

5/17/2017

[Approved by mail]: Haiti – Municipal Development and Urban Resilience Project (PPCR) (World Bank) (XPCRHT070A) – World Bank Response to US Comments

The team is currently supporting the Government in the development of the Resettlement Action Plan, and the process is ongoing and expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

A brief status of the progress of the work is taken from the PAD below:

An international consulting firm has been recruited to prepare a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) in compliance with national law and Bank safeguard policies. A first round of local public consultations on the RAP was carried out by the Government in February 2017 in collaboration with the City of Cap-Haitien. Three resettlement options in the Bassin Rhodo outlet were presented to the public: (i) in situ resettlement on the left bank of the canal (Quartier La Fossette); (ii) relocation of affected households close to the airport that constitutes the priority extension zone for the municipality (7 km away); or (iii) relocation of affected households close to the new Industrial Park area in Limonade (about 20 km away). National and local authorities have expressed support for each of these options and have identified an additional in situ resettlement site occupied by an abandoned CARE warehouse on the right bank of the Bassin Rhodo outlet.

The Bank has requested and obtained the authorization to defer the finalization of the safeguards instruments (see quote from the PAD below, the Safeguards Action Plan):

An ESIA and RAP are under preparation for Component 1. Given the particular situation in Haiti, the team seeks the deferral of the completion of ESIA and RAP. Preparation was substantially delayed due to capacity constraints compounded by political transition and Hurricane Matthew (a category 4 hurricane), which caused damages and losses equivalent to 22% of GDP and absorbed much of Government's attention and already limited capacity through early 2017. Taken together, these factors caused extensive delays in project preparation. Government's slow contracting and delivery of key technical studies delayed the preparation of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) and the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for Component 1. The verification of land tenure status and socio-economic surveys for the RAP have been slow and are still ongoing. Thoughdrafts of the RAP and ESIA for Component 1 became available end March 2017, a further study is also needed to adequately inform environmental safeguards documents for the disposal of sediments from dredging operations. Appropriation by Government and civil society of all of these elements requires an extensive consultation process which is essential to project success. Completion of all instruments is expected end 2017.

The final approval and disclosure of the ESIA and the RAP would be considered a disbursement condition for Component 1 activities, in line with the flexibility afforded by OP 10.00 paragraph 12. This is to ensure adequate time to properly prepare, consult, and disseminate the ESIA and RAP.