Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage the beneficiaries in a regular and transparent communication, consultation, and participation process, where they can express 		Daily, Weekly and Monthly	FAO IPs & line ministries

						<p>their views, concerns, and feedback, and influence the project's design, implementation, and evaluation .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the selection of beneficiaries are highly inclusive and set up in specific SEP and following SEF guidelines. • Ensure that vulnerable groups are included in the identification of beneficiaries and locations. • Assist project beneficiaries to develop clear and 			
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						<p>comprehensive criteria and accountability mechanisms for fair selection and distribution of EGS and fodder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement and enhance Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) • Conduct proper consultation with the communities prior to commencement of EGS project as per the SEF 			
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Increased chances transmission of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases	Negative	The entire project period	Local and national	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced public education and awareness • Regular sensitization campaigns and monitoring • Development and distribution of education materials • Regular provision of protective materials such as condoms 	Public education and sensitization	quarterly	IP
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Activities forming sources of impacts	Impacts identified	Nature of impact (negative/positive)	Duration of impact	Scope of impact (local, regional or global)	Level of risks associated with the impacts	Proposed mitigation measures	Capacity building required	Reporting frequency	Responsibility
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular counselling and testing Provision of requisite drugs such as ARVs 			
Improved EGS and Fodder production	Improved seed genotype stock	+	Two years	Local, State and National	None	None	None	Quarterly	FAO/MAFS & Line ministries
	Improve local quality seed	+	Two years	Local	None	None	None	Quarterly/Annually	FAO/MAFS, IP & Line ministries
	Improved livestock fodder production	+	Two years	Local, State National	None	None	None	Annually	FAO/MAFS

Activities forming sources of impacts	Impacts identified	Nature of impact (negative/positive)	Duration of impact	Scope of impact (local, regional or global)	Level of risks associated with the impacts	Proposed mitigation measures	Capacity building required	Reporting frequency	Responsibility
Strengthening the capacity of relevant ministry officials	Enhanced capacity of relevant ministry officials	+	Extensive period	Local/National	High positive impacts	No mitigation measures required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skills in agricultural production 	Annually	Various ministries

							<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills in extension services • Skills in environmental and land management • Skills in land use planning • Skills in integrated pest management systems • Skills in business development 		
Engaging and strengthening capacity of private sector and civil society participants	Enhanced capacity of various stakeholders in the agricultural sector	+	Extensive periods	Local/National	High positive impacts	No mitigation measures needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills in agricultural production processes • Skills in agro-processing • Skills in business development 	Annually	Responsible ministries and development partners

7.2. ESMP monitoring programme

Effective implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) requires regular monitoring of its progress and outcomes. The main objective of environmental and social monitoring is to verify that the mitigation measures are executed and achieve the desired results. It also allows for timely identification and response to new or emerging issues of concern during the project implementation and, thus, it ensures that the project activities are in compliance with and adhere to the environmental standards and specifications of the Bank and the Government of South Sudan.

The overall responsibility of the environmental and social monitoring during the project implementation lies with FAO and the line ministries, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry as well as other relevant stakeholders for environmental management and social protection. However, it is expected that these ministries have limited capacity in terms of environmental management and, therefore, there is a need for capacity building. A significant number of key staff involved in the project implementation will need on-site training to improve their skills on various environmental aspects and reviews, including monitoring and compliance, which will be useful in addressing the environmental and social aspects of the project.

The ESMP monitoring entails monitoring compliance with regulations, managing worksites, implementing specific environmental and social works and finding solutions to emerging environmental challenges. On-site monitoring of the ESMP will be carried out by the Project Implementation Unit under the Project Coordinator and in close coordination with the responsible officers at the states and counties. Environmental compliance will be supervised by the responsible officers from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and their counterparts at the counties and state governments. The Environmental and Social Safeguards Team will ensure regular reporting, which will be on a monthly or quarterly basis depending on the aspects being monitored to prevent any serious environmental consequences. The key issues to be monitored include: (i) the status of the biological conditions; (ii) the status of the physical works; (iii) the technical and environmental problems encountered; (iv) the proposed

solutions to the problems encountered; and, (v) the effectiveness of the environmental and social measures adopted. During the operational phase of the project, there will be a need to monitor and manage: (i) the agro-processing products used in production, (ii) the wastes generated from the proposed project, (iii) the threats of occupational health and safety, and (iv) conflict management among project beneficiaries.

