**Case example:**

**Applying the SESP in Guyana**

In October 2015, UNDP performed an initial social and environmental screening of the Amerindian Land Titling (ALT) project in Guyana, using the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP). The screening identified key issues and risks, and proposed a set of actions that project implementers and stakeholders could take to address them.

The ALT project is aimed at strengthening Guyana’s Low Carbon Development Strategy, and facilitating titling of lands to the country’s indigenous Amerindian communities. The Project Document, signed in October 2013, emphasizes the importance of protecting indigenous peoples’ property rights, and providing opportunities for people who depend on forest resources for their livelihoods.

This is a $10.7 million project, funded by the Guyana REDD+ Investment Fund (GRIF).

The SESP’s identification of environmental and social risks related to the ALT Project was important, given the complex and sensitive nature of demarcating and titling indigenous lands, and in light of UNDP’s requirement that human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples be respected. The screening revealed, among other things, that the ALT project should:

- Strengthen stakeholder engagement, representation structures and decision making processes at all levels;
- Clarify the process and criteria for investigations (in the context of the titling process);
- Develop trusted dispute resolution processes to address conflicts that exist within and among Amerindian communities, as well as between Amerindian communities and various other parties asserting claims to lands and resources; and
- Ensure measures to protect the rights of indigenous communities to their lands and resources.

Based on the risks and opportunities identified in the screening, the following set of parallel strategies for addressing the risks was proposed:

1. Engage a representative platform mandated and facilitated by the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs and UNDP to provide input, advice and recommendations on Guidelines being developed jointly by the two institutions to facilitate implementation of key requirements, outputs and outcomes of the ALT Project, respectively. The Guidelines will address the following three matters, in line with the current ALT project document:
a) A process for stakeholder engagement under the ALT Project  
b) A process for delimitation, demarcation and titling under the ALT Project  
c) A mechanism to respond to grievances arising from the ALT Project

2. The Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs, with support from UNDP, will undertake an analysis of key legal issues to be addressed to advance the ALT Project, develop options to address these key issues, and prepare draft legal language in line with the agreed options.

These strategies are now under consideration by the Ministry and Guyana CO, who will agree on next steps.

The ALT Project screening offers useful lessons and insights on how the SESP can be practically applied. It demonstrates how systematic application of the SESP can identify both opportunities to strengthen social and environmental sustainability, as well as potential social and environmental risks.

The “Application of the SESP to the ALT Project in Guyana [with Commentary]” provides a concrete example of how the SESP was applied to a project, including a completed draft screening template and a Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist.

In addition, the October 2015 Mission Summary Presentation offers useful background and detail on application of the SESP for the ALT Project.

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