

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
GUYANA ONE HEALTH PROJECT (P508693)
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S PLANNING FRAMEWORK
PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH WORLD BANK ESS7 – INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-
SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL
COMMUNITIES**

I. OBJECTIVES

World Bank’s Environmental and Social Standard (ESS) 7: Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities, applies when Indigenous Peoples are present in the project area, whether in an ancestral domain or not. This framework has been prepared to ensure that Indigenous Peoples (IPs) are informed, meaningfully consulted and mobilized to participate in the identification, planning, implementation and monitoring of subprojects of the One Health Guyana Project supported by the World Bank. By doing so, benefits may be shared with them in greater certainty and/or protection from any potential adverse impacts of subprojects to be financed by the Project may be mitigated if not fully avoided. This IPPF is prepared in accordance with ESS7, and also integrates relevant provisions of ESS1 (risk management), ESS5 (land and resettlement), and ESS8 (cultural heritage), to ensure comprehensive coverage of social risks and impacts affecting Indigenous Peoples.

The purpose of this IPPF is to establish the requirements of ESS7, organizational arrangements, and design criteria to be applied to subprojects or project components to be prepared during project implementation when IPs may be present in, or have collective attachment to the project area. Following identification of the subproject or individual project components and confirmation that IPs are present in or have collective attachment to the project area, a specific plan, proportionate to potential risks and impacts, is prepared. Project activities that may affect IPs do not commence until such specific plans are finalized and approved by the Bank.

The IPPF sets out:

- a. The types of subprojects likely to be proposed for financing under the project.
- b. The potential positive and adverse impacts of such programs or subprojects on IPs.
- c. A plan for carrying out the social assessment for such programs or subprojects.
- d. A framework for ensuring the meaningful consultation tailored to IPs and in the specified circumstances, a framework for ensuring their Free, Prior, and Informed Consent during project implementation.
- e. Institutional arrangements, including capacity building where necessary, for screening project-supported activities, evaluating their effects on Ips, preparing Indigenous Peoples Plans, and addressing any grievances.
- f. Monitoring and reporting arrangements, including mechanisms and benchmarks appropriate to the project.
- g. Disclosure arrangements for IP Plans to be prepared as specified in the IPPF.

II. DEFINITIONS

“Indigenous Peoples” (IPs) will be used to refer to cultural communities, tribal groups that can be identified in particular geographical areas by the presence in varying degrees of the following characteristics:

- a) Self-identification as members of a distinct Indigenous cultural group and recognition of this identity by others;
- b) Collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats or ancestral territories in the project area and to the natural resources in these habitats and territories;
- c) Customary cultural, economic, social or political institutions that are separate from those of the dominant society and culture; and
- d) An indigenous language, often different from the official language of the country or region.

Within the Guyana context, this includes Amerindian communities as recognized under the Constitution and the Amerindian Act (2006)

III. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

This IPPF is consistent with World Bank policies which ensure that the development process fully respects the Indigenous Peoples' dignity, human rights, economies, and cultures; and their right to participate in decision-making on development projects, programs and plans that affect their rights, lives and well-being.

The principles and objectives embodied in the Amerindian Act (2006), are adopted in this IPPF. The Amerindian Act of Guyana is the main piece of legislation governing the recognition, rights, and administration of Indigenous (Amerindian) peoples and their rights. It is highly relevant in the context of the World Bank ESS7 and Indigenous Peoples planning, because it lays out the legal framework for governance, land rights, cultural protections, and state obligations toward Indigenous communities.