The ESMP monitoring programme consists of two levels of implementation – the supervisory activity performed by the supervision missions of the African Development Bank and the regular monitoring activities carried out by FAO and the line ministries or its IPs in partnership with officers from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and relevant entities at the county and state levels. The regular monitoring will ensure that site activities comply with the local environmental standards agreed upon under the Environmental Regulations of the Government of South Sudan. They will report regularly to the executing agency-FAO. The supervisory or control missions may occur once every six months and their role will involve: (i) reviewing the contractor's detailed worksite ESMP or ESIA and its specific procedures; (ii) evaluating the negative impacts identified; (iii) evaluating the effectiveness of proposed measures; (iv) examining specific applicability conditions for the proposed measures; (v) monitoring the implementation of measures during the works implementation phase; (vi) monitoring the recommended measures; (vii) suggesting remedies in case of major impacts; and (viii) conducting environmental compliance and assessment at the end of the project. Using the environmental monitoring indicators adopted, the control mission will aim to measure the project's progress, in a way that emphasizes the various objectives aligned with national goals and with the AfDB's Integrated Safeguards System (ISS).

8. CONSULTATIONS AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Stakeholder engagement and public participation is a crucial part of the environmental and social assessments. It is mandated by the legal and regulatory frameworks in most countries and AfDB's OS10. Further, all FAO projects must ensure a due stakeholder engagement process is undertaken in project programming. The processes help the project beneficiaries comprehend the project and its impacts. Prior to the start of the project, an inception workshop to disclose the project is a requisite of the bank's and FAO's safeguards policies (Annex 2&3).

8.1. Rationale for consultation and disclosure

The preparation of this ESMF involved limited stakeholder engagement and public participation (Annex 2). Therefore, it is expected that in depth processes will be conducted during the later stages of the project development process, especially during the appraisal. Moreover, all moderate- and high-risk FAO projects must disclose information related to environmental and social risks and impacts. Low-risk projects are not required but still encouraged to do so. National or local legislation may lay down disclosure requirements that must be complied with. This being a moderate-risk project, FAO will release the information as early as possible, and no later than 30 days before the start of the implementation of the project. The project document and any additional safeguards documents will be published on the FAO disclosure portal and through other relevant channels.

The stakeholder engagement and public participation process is an essential mechanism that will communicate to the public, key stakeholders, interested partners and those affected by the project about the objectives and goals of the project and the main activities that will be undertaken during the development and operational phases of the project. Potential impacts of the project are also presented and feedback from the participants is sought. Ongoing engagement with stakeholders and project beneficiaries enables regular communication and updates that allow for adjustments and changes as well as implementation of proposed mitigation measures.

The objectives of the stakeholder consultation and public participation are, among others: (i) to provide an opportunity for the public, especially those directly affected, to receive clear, accurate and

comprehensive information about the proposed project and the expected environmental impacts; (ii) to provide an opportunity for the public and the project beneficiaries to express their opinions, voice their concerns and propose alternative solutions that may help in the development of the project; (iii) to provide the project beneficiaries an opportunity to suggest ways of preventing, minimizing, or mitigating negative impacts or enhancing positive impacts of the proposed project activities; (iv) to enable the project proponents to integrate the needs, preferences and values of project beneficiaries into the proposed project/programme; (v) to provide opportunities to avoid and resolve conflicts and harmonize divergent interests; and, (vi) to enhance transparency and accountability in decision making.

8.2. Stakeholder identification and analysis

Effective stakeholder engagement requires identifying the key stakeholders and engaging them in dialogues to comprehend their priorities and objectives regarding the proposed project/programme. This project will address the key issues of economic development through improving EGS and fodder productivity. Therefore, the key stakeholders will comprise officers from the line Ministries, FAO, IPs and project beneficiaries/the community and various development partners involved in Agriculture, Non-Government Organizations (local and international) and civil society organizations. However, the most important stakeholders will be the project beneficiaries and environmental management organizations.

8.3. Methodology of engaging stakeholders

In order to effectively engage and consult various stakeholders, several methods are used. Among the most common methods are: (i) public consultative meetings, particularly with communities and other large numbered stakeholders; (ii) workshops which might be organised at the identified states and county headquarters; (iii) focused group discussions (FGDs); (iv) interviews with different key informants in relation to the proposed project/programme; (v) printing and distribution of materials that help relay information to stakeholders to widen their understanding of the project and its implications; (vi) physical site visits and inspections that may also include discussions with community leaders and community members; (vii) identification of vulnerable communities that may be impacted on more with the project; (viii) due consideration of gender and various age groups during consultative processes.

8.4. Possible key issues for consideration during stakeholder engagements

A number of issues are identified that maybe useful during stakeholder engagements include:

8.4.1. Land acquisitions, restrictions, land and land use, and involuntary settlement

Should there be need for land acquisition for the development of the proposed projects. There will need to know whether there will be involuntary resettlement needed, etc.

8.4.2. Identification of ecologically sensitive sites

This will be with regard to identifying areas that are protected by national laws and international conventions such as forest reserves, Ramsar sites, important migration routes, etc.

