

Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

I. Rationale for the ESMF

The Project aims to improve the flow of ecosystem services from selected forest landscapes, and is expected to enhance livelihoods, build climate resilience and conserve biodiversity. It is organized in the following four main components:

Component 1: Improving ecosystems services in China's State owned forests farms (SFFs): Implementation of restoration programs and complementary initiatives;

Component 2: Mainstreaming ecosystem services in China's forest policies: Policy development and integration;

Component 3: Capacity building and knowledge dissemination: Institutions, finance and upscaling; and

Component 4: M&E and information management and communication: Knowledge, partnerships, project monitoring and assessment.

ESMS relevant activities are

where possible managed. This relates in particular to ethnic communities as they might have experienced negative impacts from land-use decisions including violations of their rights. The involvement of different government departments is important in order to ensure that local policy, legal, and administrative frameworks related to forest management

Data gathering and consultation with monks, religious leaders, women and community leaders will ensure that relevant

members, it is important to check on community dynamics of the employment and potential risks associated with temporal or seasonal employment.

In the **third section** the ESMS Questionnaire addresses

The Standard does not apply to projects that support local communities in establishing resource use regimes (including access or use restrictions) on a voluntary basis, e.g. for the purpose of sustaining long-term use of resources to which they have legitimate rights. However, the project needs to ensure that these regimes do not put members of the community into a vulnerable position and that the community decision-making process is adequate and reflects voluntary, informed consensus; and if negative impacts on vulnerable groups are expected, that appropriate measures have been put in place to mitigate them.

If a project supports voluntary co-management agreements between relevant agencies and the community or other potentially affected stakeholders such as herders using rangeland within the project's area of influence, a process of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) must be established. This process should start with the identification of legitimate representatives of the community and be accomplished through a series of at least 4 well-documented meetings conducted in good faith (an introductory meeting, a consultation meeting, and meeting to present the draft of an agreement, and a meeting to sign the agreement). The Project will ensure the involvement of at least one neutral observer that is not associated with the agency proposing the agreement (e.g. an independent social scientist with knowledge of the socio-cultural context of the affected group(s)).

These meetings should be combined with an analysis of social impacts to better

incorporated in the ESMP or, if measures are substantial, articulated in form of a separate Indigenous Peoples Plan. FPIC is also required in case the project seeks to make use of indigenous knowledge or promotes the generation of social or economic benefits from cultural sites or resources to which they have legal rights.

The Standard applies to projects that could adversely affect peoples' cultural heritage defined [as tangible or intangible, movable or immovable cultural resources or natural features of historical, cultural, spiritual or symbolic value.

The Standard is triggered for projects that involve:

- risks of potentially damaging cultural resources when undertaking small scale construction;
- the need of restricting access to cultural resources or sites;
- the development of social or economic benefits from cultural heritage.

The situation analysis is expected to achieve a thorough understanding of the state and trend of natural resources, drivers and pressures of environmental change, current flow of ecosystem services. It is further assumed that identification of FLR interventions is carried

- The Project Management Office (PMO) led by the national Project Manager will be responsible for implementing the ESMS review steps and risk management procedures, including the drafting of respective screening reports and ensure implementation of possible