Key pertinent provisions include:

1. **Recognition and Governance of Villages and Communities:** recognizes the authority of the Village Councils as the primary decision-making bodies in Indigenous communities, and establishes the role of the Toshao (Village Chief) as the head of the Village Council, with legal authority to represent the Village.
2. **Land Rights and Land Titling:** provides the legal framework for land titling and extensions of Amerindian lands. Land titles are issued by the village as communal property, managed by the Village Council.
3. **Natural resources and resource use:** the Act provides Amerindian Villages with the rights to manage and conserve natural resources on titled lands.
4. **Protection of Culture and Heritage:** recognizes and protects Amerindian cultural practices, languages, and traditions.
5. **Consent and Participation in Development:** the Act enshrines the principle that the Village Councils must give consent before third parties can use or access village lands and resources. Consent must be obtained through a Village General meeting where decisions are made collectively. This provision aligns closely with the World Bank's ESS7 Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) requirements, though the Act itself does not explicitly use the FPIC term. While the Act does not explicitly reference FPIC, this IPPF will operationalize FPIC consistent with ESS7, ensuring that consent processes are documented, inclusive, and culturally appropriate.

IV. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The preparation of this IPPF is governed by the following principles:

- a. Project design and implementation shall foster full respect for IPs' dignity, human rights, and cultural uniqueness so that they receive culturally appropriate social and economic benefits, and are not adversely affected during the development process.
- b. The full and effective participation of IPs shall be ensured in the development, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of project activities.
- c. There should be broad-based involvement of IP communities throughout the project cycle.
- d. Public consultations with IPs are to be carried out in a transparent and open manner.
- e. FPIC shall be secured for the subproject, if required.
- f. Specific attention will be given to the participation of Indigenous women, youth, elders, and persons with disabilities in all consultations and decision-making processes.
- g. Project design will respect tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and any potential impacts will trigger a "chance finds" procedure consistent with ESS8.

V. OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES

The subprojects are screened to determine if they can affect IPs which could be present in the project location. The results of the screening will determine the safeguard instruments to be prepared and measures to be undertaken. A standardized screening checklist will be used by the PEU to identify potential impacts on Indigenous Peoples, including cultural heritage, livelihood, and social inclusion aspects. For subprojects, which will have impact on the IPs, the following shall be undertaken:

- a. Social Assessment to gather baseline demographic data and information on the living conditions of the IPs, and identify challenges to their effective participation in the subproject. The result of the social assessment will be used in the development of measures to maximize benefits of the subproject to the IP communities and avoid adverse impacts. Where FPIC is required, the process will follow a documented protocol, including multiple rounds of culturally appropriate consultation, use of Indigenous languages, documentation of both consent and dissent, and agreement on benefit-sharing measures.
- b. Consultations with IP communities to solicit their participation in designing, implementing, and monitoring measures to avoid adverse impacts or when avoidance is not possible, to minimize, mitigate or compensate for such effects. IPs shall be informed of such impacts and their rights to compensation. Compensation for land and other assets to be acquired for the subproject will be in accordance with the Amerindian Act and with the Bank's ESS5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement.
- c. Preparation of an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) that is based on the social impact assessment data, that draws on indigenous knowledge and participation by the affected IP communities.
- d. Monitoring and supervision of subprojects will be carried out in a culturally sensitive manner. It will be determined whether the IPP is carried out as planned, and in accordance with this IPPF. The Project Execution Unit (PEU) of the Ministry of Health, will be involved in the monitoring and evaluation. All IPPs must include a specific budget for implementation, including resources for consultation, FPIC, monitoring, and culturally appropriate benefit-sharing.

a. CONDUCTING SOCIAL ASSESSMENTS

For each subproject where IPs may be present or have collective attachment to land or natural resources, the social assessment will be undertaken in accordance with ESS7. The social assessment will aim to establish a baseline understanding of the affected Indigenous communities, identify potential risks and opportunities, and inform the design of culturally appropriate measures.

b. DATA SOURCES

Primary data: participatory rural appraisal (RPA), focus group discussions (including gender-and youth-specific groups), key informant interviews with Village Councils, Toshaos, elders, women leaders, and other community representatives.