8.4.3. Identification of important cultural sites

These may include cultural ritual sites, sacred places, and cemeteries.

8.4.4. Environmental impacts

These will be needed to discuss both negative and positive environmental and social impacts of the project.

8.4.5. Habitat and Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural

Resources These may include issues of destruction of natural environment including damage to vegetation, views from conservationists, loss of biodiversity and economic importance, etc.

8.4.6. Socio-economic considerations

During stakeholder engagements and public consultations, projects are analysed in view of their socio-economic impacts. What positive impacts is the project going to have? How is the project going to influence social well-being as well as economic well-being? What are the potential complementary initiatives? Employment opportunities that will be created by the project, etc. etc.

8.4.7. Socio-cultural issues

Consideration of gender mainstreaming, women and youth empowerments, identification of

vulnerable groups such as poor women, the elderly, the people with special needs, spreading of diseases (especially HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases as well as non-communicable disease are of utmost consideration), improvement of life quality/living standards, etc.

8.4.8. *Disruption of normal life*

Is the project going to interfere with and disrupt daily economic activities such as closure of roads, change in normal lifestyles, etc.

8.4.9. *Trans-boundary issues and cumulative impacts*

During stakeholder engagements and public consultations, issues such as possible trans-boundary impacts of the project may be reviewed. Cumulative impacts such as invasive proliferation and contribution to changes in climatic conditions are of great importance.

8.4.10. *Occupational health, safety and security*

Possible occupational health, safety and security of workers during the project development phase as well as operational phase are of great importance.

8.4.11. *Bank requirements*

For Bank funded projects, consultations are undertaken with reference to the updated AfDB's Integrated Social Safeguards 2023 (ISS) Guidance Notes on stakeholder engagement, participation and broad community support, which also provide guidance on affected communities' involvement in the process of project planning, implementation and monitoring. Consultations are mainly based on stakeholder analysis and are preceded by disclosure of adequate project information and environmental and social information to ensure that participants are fully informed. As mentioned earlier, stakeholder engagement and public participation is a continuous process during project cycle and can begin at an early stage during project preparation and continues as needed.

This is identified as a Category 2 project hence the affected communities and stakeholders will mainly be consulted about the SEPAREF program.

9. INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY, INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING REQUIRED

Successful implementation of an ESMP requires good coordination. Overall, the line ministries will take responsibility for the implementation and management of the ESMP for SEPAREF– EGS and fodder production. Specifically on a day to day management, the implementation of the ESMF will be overseen by the Single Project Coordination Unit (SPCU). The African Development Bank (AfDB), as the Financing Agency will play a significant role in ensuring that environmental regulations are adhered and the mitigation measures are implemented. The SPCU will be headed by the Project Manager who will oversee the day to day running of the project. The Project Manager will have a team of experts overseeing the different components of the project.

For purposes of ESMF implementation, the SPCU must have an environmental & social specialist who will oversee its implementation. The SPCU will closely liaise with officials from the Ministry of Environment and Forestry to ensure compliance with national environmental regulations in South Sudan.

It is important to note that site-specific ESIA's might be prepared should there be a need for that. The Environmental and Social Safeguards will be responsible for ensuring that the environmental and social mitigation measures are implemented. It is proposed that a capacity building programme be included as part of this project to help train senior officers at the ministry and other ministries engaged in the implementation of this project in various aspects of environmental assessments and management.

10. ESTIMATED COSTS TO IMPLEMENT THE ESMF AND THE SUBSEQUENT ESMP AND OTHER RELATED COSTS

These are all costs that will be incurred to implement the requirements or recommendations of this ESMF. The ESMF requires that implementation of the project integrates environmental and social issues for the long term environmental and social sustainability of the project as well as its components and sub-components. Among other things the ESMF recommends the following key issues, namely; preparation of the project's ESMMPs, preparation of site-specific ESIA's, training and capacity building, reviewing and monitoring mechanisms among other requirements.

Building the capacity of staff from the line ministries, as well as from other relevant entities, but specifically for those who will directly be involved in implementing the project will be crucial. This enable them to screen, review and monitor environmental and social issues in the project to ensure compliance with requirements of the national policies as well as AfDB safeguard policies. Based on experience from other related assignments the estimated cost for implementing the recommendations of this ESMF will be approximately US\$400,000. Details of these costs are presented in the table below.

