

**International Center of Insect Physiology and  
Ecology (*icipe*)**

***Accelerating Innovation and Catalyzing  
Capacity for Resilience in Africa as Phase 4 of  
the West Africa Food System Resilience  
Program (FSRP Phase 4) (P515128)***

**STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (SEP)**

**January 2026**

## Table Of Contents

1. Introduction/Project Description.....	5
2. Objective/Description of SEP .....	6
3. Stakeholder identification and analysis.....	6
3.1. Methodology .....	6
3.2. Affected parties and other interested parties .....	7
3.3. Disadvantaged/vulnerable individuals or groups.....	8
4. Stakeholder Engagement Program.....	9
4.1. Summary of stakeholder engagement done during project preparation .....	9
4.2. Summary of project stakeholder needs and methods, tools, and techniques for stakeholder engagement.....	9
4.3. Stakeholder engagement plan.....	11
4.4. Reporting back to stakeholders .....	13
5. Resources and Responsibilities for implementing stakeholder engagement activities.....	13
5.1. Resources.....	13
5.2. Management functions and responsibilities .....	14
6. Grievance Mechanism .....	15
6.1. Description of GM.....	15
7. Monitoring and Reporting .....	17
7.1. Summary of how SEP implementation will be monitored and reported .....	17
7.2. Reporting back to stakeholder groups .....	17
Annexes.....	18
Annex 1: Records of Consultations held up to date .....	18
Annex 2: Sample complaint form .....	23
Annex 3: Sample Complaint Acknowledgement Letter.....	25
Annex 4: Complainant Satisfaction Form .....	26
Annex 6: Grievance Log Sheet .....	27

## List of tables

<b>Table 1:</b> Tailored Stakeholder Engagement measures (Disadvantaged/Vulnerable Individuals or Groups).....	8
<b>Table 2:</b> Stakeholder Mapping and Engagement Needs for AICCRA-FSRP IV Implementation .....	10
<b>Table 3:</b> Stakeholder Engagement Methods and Their Objectives .....	11
<b>Table 4:</b> Stakeholder Engagement Plan Across Project Stages .....	11
<b>Table 5:</b> Proposed Budget for Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Activities under AICCRA-FSRP IV .....	13
Table 6: Management Function and Responsibility .....	14
<b>Table 7:</b> Grievance Mechanism (GM) Implementation Process and Responsibilities.....	15

## List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AICCRA-FSRP IV Accelerating Innovation and Catalyzing Capacity for Resilience in Africa as Phase 4 of the West Africa Food System Resilience Program

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AHUs	African Host Universities
ARPPIS	African Regional Postgraduate Programme in Insect Science
ATVET	Agricultural Technical Vocational and Education Training
BMGF	Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
CCARDESA	Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture (now part of the Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT)
CIS	Climate Information Services
CORAF	West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development
CSA	Climate-Smart Agriculture
E&S	Environmental and Social
EFA	Economic and Financial Analysis
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
ESS	Environmental and Social Standard
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
FARA	Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa
GESI	Gender and Social Inclusion
GM	Grievance Mechanism
GRC	Grievance Resolution Committee
<i>icipe</i>	International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology
ICPAC	IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre
IDA	International Development Association
IITA	International Institute of Tropical Agriculture
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute

LMP	Labor Management Procedures
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NSmartAg	Nutrition-Smart Agriculture
NARES	National Agriculture Research Stations
NMHS	National Meteorological and Hydrological Services
PDO	Project Development Objective
PIU	Project Implementation Unit
PMU	Project Management Unit
PWDs	Persons With Disabilities
REFORUM	Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture
RSIF	Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund
SEA/SH	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse / Sexual Harassment
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
TOC	Theory of Change
U6P or UM6P	University Mohammed VI Polytechnic
WASCAL	West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use
WB	World Bank

## 1. INTRODUCTION/PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Accelerating Innovation and Catalyzing Capacity for Resilience in Africa as phase 4 of the West Africa Food System Resilience Program (AICCRA-FSRP IV) aims to scale agricultural innovations for increased food system resilience in Africa.

The International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*) will serve as the primary implementing agency for AICCRA-FSRP IV. *icipe* brings extensive experience in research and development on climate-smart agriculture, capacity building, and stakeholder engagement across sub-Saharan Africa. The project implementation will be supported by a dedicated Environmental and Social (E&S) team comprising Environmental and Social Specialists in the program management unit, and E&S Safeguard Focal Points based at both the regional and country levels. These personnel will ensure effective oversight and implementation of the project's environmental and social safeguards, including the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and the Grievance Mechanism (GM). Cluster Leads, with the assistance of country-specific E&S focal persons, will be responsible for adapting and executing stakeholder engagement activities in line with the local context.

The AICCRA-FSRP IV project comprises of two integrated and mutually reinforcing technical components and one component for project management. It is being implemented in six focus countries: Senegal, Mali, Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Zambia, with scale up activities at the Western, Eastern and Southern Africa regions.

**Component 1:** Strengthening agricultural information systems and institutional capacity: **This component aims to strengthen agricultural information systems and institutional capabilities required to accelerate the scaling of agricultural innovations in the target countries.** Building on AICCRA's progress in developing data platforms and strengthening regional agricultural knowledge systems, the component will enhance the quality, accessibility, and integration of agriculture and climate information datasets and digital infrastructure, while supporting institutions to manage and use these systems. Based on specific country needs, the data systems and tools will provide information on issues such as climate forecasts, soil nutrients, pests and diseases, market prices, and agroadvisories, among others. This component will also strengthen the capacity of selected regional and national institutions involved in agriculture innovation to use data effectively, manage innovation pipelines (also including actions for promoting gender inclusion in innovation management), and support knowledge transfer across countries. This support will reinforce the enabling environment for innovation by improving the flow of reliable information across regional and national actors, enhancing institutional readiness to manage agricultural innovation processes, and ensuring that knowledge generated through the Project is systematically captured, curated, and shared. It has two sub-components which comprise Subcomponent 1.1: Agricultural information systems and digital infrastructure and Subcomponent 1.2: Strengthening institutional capacity for agricultural innovation.