Secondary data: national census, Amerindian peoples' profiles, Ministry of Amerindian Affairs records, academic studies, and project-specific environmental and social studies.

c. METHODS

- a) Household and community surveys to capture demographic, social, and economic information.
- b) Participatory mapping of land use, cultural sites, and natural resource dependence.
- c) Livelihood analysis to understand traditional and contemporary economic practices.
- d) Gender and vulnerability analysis to identify differentiated impacts and opportunities.
- e) Culturally appropriate consultation processes conducted in Indigenous languages when needed.

d. SPECIALIST INVOLVEMENT

The social assessment will be led by the PEU's E&S Specialist, who has experience in Indigenous Peoples engagement through various World Bank and IDB-funded projects, to document cultural heritage, traditional governance, and social dynamics, and ensure differentiated perspectives of women, youth, and vulnerable groups are captured.

The outputs of the social assessment will include a clear analysis of the potential project risks and opportunities for Indigenous Peoples, recommendations for culturally appropriate benefit-sharing, and inputs for the preparation of site-specific IPPs.

VI. IDENTIFICATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BODIES AND INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION

Representative Bodies:

- The primary point of engagement with Indigenous communities will be through legally recognized representative institutions, including Village Councils and Toshaos, in accordance with the Amerindian Act (2006).
- Where community-based organizations, women's groups, youth groups, and other customary institutions exist, these will also be engaged to ensure a comprehensive representation of community perspectives.
- Verification of legitimate representation will be conducted through consultation with community members during initial scoping, to avoid reliance on unrecognized or external bodies.

Gender and Intergenerational Inclusion

- Consultations will be designed to ensure active participation of Indigenous women, youth, elders, and persons with disabilities.

- Separate focus group discussions and meetings may be organized where cultural norms limit open participation in mixed forums, to ensure that women and youth can express their perspectives freely.
- Intergenerational inclusion will be supported through engagement of traditional leaders, elders and knowledge holders alongside younger community members, ensuring that diverse perspectives inform subproject design.
- Outreach and communication will be tailored (oral presentations, use of Indigenous languages where needed, accessible formats) to ensure that all segments of the community, including those with lower literacy levels, can participate meaningfully.

VII. INDIGENEOUS PEOPLES PLAN

The Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) to be prepared will contain the measures to minimize, mitigate and compensate for the negative impacts, and ensure that the IP population is not disadvantaged in any way because of the subproject; that IP groups will have culturally appropriate participation in the planning and implementation of the subproject; and that the project benefits are culturally appropriate. The IPP may follow the attached outline in **Annex One**.

The subproject proponent shall integrate the IPP into the project design. All IP-related activities will be carried out as part of the normal subproject development activities.

IP issues will be resolved or compensated through the agreed subproject mechanisms, and as established in this IPPF. Implementation of the IPP will be in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, and other concerned agencies.

a. RESOURCES, BUDGETING, AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Each site-specific IPP will include a dedicated budget to cover all activities required for its effective implementation. While the specific amounts will be determined once subproject details are known, the budget will ensure that resources are available for:

- Conducting culturally appropriate consultations, including translation and facilitation costs.
- FPIC processes where required.
- Social assessment activities
- Benefit-sharing measures agreed with IPs.
- Monitoring and evaluation, including participatory community-based monitoring.
- Grievance redress operations in culturally appropriate benefits.

b. CAPACITY BUILDING

To strengthen the ability of both Indigenous communities and implementing agencies to engage effectively, capacity-building activities will be included in the IPPs. These may include:

- Training for Village Councils and community representatives on World Bank ESS7 requirements and project processes.
- Awareness sessions for Indigenous women, youth, and elders on their rights and opportunities for participation.
- Training for PEU and partner agencies on culturally appropriate engagement methods and Indigenous governance systems.
- Technical support to communities for participatory monitoring of project activities.