The summary of the ESMF costs

No.	Activity	Timeframe	Cost	Responsibility
1.	Inception workshop on SEPAREF safeguards and implementation matrix	1 st quarter of the 1 st year of project implementation	40,000	MAFS FAO IP
2.	Preparation of site-specific ESMP/ESIAs	1 st year of project implementation	70,000	FAO MAFS MoEF
3.	Training of staff from line ministries on EGS and Fodder productivity	1 st and 2 nd year quarter of project implementation	50,000	FAO MoEF
4.	Capacity building of beneficiaries on CSA, IPM, GAP	1 st year & 2 nd of project implementation	30,000	FAO
5.	Training on gender mainstreaming and operationalization in subproject activities	1 st year of project implementation	60,000	FAO
6.	Institutional strengthening and capacity building in operationalization of Environmental & Social Safeguards	Throughout the project management period	40,000	FAO MoEF
7.	HIV/AIDS mainstreaming and management	Throughout the project period	30,000	FAO IP
8.	ESMF development & ESMP Monitoring – supervision and control missions	Throughout the project period	80,000	MAFS MoEF FAO IPs
9	TOTAL		400,000	

11. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1. Conclusions

This ESMF was prepared based on preliminary environmental and social assessments based on the project components and proposed project activities. This ESMF equips the Line Ministries as well as the AfDB and other relevant partners and other authorities of the Government of South Sudan and several other interested agencies, local administrative agencies plus SEPAREF program. It is hoped that the South Sudanese authorities in collaboration with other development partners would use this information to evaluate the environmental viability and sustainability of the proposed project and the probable impacts. The proposed development project will have massive economic and social benefits not only to the local communities within the project areas, particularly with established EGS and fodder that will improve the agricultural and livestock sub-sectors in GoSS.

The negative environmental impacts that have been identified and are associated with the implementation of this project are minimal and highly localized and will be addressed by implementing the mitigation measures proposed to ensure that they pose no threat to the environment and to the communities. As such this project is a Category 2 as per AfDB's Integrated Safeguards System (ISS) on risk assessment index.

11.2. Recommendations

This is a multi-sectoral and a multi-disciplinary project. As such, it is important that during the implementation, relevant line ministries and other stakeholders are actively involved to address some of the cross-cutting issues on seed policy and sustainable stocks, improved fodder production and holistic redress of food insecurity crisis in South Sudan. The multi-disciplinary approach will ensure that emerging issues and challenges are not only adequately addressed but the addressing is done timely and appropriately.

The project proponents and IPs should take into consideration all the legislative measures put in place so as to ensure the due process is followed. The mitigation measures provided based on the recommendations of this ESMF need to be followed so as to address the environmental issues that may arise in the course of the implementation of this project

Annex 1: Grievance Redress Mechanism

This section provides details of the main steps in the SEPAREF Project GRM.

Step 1: Grievance Uptake

Multiple channels must be available for aggrieved parties to file their complaint, grievance, or feedback. The aggrieved party must be able to select the most efficient institution, the most accessible means of filing a grievance, and must be able to circumvent partial stakeholders in the Project, which may be implicated in the complaint. He or she must further be able to bypass some grievance channels that are perceived as potentially not responsive or biased.

Means of Filing a Grievance

There are four distinct means, at least two of which must be made available at each project locality for people to file a grievance:

A phone number for a hotline operator: The phone number of a grievance hotline operator must be widely disseminated among project stakeholders. The Hotline Operators available from 8.00 am to 4.00 pm every day through a toll-free number – 515 – operated by FAO. Any concerned party can call the hotline number and file a grievance with the Project. Hotline Operators will respond in English, Arabic or a local language as appropriate. The Hotline Operator will register the grievance in the grievance log (see below). The Hotline Operator is an FAO AAP Officer, trained in the registration of grievances and interaction with complainants. After providing first appropriate responses to the complainant, and registering the grievance, the Hotline Operator will transfer the grievance to the relevant technical officer or project manager responsible for the grievance-related activity.

A help desk will be set up by the respective FAO field offices and IPs during the implementation of sub-project activities in an area.² They should be manned by the IP staff, especially its community project facilitators, in close coordination with local authorities. At the help desk, PAPs can inquire about information in regards to project activities, or they can file a grievance directly with the person manning the desk. Grievances can be filed in writing or verbally at the Help Desk. The staff manning the desk will register the grievance in a GRM log book. The staff will be trained in a) the registration of a grievance; b) the interaction with complainants; c) appropriate responses to GBV/SEA/SH related grievances; and d) workers' GRM. The help desk can be open at hours decided on by the FAO field offices and IPs, which must be clearly indicated in a public space, and the Help Desk must be set up at a public space easily accessible and in close proximity of the sub-project activities. The PSU will train relevant IPs in the GRM procedures, including the implementation of Help Desks.