**Component 2;** Scaling the use of agriculture innovation: **This component will support the sustained use of agriculture innovations by farmers.** Component 2 will ensure that last-mile users (particularly smallholder farmers, women, youth, and marginalized groups) can benefit from current and future agriculture innovations that can drive improved climate resilience, mitigation, and food and nutrition security. This will also entail enhancing skills for advancing agriculture innovation, to enable the next generation of agriculture innovators and agripreneurs to access better jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities and continue innovating. The work under this component will build on the ongoing process for promoting uptake of

innovations under AICCRA, which has piloted various scaling models in collaboration with public and private partners (Box 4). AICCRA-FSRP IV will build on that system of established partnerships to expand innovation uptake among last-mile, vulnerable users, also supporting beneficiaries (especially youth) in strengthening their technical and entrepreneurial skills. It comprises the following two sub-components, Sub-component 2.1 Delivering agriculture innovation to farmers and Sub-component 2.2 Boosting skills for jobs in agriculture innovation.

***Component 3: Project management:*** Component 3 will support the day-to-day implementation, coordination, supervision and overall communication and management of project activities. Component 3 will finance goods including energy-efficient equipment, training, operational costs, and consulting and non-consulting services for project management, coordination, and implementation, including: (i) project management and coordination, also including training for project staff on technical issues (such as CSA and energy-efficiency approaches to improve climate change adaptation and mitigation) as well as on social, environmental, and fiduciary issues; (ii) monitoring, evaluation, and impact assessment of project activities, including periodic beneficiary satisfaction surveys and an impact evaluation; (iii) fiduciary costs, including audits; (iv) implementation, monitoring, and reporting of the Environmental and Social Management Framework; (v) a citizen engagement mechanism; (vi) communications; and (vii) studies and assessments to support project activities as needed.

The AICCRA-FSRP IV is being prepared under the World Bank’s Environment and Social Framework (ESF). Per Environmental and Social Standard ESS10 on Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure, the implementing agencies should provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable, and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, or intimidation.

## **2. OBJECTIVE/DESCRIPTION OF SEP**

The overall objective of this SEP is to define a program for stakeholder engagement, including public information disclosure and consultation throughout the entire project cycle. The SEP outlines the ways in which the project team will communicate with stakeholders and includes a mechanism by which people can raise concerns, provide feedback, or make complaints about project interventions or any activities related to the project.

## **3. STAKEHOLDER IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS**

### **3.1. Methodology**

In order to meet best practice approaches, the project will apply the following principles for stakeholder engagement:

- *Openness and life-cycle approach:* Public consultations for the project(s) will be arranged during the whole life cycle, carried out in an open manner, free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, or intimidation.

- *Informed participation and feedback*: Information will be provided to and widely distributed among all stakeholders in an appropriate format; opportunities are provided for communicating stakeholder feedback, and for analyzing and addressing comments and concerns.
- *Inclusiveness and sensitivity*: Stakeholder identification is undertaken to support better communications and build effective relationships. The participation process for the projects is inclusive. All stakeholders at all times are encouraged to be involved in the consultation process. Equal access to information is provided to all stakeholders. Sensitivity to stakeholders' needs is the key principle underlying the selection of engagement methods. Special attention is given to vulnerable groups that may be at risk of being left out of project benefits, particularly women, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, displaced persons, and migrant workers and communities, and the cultural sensitivities of diverse ethnic groups.
- *Flexibility*: The approach to consultation will be flexible and adaptive using multiple formats such as in-person meetings, virtual discussions, and surveys to ensure inclusivity. It will be context-specific, iterative, and responsive, integrating stakeholder feedback. Accessibility, timing flexibility, inhibits traditional forms of face-to-face engagement, the methodology should adapt to other forms of engagement, including various forms of internet- or phone-based communication.

### **3.2. Affected parties and other interested parties <sup>i</sup>**

Affected parties include local communities, community members, and other parties that may be subject to direct impact from the Project. Specifically, the following individuals and groups fall within this category:

- Potential executing agency i.e., International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*).
- CGIAR Centers (International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), AfricaRice, International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Alliance-Bioversity-CIAT etc).
- National Partners (Meteorological Departments, Agricultural and Livestock Research Organizations, Agribusinesses).
- Universities with focus on climate smart agriculture curriculum i.e. University Mohammed VI Polytechnic.
- Women and Youth Associations.
- Private Sector Agribusinesses including SME's
- Farmers and Pastoralists.

The projects' stakeholders also include parties other than the directly affected communities, including:

- Government of African Countries.
- National Environmental Management Authority.
- The local population, including consumers.
- Financial institutions including agricultural banks and lending institutions.
- Regional institutions in Africa promoting agriculture such as WASCAL- (West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use) REFORUM – (Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture, CORAF - West and Central African Council for Agricultural Research and Development, CCARDESA - Centre for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development for Southern Africa.
- International Development Partners e.g., United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization.

- Agricultural Research Institutions.
- Private sector investors in agriculture e.g., commodity marketing companies.
- Farmer groups interested in climate adaptations.
- Organizations promoting farming interest of women, youth, persons with disabilities or persons with special needs such as widows.
- Professionals involved in international development or climate change adaptation initiatives.

