

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

The Government of Sierra Leone has secured funding from the World Bank for a proposed project titled: Sierra Leone Agro processing Competitiveness Project (SL APCP). This project is complementary to the Smallholder Commercialization and Agribusiness Development Project (SCADeP) approved in January 2016, by further strengthening the enabling environment in the agribusiness sector, increase productivity and enhance competitiveness of agro-processing firms, including Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

The proposed project will focus on the following activities: (i) Promote enabling environment for agro-processing sector competitiveness and growth of agribusiness firms; (ii) Firm-level support to increase productivity and strengthen competitiveness of agro-processing firms and SMEs in selected value chains; and (iii) Project implementation, coordination, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E) Initial assessment of the proposed project activities indicates that there could be potential environmental and social impacts.

The proposed project will be implemented through the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI). Based on preliminary assessment the following World Bank Environmental and Social Safeguards Policies are applicable to the implementation of the project:

- i. Environmental Assessment OP/BP 4.01

Consequently, the Government of Sierra Leone, through the **Ministry of Trade and Industry**, has prepared the following safeguards instrument:

(1) Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

This framework would guide mitigation of any potential negative impacts in accordance with Sierra Leone and World Bank requirements. The ESMF has been prepared in consultations with different stakeholders at national level.

The ESMF outlines among others, procedures to ensure that proposed investments are adequately screened for their potential environmental and social risks and impacts, and that corrective measures are followed to avoid or mitigate and minimize any potential negative impacts arising from the project.

During implementation site specific action or management plans will be prepared by MTI, using consultative processes guided by the ESMF, prior to starting any project activities that entail environmental and social impacts. The Ministry is, through this publication, giving the public:

NOTICE OF DISCLOSURE FOR THE ABOVE-MENTIONED SAFEGUARDS INSTRUMENT AS PART OF THE REQUIREMENT OF THE WORLD BANK SAFEGUARDS COMPLIANCE MEASURES

The Environmental and Social Management Framework, (ESMF), is now being disclosed to the Public and can be found at the following offices: Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), the Project Fiduciary Management Unit (PFMU) at Ministry of Finance (MoF).

Hard copies of the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) can be obtained from Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of Finance and electronically from the following email address and websites indicated below:

E-mail: info@trade.gov.sl

- i. www.mti.gov.sl/
- ii. www.mofed.gov.sl/

These documents will also be disclosed at the World Bank's website.

All queries and enquiries should be forwarded to:

The Project Preparation Committee (PPC)
Sierra Leone Agro processing Competitiveness Project
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