Relevant assigned personnel and committees available in each project site will be required to accept formal grievances and ensure that avenues for lodging grievances are accessible to the public and all PAPs. The first point of contact for all potential grievances from community members may be the FAO AAP Officers and IPs. Such personnel will be required to accept formal grievances; or they can point out the Hotline Operator's number, the Help Desk or Suggestion Box. If no reasonable other modality of filing a grievance is available for the respective complainant, the staff has to accept and register the grievance. Each relevant staff or local government official will be trained in: a) the registration of a grievance; b) the interaction with complainants; c) appropriate responses to GBV/SEA/SH related grievances; and d) workers' GRM. Each IP will appoint a focal person for the GRM during project activities. This focal person will be trained by the PSU and will be in direct contact with the PSU for any assistance.

A suggestion box must be installed at the FAO/IP field office and nearest local administration office if possible of the sub-project site. Suggestion boxes provide a more anonymous way of filing a grievance or for providing feedback. Grievances or feedback submitted to the Suggestion Box must be expressed in writing. Suggestion Boxes are installed at the closest official administration office in the sub project area. Boxes are clearly marked as SEPAREF-related feedback and grievance mechanism. The FAO AAP Officer/IP in the respective area is responsible for the setup and management of the box. The GRM focal person of the IP will man the box and hold the key. On the box the IP has to clearly indicate the frequency at which the box is emptied/opened.

Details of Grievance logged

While grievances can be submitted anonymously, the more information is made available, the better the Project can respond to the grievances, investigate the matter where necessary, or provide feedback to the aggrieved party. The minimum information that should be made available is the following (except for SGBV/SEA/SH cases, which follow a different process as described below):

1) Name of complainant	
2) Information on whether the identity of the complainant should remain confidential or can be made available where necessary	
3) Contact details: physical address, telephone number, email address	
4) Details of the grievance: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What happened- Where did it happen- Parties involved- Time when it happened- Description of the case- Supporting documents if available.	

Submission of incomplete information for a grievance may not allow a case to be investigated or may delay investigations.

Grievances of accountability nature are referred immediately to the FAO South Sudan Ethics / Prevention of SEA (PSEA) Focal Point who is the Head of Office or the PSEA Secondary Focal Point to the Office of Inspector General (OIG). Accountability complaints consist of complaints of corruption, misuse and diversion of project funds or materials; fraud and misconduct; harassment, abuse and exploitation (including sexual exploitation and abuse of beneficiaries by FAO/partner/contractor staff); discrimination of beneficiaries on the basis of sex, gender, age, disability, race, colour, national origin, religion, race, political beliefs or some other personal attributes and concerns on safety or harm to children or other beneficiaries arising from the project.

GBV/SEA/SH-related Grievances

Given the sensitive nature of GBV/SEA/SH complaints, the GRM provides different ways to submit these grievances. All grievance uptake channels can be used to report on GBV/SEA/SH-related grievances. No grievance uptake mechanism cannot reject such grievances, and all personnel directly receiving grievances will be trained in the handling and processing of GBV/SEA/SH-

related grievances. Information on relevant legislation will be delivered to survivors prior to any disclosure of case details, for example through initial awareness raising sessions on the GRM. This will allow protect the survivor-centered approach from mandatory reporting.

The GBV/SEA survivor has the freedom and right to report an incident to anyone: community member, project staff, GBV focal point, local authorities. All recipients of the report should – with the survivor’s informed consent – report the case to one of the SEPAREF’s formal grievance recipients. Furthermore, a survivor can ask someone else to act as a survivor advocate and report on her/his behalf.

Confidentiality: All grievance recipients and anyone handling the GBV/SEA/SH related grievances must maintain absolute confidentiality in regards to the case. Maintaining confidentiality means not disclosing any information at any time to any party without the informed consent of the person concerned. There are exceptions under distinct circumstances, for example a) if the survivor is an adult who threatens his or her own life or who is directly threatening the safety of others, in which case referrals to lifesaving services should be sought; b) if the survivor is a child and there are concerns for the child’s health and safety. The survivors needs to be informed about these exceptions.

Informed Consent: The survivor can only give approval to the processing of a case when he or she has been fully informed about all relevant facts. The survivor must fully understand the consequences of actions when providing informed consent for a case to be taken up.

Asking for Consent means asking the permission of the survivor to share information about him/her with others (for instance, with referral services and/or IPs), and/or to undertake any action (for instance investigation of the case).

Under no circumstances should the survivor be pressured to consent to any conversation, assessment, investigation or other intervention with which she does not feel comfortable. A survivor can also at any time decide to stop consent. Where possible, the consent form can be used (in cases of direct person-to-person reporting). By signing this form survivor can formally agree (or disagree) with the further processing of the case. The form will clearly state how information will be used, stored and disseminated.

If a survivor does not consent to sharing information, then only non-identifying information can be released or reported on. In the case of children, informed consent is normally requested from a parent or legal guardian and the children.