### 3.3. Disadvantaged/vulnerable individuals or groups<sup>ii</sup>

Within the Project, vulnerable or disadvantaged groups may include but are not limited to the following:

- Families living in remote areas.
- The poor.
- Marginalized communities, including pastoralists and geographically hard to reach communities.
- Elderly individuals.
- Women-headed households.
- Youth in farming.
- Illiterate smallholder farmers.
- Farmers with disabilities or
- Farmers with low income.

Representative organizations and leaders for these groups would be identified and engaged as partners in stakeholder engagement. These may include local women's associations and cooperatives, youth farming groups, Community-based organizations (CBOs) focused on rural development, organizations supporting persons with disabilities, religious and traditional leaders, NGOs working with marginalized communities (e.g., pastoralist associations), local farmer associations and cooperatives, etc.

**Table 1: Tailored Stakeholder Engagement measures (Disadvantaged/Vulnerable Individuals or Groups)**

Stakeholder groups	Limitations to Engagement	Measures/Resources to facilitate Engagement
Women farmers and youths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uncomfortable sharing opinions in mixed-gender settings.</li> <li>• Family responsibilities and social norms limit participation.</li> <li>• Need for spousal permission.</li> <li>• Difficulty attending events far from home or at inconvenient times.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage female facilitators for workshops and consultations.</li> <li>• Hold meetings near communities and at convenient times.</li> <li>• Organize gender-disaggregated meetings.</li> <li>• Use diverse communication channels, including radio, social media, and community leaders.</li> <li>• Produce accessible materials, including audiovisual formats for illiterate participants.</li> <li>• Engage women's groups and youth associations to facilitate participation.</li> <li>• Use male-gender champions to address constraining gender norms that limit women participation in project activities.</li> <li>• Provide child-care facilities during meetings.</li> </ul>
Remote Area Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited access to transport for events.</li> <li>• Difficulty attending centralized meetings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide transportation support.</li> <li>• Conduct events within the localities of the target communities.</li> <li>• Produce accessible and localized project materials.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited understanding of the language of instruction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with local community organizations for mobilization.</li> <li>• Use of local language during the meeting.</li> </ul>
Persons with Disabilities & Elderly People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited venue accessibility.</li> <li>• Barriers in understanding material formats.</li> <li>• Difficulty traveling to engagement locations.</li> <li>• May not understand the language instruction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure venues are accessible.</li> <li>• Provide materials in accessible formats.</li> <li>• Use inclusive communication strategies, including local leaders and multiple media platforms using appropriate language.</li> <li>• Partner with organizations supporting disabled and elderly populations.</li> </ul>
Marginalized minorities (e.g., pastoralists)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk of discrimination or exclusion.</li> <li>• Limited access to mainstream communication channels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage local leaders to promote inclusion.</li> <li>• Conduct targeted outreach and exclusive engagement events.</li> <li>• Provide accessible materials in suitable formats.</li> <li>• Partner with NGOs and community leaders representing marginalized groups.</li> </ul>

Vulnerable groups within the communities affected by the Project may be added, further confirmed, and consulted through dedicated means, as appropriate. Description of the methods of engagement that will be undertaken by the project is provided in the following sections.

**4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM**

**4.1. Summary of stakeholder engagement done during project preparation**

During project preparation, the following public consultation meetings were conducted to identify project potential project components, generate, and validate project activities and results framework, budget, gender, and social inclusion considerations as well as Environmental and Social risk and mitigation instruments. Refer to Annex 1 for details.

Feedback received during project preparation consultations encouraged strong support for an African-owned and African-led approach, post project sustainability, regional spillovers, strong partnerships, gender and inclusion of marginalized groups and nutrition-smart agriculture. This key feedback was taken into account by the World Bank and project preparatory team. A summary of the main recommendations received and integrated into the Stakeholder Engagement Plan is provided in Annex Table 1.

**4.2. Summary of project stakeholder needs and methods, tools, and techniques for stakeholder engagement**

The assessment of stakeholder needs was based on the institutional and stakeholder chain for the implementation of the AICCRA-FSRP IV. By this, we distinguished the needs of: 1) Direct partners, i.e. *icipe*, CGIAR research institutions (ILRI, AfricaRice, Alliance, IITA, etc.) Academic Institutions (UM6P) and regional partners (WASCAL, RUFORUM, CORAF) that will receive funds directly from the project implementing agency (*icipe*). 2) Indirect partners, i.e. national partners or institutions that will receive funds through sub-contracts from the CGIAR research institutions. 3) Collaborating partners, i.e. those institutions receiving technical support, training opportunities, and workshop invitations but not directly funded by AICCRA-FSRP IV. 4) Clients, i.e. those institutions that will be responsible for making AICCRA-FSRP IV solutions and technologies available to. 5) End users, i.e. farmers and vulnerable groups.

**Table 2: Stakeholder Mapping and Engagement Needs for AICCRA-FSRP IV Implementation**

Stakeholder group	Key characteristics	Financing	Language needs	Preferred notification means	Specific Needs
Direct Partners: including (ILRI, AfricaRice, IITA, etc.) Alliance Bioversity-CIAT Regional partners (WASCAL, CCARDESA, REFORUM) Academic Institutions: UM6P	CGIAR research institutions that will receive funds directly from the project implementing agency ( <i>icipe</i> )	Yes	English	Emails, Meetings, phone calls	No
Indirect partners	Institutions that will receive funds through sub-contracts from the CGIAR Centers.	No	English	Meetings; policy briefs, reports, emails	Sensitization on the project and its output products and E&S requirements. Financial Support to enable stakeholder engagements
Collaborators: Governments or local representatives, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries, Environment, etc.	Institutions receiving technical support, training opportunities, and workshop invitations but not directly funded by AICCRA-FSRP Phase 4	No	English	Emails, online meetings, virtual workshops, periodic reports.	Knowledge and technology products development skills in CSA, CIS and agro advisories, capacity building for effective implementation and scaling. Sensitization on the project's Grievance Mechanism.
Clients: Academia including Universities, Association of Women, Youth Network, private sector, Media, Financial Access	Institutions that will be responsible for making solutions and technologies available.	No	English, local language	Emails, Workshops, reports	Sensitization on project and its output products including E&S requirements.
Marginalized minorities (e.g., pastoralists)	Male and female smallholder famers, agro pastoralists and pastoralists engaged in extensive livestock systems, medium and large-scale farmers.	No	Local language	Community radio, community meetings, In-person visitation	Information and technology delivery mechanisms tailored to their needs and constraints. Information on E&S requirements, especially GM
Other vulnerable groups	Smallholder women, youth, and PWDs farmers	No	Local languages	Phone calls Community radio announcement, Community meeting In-person visitation	Using facilitators, Cater for transport expenses to attend meetings, when necessary, Organizing meeting in local languages Adjusting meeting schedule to local cultural events. Information on E&S requirements, especially GM