VIII. IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENT

Subproject Stage	Tasks	Responsible	Timeline
Project screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen subproject for presence of IPs that could be affected by the subproject. 	PEU – Environmental and Social Specialist	Design stage
Social assessment and public consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gather baseline data/information on the IPs and ancestral domain Conduct consultations with IP communities Secure Free, Prior and Informed Consent 	PEU – Environmental and Social Specialist, in collaboration and coordination with Village Councils, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Amerindian Affairs	Design stage
Preparation of social safeguard instruments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare an IPP based on social assessment data and results of consultation with the IP communities 	PEU – Environmental and Social Specialist	Design stage
Implementation of IPP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out activities contained in the IPP 	PEU – Environmental and Social Specialist in coordination with Village Councils, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Amerindian Affairs	Pre-activity/pre-construction
Monitoring and evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit progress report as part of monthly ES reports on the implementation of the IPP to internal committees and partners. Submit to World Bank report on the compliance of subproject proponent with IPPF as part of monthly ES reports. 	PEU – Environmental and Social Specialist	Project implementation

IX. IPP CLEARANCE AND DISCLOSURE

The subproject's IPP shall be submitted to the World Bank for clearance prior to approval of the subproject. Upon approval by the Bank, the IPP is disclosed on both the Ministry of Health's and the Bank's websites. A copy will be made available to the Village Council of the village where the subproject is located.

X. MONITORING AND REPORTING

The subproject proponent shall monitor the implementation of the IPP and submit progress reports to the Bank regularly. The Bank shall evaluate the submitted progress reports with emphasis on the following:

- i. Verification of compliance with the requirements of the IPPF.
- ii. Determination as to whether the IPP is implemented as planned.
- iii. Documentation on all meetings, assemblies, and other gatherings done during the monitoring period.
- iv. Assessment of whether recommended actions in the previous monitoring report have been implemented.
- v. Monitoring results will be disclosed in culturally appropriate formats (e.g., community meetings, oral presentations).

XI. COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

In the course of the subproject implementation, complaints and grievances from stakeholders are inevitable. The One Health's Project Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be used as the mechanism for IPs to air project-related complaints or grievances. Information about the GRM will be communicated in Indigenous languages and through oral channels to ensure broad awareness. All the affected IP households will be informed of the GRM by means of community engagement and/or IP community leaders. The assistance of IP community leaders will be obtained to ensure that the GRM is accessible to the members of the community. The Project's GRM can be accessed here: https://health.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/GY-ONE-HEALTH-SEP-Appraisal-draft_final-2.pdf

Multiple entry points will be available for grievances, including in-person submissions through Village Councils, phone hotlines, and community liaison officers, in addition to the online system. The GRM will be gender-sensitive, with safe channels for women and youth to raise concerns, and will ensure accessibility for elders and persons with disabilities and have an option for anonymous complaints to be submitted.

Project-related complaints must be discussed in the specific IP community or locality where the subproject is implemented. Said complaints may be raised with the subproject proponent, PEU, or the Ministry of Health. To the extent possible, resolution of grievances involving IP communities related to project implementation shall be through traditional IP grievance resolution processes and systems, following the principle of precedence of customary laws in the Amerindian Act.

Cases of grievances will be documented to establish a record of the nature of the grievance, the parties involved the details of the discussion or deliberation on the case, and the agreement or decision reach which shall be signed or attested to in a manner customarily practiced by the parties concerned. The subproject proponent and the PEU shall monitor the development of filed cases.

ANNEX ONE – INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PLAN OUTLINE

CONTEXT

Guyana One Health Project aims to strengthen national systems for the prevention, detection and response to public health threats at the human-animal-environment interface. Project activities include the rehabilitation and upgrading of key veterinary and public health laboratories, construction of quarantine facilities, and capacity building for disease surveillance and management.

Certain project activities may take place in areas where Indigenous Peoples (IPs), as recognized under the Constitution of Guyana, and the World Bank's Environmental and Social Standard 7 (ESS7), are present or have collective attachment to land and natural resources. In keeping with the project's Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), this Indigenous People's Plan (IPP) outlines the principles, organizational arrangements, and procedures to ensure that IPs are meaningfully consulted, can participate in, and derive culturally appropriate benefits from the Project, and that adverse impacts are avoided or mitigated.