Severe Incident: If severe incidents are reported through the described GRM pathway, the GRM Operator needs to report the case within 24 hours to FAO'S Project Support Unit (PSU) following informed agreement by the survivor.

Third party reports: In case of any reports of third parties on GBV/SEA/SH-related grievances to the SEPAREF's GRM, the grievance recipient will register the case. The case will then be passed to the GRM focal point, who will make contact with the survivor, or an advocate that was appointed by the survivor, and will a) request for informed consent from the survivor to follow-up on the case; and b) offer any available referral services. In case the survivor does not provide consent for the case to proceed, the SEPAREF has to close the case.

Step 2: Sort and Process

All registered grievances will be transferred to the GRM Focal Point at the respective FAO office at state or national level – either by the Hotline Operator, local personnel, or the Help Desk Officer. The GRM focal point will categorize the complaint according to the table above (section on 'Categorization of Grievance'). Worker-related grievances will be handed over to a workers' GRM. Where grievances are of sexual nature and can be categorized as GBV/SEA/SH or child protection risk, the IP has to handle the case appropriately, and refer the case to the GBV reporting protocols and referral system, defined in the GBV/SEA/SH and Child Protection Prevention and Response Plan. Dedicated training on how to respond to and manage complaints related to GBV/SEA/SH will be required for all GRM operators and relevant project staff.

For grievances handled under the general Project GRM, the GRM Focal Point will determine the most competent and effective level for redress and the most effective grievance redress approach. The focal point will further assign timelines for follow-up steps based on the priority of the grievance, and make a judgment and reassign the grievance to the appropriate staff or institution. The person will exclude grievances that are handled elsewhere (e.g. in court). The focal point should offer the complainant option(s) for resolution of their grievance.

The GRM Focal Point will also transfer the grievance information into a more comprehensive grievance register. All FAO field offices, and IPs must maintain a grievance register.

The FAO PSU will maintain a central grievance register for the logging, management and monitoring of grievances. Where field offices/IPs wish for complainants to remain confidential, they only have to share the nature of the case and the outcome/resolution with the PSU.

It is likely that at the local level, FAO field offices, and IPs will use books to maintain a record of grievances. The information will then be migrated to a digital platform at the PCU level in Juba. The GRM will then be linked to the Project management information system (MIS). All cases will be treated confidentially.

Incident Reporting

Severe incidents (an incident *that caused significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public or workers*, e.g. fatality, GBV, forced or child labor) will be reported by the FAO/IPs - within 24 - to the MAFS. All staff involved will be trained in the detection of 'incidents' and in how to report an incident, including severe incidents.

GBV/SEA/SH

All reporting will limit information in accordance with the survivor's wishes regarding confidentiality and in case the survivor agrees on further reporting, information will be shared only on a need-to-know-base, avoiding all information which may lead to the identification of the survivor and any potential risk of retribution.

Data on GBV cases recorded will only include the nature of the complaint (what the complainant says in her/his own words), whether the complainant believes the perpetrator was related to the project and additional demographic data, such as age and gender, will be collected and reported, with informed consent from the survivor. If the survivor does not wish to file a formal complaint, referral to available services will still be offered even if the complaint is not related to the project, that referrals will be made, the preference of the survivor will be recorded and the case will be considered closed.

If the survivor provides informed consent, the grievance recipient should inform the HSSE/Gender Specialists at FAO for escalation to the MAFS PCU Gender Specialist, who will then inform the African Development Bank. The report will be on the anonymized incident as soon as it becomes known to the PSU. Data shared will include the nature of the allegation; if the alleged perpetrator is associated with the SEPAREF; the survivor's age and sex and whether the survivor was referred to other services.

Step 3: Acknowledgement and Follow-Up

The respective FAO field office/ IP will decide whether a grievance can be solved locally, with local authorities, implementers, NGOs, CSOs or contractors, and whether an investigation is required. The first ports of call will have in-depth knowledge of communal socio- political structures and will therefore be able to recommend to the GRM Focal Point the appropriate individuals that could be addressed with the case, if the case can be solved at the local level.

At all times, the IP (the GRM Focal Point) will provide feedback promptly to the aggrieved party (unless the case was filed anonymously), within 7 working days after the grievance is filed. Feedback can be provided through the phone, in writing or through the community facilitators. Feedback is also communicated through stakeholder meetings and beneficiary meetings during Project activities. For sensitive issues, feedback is given to the concerned persons bilaterally.