Different engagement methods are proposed and cover different stakeholder needs as stated below:

**Table 3: Stakeholder Engagement Methods and Their Objectives**

Engagement Method	Description
<b>Structured Agendas</b>	Regular meetings with institutional partners, including CGIAR centers, government agencies, and private sector stakeholders, to ensure clear objectives and effective decision-making.
<b>Focus Group Meetings/Discussions</b>	Small-group discussions tailored for specific stakeholders (e.g., smallholder farmers, youth, and women’s cooperatives) to address unique challenges and perspectives.
<b>Community Consultations</b>	Grassroots-level engagement to ensure inclusivity and incorporate local knowledge, especially in rural and marginalized communities.
<b>Formal Meetings</b>	Scheduled meetings with government representatives, research institutions, and donor organizations to align project activities with national policies and regional strategies.
<b>One-on-One Interviews</b>	Individual discussions with key stakeholders (e.g., policymakers, agribusiness leaders, and community representatives) to gather in-depth insights on specific topics.
<b>Site Visits</b>	Field visits to demonstration plots, research stations, and farming communities to assess project impact, validate CSA technologies, and facilitate direct beneficiary engagement.

These methods ensure a comprehensive and inclusive approach to stakeholder engagement, fostering collaboration, transparency, and effective implementation of the project.

### 4.3. Stakeholder engagement plan

To ensure effective stakeholder participation, the project will implement a structured engagement plan throughout the project's lifecycle. Engagement activities will be carried out at different stages, focusing on information sharing, consultation, and feedback collection to align project implementation with stakeholder expectations and concerns.

The table below outlines the key consultation topics, methods used, target stakeholders, and responsible entities across different project stages:

**Table 4: Stakeholder Engagement Plan Across Project Stages**

Project Stage	Estimated Date/Time Period	Topic of Consultation/ Message	Method Used	Target Stakeholders	Responsibilities
Project Initiation	Within 3 months of effectiveness of the Phase 3	Overview of Project, Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Grievance Mechanism (GM), E&S risks & mitigation measures	Official meetings, workshops, official letters, community consultations	Implementing partners, local communities, vulnerable groups (e.g., women, persons with disabilities, pastoralists)	<i>icipe</i> , CGIAR Centers (ILRI, IITA Alliance Africa Rice, etc.), Regional Partners, M6P government agencies, NGOs
Project Implementation	Throughout the project duration	Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA) innovations, policy discussions,	Policy briefs, reports, virtual meetings, one-on-one	Government agencies, NGOs, agribusinesses,	<i>icipe</i> , CGIAR Centers, academic institutions,

		stakeholder feedback collection	meetings, emails, newsletters, radio discussions, focus group discussions	farmers, vulnerable groups (women, youth, persons with disabilities)	regional partners, implementing partners, government ministries
Project Closure	December 2030	Project achievements, lessons learned, recommendations	Websites, virtual or in-person meetings, email communications	Collaborators, clients, NGOs, smallholder farmers, vulnerable groups (youth, women, persons with disabilities)	<i>icipe</i> , CGIAR Centers, implementing partners,

Information will be disclosed as follows:

The Project will ensure that all stakeholders receive relevant project information through multiple channels to enhance transparency and engagement. The disclosed information will include overall project activities, timeline, and targeted beneficiaries, as well as key E&S safeguards tools such as the SEP, Grievance Mechanism (GM), and E&S risk mitigation measures implemented on demonstration sites.

To reach a diverse range of stakeholders, information will be disseminated through official meetings and workshops at national, regional, and district levels, where project scope, objectives, and stakeholder roles will be discussed in participative sessions. Official letters will be sent to government agencies and relevant stakeholders to request support and access to implementation sites. At the community level, face-to-face consultations, focus group discussions, and radio announcements will be conducted to ensure local participation, particularly among vulnerable groups.

Throughout the project lifecycle, biannual and annual reports will be shared via emails and online platforms, and updates will be presented during community meetings and stakeholder consultations. To further support knowledge dissemination, policy briefs, discussion papers, journal articles, videos, and television and radio broadcasts will be used to provide accessible and informative content on CSA innovations and project progress. Information will be disclosed in local languages where necessary, ensuring accessibility for non-literate stakeholders through interpreters and simplified materials.

Specific E&S instruments, including the GM, SEP and Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP), will be published in reports, posters, flyers, and banners to enhance visibility and stakeholder awareness. At the conclusion of the project, key achievements, lessons learned, and recommendations will be shared through websites, emails, virtual or in-person meetings, as well as community meetings and focus group discussions.

By employing a multi-channel and inclusive disclosure strategy, the Project will ensure that all stakeholders, including vulnerable groups such as women, youth, and persons with disabilities, have access to project-related information in a culturally appropriate and accessible manner.