This outline will guide the preparation of site-specific IPPs once sub-project details and locations are confirmed.

THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PLAN OUTLINE

1. INTRODUCTION

Briefly explain the purpose of the IPP Framework and why it is needed under the Project. This section should state that the framework provides guidance for site-specific IPPs for sub-projects where IPs are present or have collective attachment to land and resources. Clarify that it is aligned with World Bank ESS7 requirements.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN

Define the objectives, such as ensuring full respect for IPs rights, avoiding or mitigating adverse impacts, and ensuring culturally appropriate benefits. This section should explain how the framework will guide inclusive planning, participation and benefit-sharing.

3. LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL

Summarize relevant national laws, policies, and institutional arrangements related to IPs. Reference any applicable Amerindian or Indigenous legislation, consultation protocols, and environmental/social safeguards. Include references to international standards and World Bank ESS7.

4. IDENTIFICATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE PROJECT CONTEXT

This section will include a comprehensive characterization of IP communities (its demographics, socioeconomic conditions, land tenure, resource use, sources of livelihoods, means of production, community and governance structure, including norms, values, rules, customs, behaviors, and decision-making mechanisms. This section will also include a description relating to tangible and intangible cultural heritage, and any other information that supports the characterization of IPs. Both qualitative and quantitative data and indicators may be used, where available, capturing perspectives from diverse groups (women, youth, elders, traditional leaders)..

5. POTENTIAL PROJECT RISKS AND IMPACTS, AS WELL AS OPPORTUNITIES FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DEVELOPMENT

This section will outline the potential risks and direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts (considering climate change scenarios, when appropriate) on IPs, as well as the opportunities and project benefits for IPs with particular importance to those related to their physical and cultural survival, territorial integrity, social organization, customary laws and economy.

6. CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE MITIGATION MEASURES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND TIMELINES

This section will include a description of the culturally appropriate measures that will be undertaken to manage the risks and impacts of the project on IPs, as well as the measures that will be taken to ensure that IPs are equal project beneficiaries. It will also include a description of the expected timelines and define the roles and responsibilities of the Project Executing Agency (PEU), implementing partners, IP representative institutions, and other relevant bodies that will be responsible for executing the risk and impact mitigation measures.

7. CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROCESS, AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

This section will include a description of the process that was followed to ensure a culturally appropriate, intergenerational, and gender representative good faith negotiation process. The IPP should be developed with broad participation of representatives of different groups of IPs communities, to ensure that it responds to their own needs. In cases where Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) needed to be obtained, this section should describe the agreed upon process to undertake the FPIC process and the agreed upon means to document its outcome(S) (consent and dissenting views). Among other information, this section should summarize the information disclosure process, how issues were raised during consultations/FPIC process, and how these were addressed.

8. GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

This section will include a description of the culturally appropriate procedures included in the project's grievance mechanism to address grievances/queries by IPs arising from the project implementation and operation. The GRM should take into account both the availability and judicial recourse and customary dispute settlement mechanisms applicable to IPs. The GRM should provide for fair, transparent, and timely redress of grievances without costs, and if necessary, provide for special accommodations for women, youth and the elderly and other vulnerable groups within the community, to make their complaints.

9. MONITORING, EVALUATION AND REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS

This section will outline how IPP implementation will be tracked and reported, including key monitoring indicators, frequency of reporting, and community participation in monitoring activities.

10. RESOURCES, BUDGETING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

This section will detail the budget to include conducting culturally appropriate consultations, including any translation or facilitation costs, social assessment activities, benefit-sharing measures

agreed with IPs, monitoring and evaluation, GRM operations, training and awareness sessions for IPs, project staff.

11. OTHER INFORMATION

This section will include any supporting documentation for the IPP. Each IPP will include a dedicated budget table, outlining resources for consultation, FPIC, mitigation, benefit-sharing, monitoring, and grievance handling.