The responses will include the following elements:

Type of Case	Actions Required	Response Required
Straight-forward cases with little anticipated complications	Minimal checks and consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acknowledge reception of the grievance, detail follow-up steps and set timelines (number of days) for follow-up activities: verify, investigate, if need be, and communicate outcomes and next steps based on outcomes - 1-3 days
Cases that require some minimal processes	Delete misleading information, collect information, analyze existing information, prepare communication materials to disclose delayed information, clarify existing information, and correct misleading information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acknowledge reception of the grievance, detail the steps to follow, and provide the appropriate practical timelines - 7 -14 days
Cases that require investigation	Access and review of relevant documentation (reports, policy documentation), field-based fact findings missions (visits and interviews), analysis and preparation of reports, consultative sessions to rectify or adjust the implementation approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acknowledge reception of the grievance, provide follow-up steps and set timelines for a comprehensive response - 14 to 21 days
Cases that require escalation to higher SEPA REF implementation level	Transfer case to relevant higher level (e.g. state-level or national HQ of IP; FAO PSU; MAFS PCU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acknowledge reception of the grievance, provide the need for escalation of the grievance to the next project implementation level, and set timelines for a comprehensive response - 7-14 days
Cases that require referral to other institutions	Transfer case to relevant institution (National Police Service, World Bank)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Acknowledge reception of the grievance provide the need for referral of t grievance to an appropriate institution and set timelines for a comprehensive response on referral progress - 7 - 21days

All feedback is documented and categorized for reporting and/ or follow-up if necessary.

GBV/SEA/SH

Referrals are a process through which the survivor gets in touch with professionals and institutions regarding his/ her case. Services can include health, psycho-social, security and protection, legal/justice, and economic reintegration support. The grievance recipient will instantly provide the survivor with contacts of the available referral services in the respective area. If the survivor wishes for any assistance with transport or payment for services, the grievance recipient will provide allowances. Referral services are provided even in cases, where the survivor opts to not pursue the case through the GRM or through legal channels. Moreover, available referral services in the different SEPAREF Project areas will be provided and listed. This list will be continuously kept up to date by the GRM focal person, updates will be provided on a regular basis to all GRM recipients.

The grievance recipient explains to the survivor his or her right to control whether and how information about the case is shared with other entities as well as any implications of sharing information. The survivor will be informed about his or her right to place limitations on the type of information they want shared.

The survivor's consent must be documented.

Step 4: Verify, Investigate and Act

The GRM Focal Point, will then undertake activity-related steps in a timely manner. The activities will include: verifying, investigating, redress action and plan.

Verification

- Check for eligibility (objectively based on set standards and criteria) of complaint in terms of relevance to the project. Refer to the SEPAREF ESMF and sub-project agreements or other documentation to determine the validity of the grievance
- Escalate outright grievances that require high level interventions within FAO/IP
- Refer outright grievances that are outside the FAO/IP jurisdiction (e.g. refer to MAFS PCU or relevant external institution)

Once eligibility is determined, the complaint will be categorised as follows:

Grievance Category	Required Action
Queries, comments and suggestions	Acknowledgement / Clarification
Complaints and concerns which do not require formal investigation	<p>Grievances should be handled and resolved by the immediate manager within the GRM structure, e.g. the GRM Focal Point or a dedicated staff.</p> <p>The IP should appoint a grievance redress committee, which includes relevant staff in the IP organization and can include a selected local authority (ideally the committee consists of an equal number of men and women), which can hear both parties and ideally solve the matter within the organization.</p>
Complaints and concerns that involve allegations that require investigation or interventions of a different kind	<p>As appropriate, conduct verification, negotiation, mediation or arbitration, coordination with respective authorities, decision-making, escalation to judicial or administrative institutions, proposed solutions, implementation of agreed actions, etc...</p> <p>The IP should appoint a grievance redress committee, which includes relevant staff in the IP organization and can include a selected local authority (ideally the committee consists of an equal number of men and women), which can hear both parties and ideally solve the matter within the organization.</p>

Investigation:

- IP/GRM Focal Point to appoint an independent investigator (Safeguards Experts, Professional outside the Implementing institution) who is a neutral investigator with no stake in the outcome of the investigation.
- Collect basic information (reports, interviews with other

stakeholders while ensuring triangulation of information, photos, videos)

- Collect and preserve evidence
- Analyze to establish facts and compile a report

Grievance Action Plan

Based on the findings determine the next steps and make recommendations:

- (i) Direct comprehensive response and details of redress action
- (ii) Referral to the appropriate institution to handle the grievance, where the IP has no jurisdiction
- (iii) Undertake mutually agreed follow-actions
- (iv) Update of complainant FAO/IP GRM Team
- (v) Provide users with a grievance redress status update and outcome at each stage of redress
- (vi) Update the team on grievance redress across the GRM process

GBV/SEA/SH

The FAO Gender Specialist will be the key focal point for management of such grievances and concerns and will work closely with respective GBV Specialist counterparts at the field offices and IPs in the implementation of the GBV/SEA/SH Action Plan, which contains all information on the GBV/SEA/SH referral system.