#### 4.4. Reporting back to stakeholders

Stakeholders will be kept informed as the project develops, including reporting on project environmental and social performance and implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan and Grievance Mechanism, and on the project’s overall implementation progress.

### 5. RESOURCES AND RESPONSIBILITIES FOR IMPLEMENTING STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

#### 5.1. Resources

The executing agency, *icipe* will be in charge of stakeholder engagement activities at the overall project level. During project implementation, in-country Project Implementation Units will develop context specific stakeholder engagement strategies and budget for execution.

It is important to note that several budgeted activities, including biannual stakeholder engagement forums, dissemination efforts (e.g., newsletters, blogs), and training activities, also contribute to the project's broader communication strategy. These elements have been included in the SEP budget to ensure alignment between stakeholder engagement and communications, but they serve dual purposes and will be implemented in coordination with the project’s overarching communication and knowledge dissemination strategy.

The budget for the SEP is estimated to be \$998,000 and is included in the project management component of the project.

**Table 5: Proposed Budget for Stakeholder Engagement and Communication Activities under the Project**

Budget Category	Quantity	Unit Costs	Times/Years	Total Costs	Remarks
<b>1. Events</b>					
1a. Launching of AICCRA-FSRP IV project.	1	\$100,000	1	\$100,000	
1c. Biannual stakeholder engagement forums during project implementation support missions.	2	\$20,000	5	\$200,000	
1d. Dissemination of annual project results through blogs, newsletters, infographics, and social media.	1	\$3,000	5	\$15,000	
<b>2. Communication campaigns</b>					
2a. Banners and pull-ups and visual media (infographics)	5	\$2000	1	\$10,000	
2b. Dissemination of annual project results through blogs, newsletters, infographics, and social media.	1	\$3,000	5	\$15,000	
2c. Project website maintenance and publication of innovative blogs and E&S instruments	1	\$20,000	5	\$100,000	

<b>3. Trainings</b>					
3a. Training session for AICCRA-FSRP IVE&S Team on SEP and GM procedures and requirements	1	20,000	1	\$20,000	
3b. Training of Project Management Unit on SEP and GM requirements and procedures	1	\$5,000	1	\$5,000	
3c. Training of Project Implementation Units in six countries and allied Grant partners on SEP and GM.	6	\$5,000	1	\$30,000	
<b>4. Grievance Mechanism</b>					
4a. Inauguration and Training of GM committees and PMU and PIUs	7	0	1	0	Will be done virtually.
4b. Flyers, leaflets, posters for GM sensitization.	1	\$3000	1	\$3,000	
<b>5. Estimate of Staff salaries and related expenses</b>					
5a. E&S Specialists time on SEP and GM implementation	2	\$30,000	5	\$300,000	
5b. Communication Consultants	2	20,000	5	\$200,000	Content, visuals, and translation
<b>TOTAL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT BUDGET:</b>				\$998,000	

## 5.2. Management functions and responsibilities

The summary of key institutions concerned about the implementation of this SEP and their responsibilities are as follows.

Table 6: Management Function and Responsibility

<b>Institution /Lead Person</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
Implementation Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oversight responsibility for entire project implementation</li> <li>• Support in resolution of hard cases of grievances</li> </ul>
AICCRA Project Management Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide technical support and funding for the preparation and implementation of this SEP and resolution of grievances</li> </ul>
AICCRA E&S Specialists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall coordination of activities and implementation of this SEP.</li> <li>• Ensure effective implementation of GM.</li> <li>• Document and report on the performance of SEP implementation.</li> </ul>
Cluster Lead and Activity Leads	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initiate and coordinate stakeholder engagement activities.</li> <li>• Assign staff to keep written records on stakeholder engagement activities and on grievances.</li> <li>• Ensure the involvement of other implementing partners in the monitoring of SEP activities.</li> </ul>

The stakeholder engagement activities will be documented through consultation reports, video, pictures, attendance forms and meeting minutes.

## 6. GRIEVANCE MECHANISM

The main objective of a GM is to assist to resolve complaints and grievances in a timely, effective, and efficient manner that satisfies all parties involved.

### 6.1. Description of GM

The AICCRA-FSRP IV Project Grievance Mechanism follows a structured, multi-tiered approach to grievance resolution, ensuring that concerns are addressed at different levels, from local stakeholders to national implementing agencies.

**Table 7: Grievance Mechanism (GM) Implementation Process and Responsibilities**

Step	Description of Process	Time Frame	Responsibility
GM implementation structure	The GM is structured at three levels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) <b>Local Level</b>, where community-based grievance focal points receive and record complaints; (ii) <b>Regional Level</b>, managed by in-country Grievance Resolution Committees (GRCs) handling escalated grievances; and (iii) <b>Project Management Level</b>, where the Project Management GRC addresses high-level or unresolved cases and monitors GM performance. The <i>icipe</i> Legal Office will also assist in grievance management in coordination with the PM-GRC.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Local, Regional, and Project Management GRCs; <i>icipe</i> Legal Office
Grievance uptake	Grievances can be submitted via the following channels: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Phone calls</li> <li>E-mail</li> <li>Letter to Grievance focal points at local facilities</li> <li>Complaint form to be lodged via website.</li> <li>Walk-ins may register a complaint in a grievance logbook at a facility or suggestion box</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Local grievance focal points
Sorting, processing	Any complaint received is forwarded to the <i>icipe</i> Safeguard Specialists, Logged in the Grievance Registry System, and categorized according to the following complaint types: (i) General inquiries and information requests, (ii) Project-related concerns (e.g., E&S impacts, participation eligibility, site selection), and (iii) Sensitive grievances (e.g., SEA/SH, exclusion of vulnerable groups, labor disputes).	Upon receipt of complaint	Local grievance focal points and E&S focal points
Acknowledgment and follow-up	Receipt of the grievance is acknowledged to the complainant by letter	Within 3 working days of receipt	Local grievance focal points and E&S focal points

Step	Description of Process	Time Frame	Responsibility
Verification, investigation, action	Investigation of the complaint is led by the Clusters Grievance Resolution Committees (GRC) A proposed resolution is formulated by the Committee composed of AICCRA-FSRP IV Country Lead, in-country E&S Focal Person, a representative from project affected persons, Gender, and Social Inclusion expert (GESI) and, if necessary, additional project staff or independent third parties and communicated to the complainant by the Clusters E&S focal points or a Local Grievance Focal Point.	Within 10 working days	Complaint Committee composed of AICCRA-FSRP IV Country Lead, in-country E&S Focal Person, a representative from project affected persons, GESI expert.
Monitoring and evaluation	Data on complaints are collected in the Grievance Registry System and reported to the Project Steering Committee every six months.	Every 6 months	Project Management GRC
Provision of feedback	Feedback from complainants regarding their satisfaction with complaint resolution is collected through follow-up surveys, direct interviews, and feedback forms.	Within 14 days of resolution	E&S Safeguard Focal Person
Training	Training needs for staff/consultants in the PIU, Contractors, and Supervision Consultants are as follows: (i) GM awareness and procedures, (ii) complaint handling and resolution, (iii) survivor-centered approaches for SEA/SH cases, (iv) grievance data management, and (v) Sensitization on labor rights and the Labor GM.	Annually	E&S Safeguard Specialists
If relevant, payment of reparations following complaint resolution	For cases where the project may need to make payment, the Project will seek the advice and approval of the World Bank on the maximum expense cost that can be absorbed by the project for survivors. When necessary, the project may provide immediate financial assistance to enable the survivor access basic support services whilst approval is being sought from the World Bank.	Case by case basis	<i>icipe</i>

The GM will provide an appeals process if the complainant is not satisfied with the proposed resolution of the complaint. Once all possible means to resolve the complaint have been proposed and if the complainant is still not satisfied, then they should be advised of their right to legal recourse.

SEA/SH-related complaints will be managed confidentially and with a survivor-centered approach. Anonymous reporting is available through dedicated SEA/SH focal persons. Survivors will be referred to medical, psychological, and legal support services in line with the World Bank SEA/SH Good Practice Note. Cases will only be escalated with survivor consent, except where mandatory reporting is required by law.

A separate Labor GM is established for project workers, including contractors, consultants, and field staff. The Labor GM ensures that: (i) Workers can submit grievances anonymously through designated channels,

(ii) All grievances (e.g., wage disputes, unfair dismissal, working conditions) are handled per LMP, (iii) Appeals are available, ensuring that unresolved labor disputes can be escalated to the Project Management Committee or external labor courts.

The World Bank and the Borrower do not tolerate reprisals and retaliation against project stakeholders who share their views about Bank-financed projects.

## **7. MONITORING AND REPORTING**

### **7.1. Summary of how SEP implementation will be monitored and reported**

The SEP will be systematically monitored to ensure effective, inclusive, and transparent engagement with stakeholders. E&S Safeguard Specialists, in collaboration with in-country E&S focal persons, will oversee the monitoring process using key performance indicators (KPIs) to track progress and improve engagement efforts.

Key monitoring areas will include stakeholder engagement activities, such as the number of community meetings, stakeholder consultations, and focus group discussions, particularly with vulnerable groups. Information dissemination will be assessed by tracking the distribution of project materials, public information boards, and local language translations. The performance of the grievance mechanism will be evaluated based on the number of grievances received and resolved, response times, and complainant satisfaction. Additionally, stakeholder feedback and inclusion will be measured by assessing adaptations made to the SEP and stakeholder participation in joint reviews.

Stakeholders will actively contribute to the monitoring process through community-based monitoring, where local representatives provide direct feedback on engagement activities. Regular stakeholder feedback mechanisms, including surveys and participatory evaluations, will assess the effectiveness of engagement efforts. Furthermore, joint reviews involving government agencies, NGOs, and community representatives will ensure transparency and continuous improvement of the SEP implementation.

### **7.2. Reporting back to stakeholder groups**

The SEP will be periodically revised and updated as necessary in the course of project implementation. Biannual summaries and internal reports on public grievances, enquiries, and related incidents, together with the status of implementation of associated corrective/preventive actions, will be collated by responsible staff and referred to the senior management of the project. The Biannual summaries will provide a mechanism for assessing both the number and nature of complaints and requests for information, along with the Project's ability to address those in a timely and effective manner. Information on public engagement activities undertaken by the Project during the year may be conveyed to the stakeholders in various ways including progress update meetings, stakeholder consultations, newsletters, online platforms, and official reports, ensuring transparency and continuous engagement with all project stakeholders.

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Records of Consultations held up to date