Once a case has been taken in by a GRM recipient, and informed consent of the survivor is obtained to proceed with the case, the case file will be submitted to the ELRP Gender Specialists. The Gender Specialist will first ensure that the survivor has been provided with all necessary GBV referral services, and will ensure that the survivor is in safety.

Where the GBV/SEA/SH grievance was allegedly committed by an SEPAREF project worker, the grievance will be reported to the respective employing agency (FAO/ IP, IP sub- contractor, PCU, government agency). The Gender Specialists will follow up and determine jointly with the GRM Focal Point of the respective partner the likelihood that the allegation is related to the SEPAREF.

The Gender Specialist will follow up and ensure that the violation of the Code of Conduct is handled appropriately, e.g. the worker is removed from his or her position and employment is ended (in the case of UN agencies, SEA processes are strictly followed). The responsibility to

implement any disciplinary action lies with the employer of the perpetrator, in accordance with local labor legislation, the employment contract, and the code of conduct. The GBV Specialist will report back to the survivor on any step undertaken and the results.

Where the survivor has opted to take a formal legal route with the case, the Gender Specialists will ensure that the survivor has all the support required to file a case at court. The GRM process will still proceed with the survivors' consent.

Ensuring due process is a matter of the formal justice system and not the grievance handlers. Unlike other types of issues, it is not part of the GRM's remit to conduct investigations, to make any announcements, or to judge the veracity of an allegation. The GRM should refer the case to the domestic regulatory framework to process the case if the consent of the survivor is received.

Since this Project assumes a fully survivor-centered approach, no information can be passed on without the consent of the survivor. If the survivor does not wish for the case to be pursued, the survivor shall be offered access to referral services and the GRM operator or grievance recipient should note that the survivor did not wish for the case to be pursued, and the case is considered solved.

Case closure requires a) the case has been referred to GBV service providers (if the survivor consented) for support and appropriate actions; and appropriate actions have been taken against the perpetrator according to SEA mechanisms; b) the service provider has initiated accountability proceedings with the survivor's consent.

If the survivor does not want to launch a complaint with the employer (e.g. IP), the case is closed. If the complaint proceeds, the case is reviewed by GBV Specialist in the PIU and a course of action is agreed on with the respective IP/employer. The alleged perpetrator's employer takes agreed-on disciplinary action. Once the action is deemed appropriate by the GBV Specialist, the case is recorded as closed.

All referrals will be directed to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) One-Stop Centres for GBV survivors. The FAO GRM focal points will disseminate information on the locations and the services of the CBCMs and the one stop centers and referral pathways to survivors. The current exact locations of the Centres are as in the table below and any new centres will be updated in the course of project implementation.

State	County
Jonglei	Bor + Pibor
Northern Bahr el Ghazal	Aweil North
Upper Nile	Melut + Renk
Central Equatoria	Juba
Eastern Equatoria	Lafon + Magwi and Torit

In the States where One Stop Centres are not available, the relevant project staff will work with UNFPA (as per the internal FAO-UNFPA Agreement) to ensure all types of services described above in connection with referral pathways are available for survivors, especially provision of PEP kits as per the South Sudan PSEA standard operating procedure (SOP). The implementing partners will liaise with the GBV sub-cluster in the areas of the proposed project to ensure that the affected population is informed of the latest referral pathways. Further details on handling of SEA/ SH-related grievances can be found in the Project SEA/SH Prevention and Response Action Plan.

Step 5: Monitor, Evaluate and Provide Feedback

The IP/GRM Focal Point will provide feedback to GRM users and the public at large about:

- results of investigations;
- actions taken;
- why GRM is important;
- enhance the visibility of the GRM among beneficiaries; and
- increase in users' trust in the GRM

GBV/SEA/SH

All entities reporting on GBV/SEA/SH-related cases will ensure that reports do not contain any information with the potential of identifying survivors (including names of survivors, families and perpetrators).

Furthermore, the grievance recipient needs to provide ongoing feedback to the survivor throughout the process. After conclusion of any investigation, the survivor must be informed first to determine whether the perpetrator can be informed and proposed sanctions against the perpetrator can be taken.

Annex 2: Attendance list of participants during consultation

 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

PARTICIPANTS ATTENDANCE SHEET
INCEPTION WORKSHOP
"STRENGTHENING EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE TO FOOD CRISIS (SEPREP)
DATE: 23 November 2023
VENUE: PYRAMID JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN

#	Names Of Participants	Gender	State	County	Institution/ Agency	Position	Phone	Emails	Signature
✓ 1									
✓ 2									
✓ 3									
✓ 4									
5									
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✓ 7									
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 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

✓ 13									
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✓ 26									
✓ 27									
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Annex 3: Pictures of participants during inception workshop in Juba



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