Dates	Participants	Total Participants	Key feedback and inputs from stakeholders
<p>October 21, 2024 West and Central Africa (virtual consultation)</p>	<p>FARA CORAF <i>icip</i> WASCAL AICCRA World Bank</p>	<p>16 participants (4 women)</p>	<p><b>West and Central Africa</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Strong support for an African-owned and African-led approach.</li> <li>○ Capacity building is essential, especially for long-term sustainability.</li> <li>○ Emphasis on knowledge sharing, strengthening partnership and validation of innovative solutions.</li> </ul> <p><u>Risks:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Political instability, economic challenges, and ensuring inclusivity of marginalized group (gender, youth, disabled).</li> <li>○ Uneven implementation and uptake in countries with limited infrastructure and government support on projects.</li> <li>○ NARS should be engaged throughout the process.</li> </ul> <p><u>Suggestions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Focus on <b>post-project sustainability, regional spillovers, and stronger partnerships</b>. Gender and <b>marginalized groups</b> (incl. youth) <b>to be included</b>.</li> <li>○ Consider the <b>value of carbon stocks</b> and opportunities for accessing <b>carbon markets</b>.</li> <li>○ Nutrition angle is welcome but consider other crops, livestock and blue economy,</li> </ul>
<p>October 22, 2024 East and Southern Africa, Global and Continental</p>	<p>ICPAC CCARDESSA ASARECA <i>icip</i> World Bank</p>	<p>21 participants (10 women)</p>	<p><b>East and Southern Africa</b></p> <p><b>Policy and enabling environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Explicitly incorporate CIS across all components.</li> <li>● Strengthen the link between components and policies to create a conducive environment for sustainability.</li> <li>● Address the gap in policy emphasis by including strategies for supportive policies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Communications and information dissemination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Improve communication of climate advisories, especially when addressing uncertainties, to prevent confusion and mistrust.</li> <li>● Partner with the private sector to enhance innovation and ensure sustainable service delivery.</li> </ul> <p><b>Capacity building and partnerships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prioritize capacity building for national partners to ensure long-term success.</li> <li>● Emphasize cross-learning for knowledge transfer and best practices.</li> <li>● Leverage successful collaboration with key institutions like ICPAC, ASARECA, and CCARDESSA.</li> </ul> <p><b>Global/continental partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Strong alignment with capacity-building objectives, especially in research and entrepreneurship.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on triangular cooperation among universities, research institutes, and CGIAR.</li> <li>• Risks: Adaptation to country-specific contexts and managing expectations.</li> <li>• Suggestions: Emphasize policy research, curriculum development, and ensuring sustainability through ongoing assessments.</li> </ul>
			<p><b><u>Common themes across regions</u></b></p> <p><i>Strengths:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Broad support for AICCRA’s focus on resilience, climate-smart agriculture and capacity building.</li> <li>• Successful partnerships and knowledge-sharing platforms.</li> </ul> <p><i>Areas for improvement:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening the enabling policy environment.</li> <li>• Expanding partnerships, including the private sector and universities to ensure acceleration of climate-smart technologies.</li> <li>• AICCRA's scaling model is strong, but localization needs improvement to ensure technologies reach end users effectively.</li> <li>• Need for clearer impact pathways and long-term sustainability strategies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>October 28 – November 1, 2024: Identification mission in Nairobi (Hybrid mission)</b></p>	<p><i>icipe</i>  <b>ILRI  Alliance  AfricaRice  IITA  World Bank  Gates  Foundation  UM6P</b></p>	<p><b>28 participants</b>  <i>(15 women)</i></p>	<p><b><u>Component 1: Knowledge generation and sharing</u></b> All Centers share the goal of achieving enhanced resilience, productivity, and sustainability in agricultural systems. Their efforts aim to improve access to and the use of climate-smart and nutrition-sensitive knowledge, tools, and resources, equipping stakeholders with the means to drive meaningful change. A key focus is on strengthening the capacities of farmers, extension agents, and other stakeholders to adopt evidence-based, inclusive practices that foster long-term impact. Tailored CSA bundles, soil health improvements, and diversified agrifood systems are central to advancing climate adaptation and mitigation. Furthermore, these initiatives prioritize increasing gender equity, youth participation, and job creation by promoting inclusive agricultural technologies and innovations. Finally, organizations seek to strengthen policy coherence and enhance data-driven decision-making processes, aligning national and regional strategies with local needs to ensure effective, sustainable solutions.</p> <p><b><u>Component 2: Regional capacity strengthening</u></b> Centers aim to enhance regional resilience, institutional capacity, and sustainable agricultural systems. Expected outcomes include improved climate risk management, adaptive planning, and food systems; increased access to CSA innovations and nutrient-rich foods; gender-inclusive and youth-focused solutions; strengthened policy coherence; and scalable and sustainable market systems.</p> <p><b><u>Component 3: Scaling inclusive uptake</u></b></p>

			<p>The Centers aim to transform agriculture by increasing the adoption of CSA and CIS through tailored advisories and digital tools. They will prioritize strengthening value chains and empowering women and youth to actively participate in agriculture while improving access to finance, high-quality inputs, and scalable CSA technologies. These efforts focus on enhancing climate resilience, soil health, and agricultural productivity. By promoting inclusive, sustainable agricultural systems supported by community-led scaling, private-sector engagement, and evidence-based decision-making, the initiatives aim to drive long-term resilience and equity in agriculture across Africa.</p> <p><b>Component 4: Boosting human capital development</b></p> <p>This new component aims to enhance human capital and improve research and innovation capacity in participating SSA countries, focusing in the areas of a) digital b) agriculture, with focus on food and nutritional security c) water and d) energy, through developing critical skills, creating jobs, and accelerating innovation in agriculture for climate adaptation and mitigation. Partnerships with leading regional educational institutions will incentivize youth to remain in Africa, while incubator and accelerator programs will support climate- and nutrition-smart innovations. A digital farming school will enhance access to training and tools, with targeted efforts to empower underserved groups, including young female innovators, youth from traditional communities, and persons with disabilities. These initiatives aim to foster a skilled, inclusive workforce and drive transformative agricultural solutions.</p>
<p>January 17th, 2025 (Virtual meeting with <i>icipe</i>)</p>	<p><i>icipe</i> Alliance</p>	<p>15 participants (5 women)</p>	<p>The AICCRA Director provided an overview to the <i>icipe</i> team on the plan for finalizing the concept note includes key tasks, responsibilities, and deadlines across several areas of work, in close collaboration between the AICCRA team and <i>icipe</i>, with support from the World Bank team.</p> <p><b>Key areas of work and responsibilities</b></p> <p><b>Narrative development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide contextual analysis on the regional innovation ecosystem (public and private sector).</li> <li>• Present evidence-based linkages between nutrition and climate change.</li> <li>• Led by: AICCRA team and <i>icipe</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Component descriptions refinement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refine component descriptions with concrete activities to reduce redundancies.</li> <li>• Clarify geographical scope and activity locations.</li> <li>• Initiate budgeting for each component.</li> <li>• Led by: AICCRA team and <i>icipe</i></li> <li>• World Bank to coordinate with Education and Health &amp; Nutrition teams for support.</li> </ul> <p><b>Results framework and M&amp;E</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reformulate the Project Development Objective (PDO) based on guidance from the Decision Note.</li> <li>• Develop a Theory of Change with clearly defined assumptions.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose results indicators and targets.</li> <li><i>Led by: AICCRA team and icipe</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Fiduciary and Environmental/Social Safeguards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Fiduciary:</b> <i>icipe</i> to designate focal points for Financial Management and Procurement, with support from AICCRA and WB Specialists.</li> <li><b>Environmental &amp; Social Framework:</b> <i>icipe</i> to appoint focal points for Environmental and Social standards, supported by AICCRA E&amp;S team and WB, including stakeholder consultation planning.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cross-Cutting Areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a Gender Action Plan.</li> <li>Prepare an ex-ante Economic and Financial Analysis, drawing from the existing AICCRA EFA as a reference.</li> <li>Define implementation arrangements that empower <i>icipe</i> while ensuring capacity transfer from the AICCRA team.</li> <li>Identify key partners for upcoming PPAs.</li> <li><i>Led by: AICCRA team and icipe</i></li> <li><i>World Bank to organize CG Centre meetings and begin engagement with Legal and Disbursement teams.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Co-Financing and Partnerships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BMGF remains interested but has not yet confirmed; Ana Maria will join design meetings in a personal capacity.</li> <li>WB to follow up with OCP regarding Component 4 and explore the possibility of a visit to Morocco.</li> </ul> <p><b>Timeline and Coordination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The next mission is tentatively scheduled for early March (before March 17), preferably in West Africa.</li> <li>In the lead-up, virtual working sessions or “mini-workshops” will be organized.</li> <li>WB will send an invite for a coordination call during the week of January 13.</li> <li>AICCRA and <i>icipe</i> will propose a sustained timeline for key areas: narrative development, component refinement, M&amp;E framework, safeguards, and implementation arrangements.</li> </ul> <p>Negotiations are currently expected in the second half of June 2025, with the WB team working to secure an extended deadline where possible. The AICCRA team and <i>icipe</i> have agreed on the way forward for implementation.</p>
<p><b>March 10-14, 2025: AICCRA-FSRP Phase 4 preparation mission in Senegal</b></p>	<p><i>icipe</i> Alliance IITA AfricaRice ILRI UM6P Gates Foundation World Bank WB FSRPs</p>	<p><b>45 participants</b></p>	<p>Here are the conclusion of the preparation mission in Dakar. Several components are being revised or developed, including component descriptions, regional proposals such as the Soil Health and Fertility Hub, gender and social inclusion annexes, and implementation arrangements with regional partners. Multiple actors are involved, notably <i>icipe</i>, UM6P, and the World Bank, with clear leads assigned to each activity. Workshops, proposal revisions, and assessments are scheduled through April</p>

	<b>AGHRYMET</b>		<p>and May, with coordination facilitated through regular meetings and communications among team members.</p> <p>Several important processes are still underway or pending input, such as finalizing the Theory of Change (TOC), indicator development and target-setting, and stakeholder engagement plans. Notably, some activities have been rescheduled to accommodate evolving inputs, such as the workshop with universities and revisions to the UM6P proposal. The document also notes the completion of the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) and the ongoing preparation of the draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). Bilateral meetings with donors and partners like the Gates Foundation and the World Bank are being arranged to align priorities, especially on gender-transformative approaches.</p>
<p><b>March 17-19 March, 2025:</b>  <b>Visit to Morocco to discuss UM6P contribution to component 4</b></p>	<p><i>icipe</i>  ILRI  ILRI (1)  IITA (1)  Alliance (1)  <i>icipe</i> (2)  World Bank (4)  UM6P (6)</p>	<p><b>15 participants</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visit of UM6P facilities and infrastructure from their Bengerir site</li> <li>• Presentation of UM6P model for human capital development, including overall vision and ambition as lighthouse University for Africa, high graduate programs based on demand, etc.</li> <li>• Presentation of their incubator model</li> <li>• Etc.</li> </ul>

**Annex 2: Sample complaint form**

AICCRA-FSRP Phase 4 <b>GRIEVANCE/COMPLAINT FORM</b>	
<b>Section 1: Complaint</b>	
1. What harm do you believe AICCRA-FSRP Phase 4 caused or is likely to cause to you or your community? Please describe in as much detail as possible.	
2. What location is concerned with your submission? (Please include country/county name)	
3. Do you live in the project area?	
4. Have you previously reported your concerns to management? If yes, please provide the details about those communications and explain why you are not satisfied with the action in response.	
5. If known, please list the operational procedures you believe have been violated by AICCRA-FSRP IV.	
6. Do you expect any form of retaliation or threats for filing this complaint to the project?	
<b>Section 2: contact information</b>	
7. Are you filing an individual submission or representing a community? Individual: <input type="checkbox"/> Representing a community: <input type="checkbox"/>	

8. Would you like your name and contact details to be kept confidential? (AICCRA-FSRP Phase 4 *will not disclose your identities to anyone without your prior consent.*) Yes  No

9. Submitter's Name & contact information:

**Name:**

**Address:**

**Email:**

**Phone:**

Preferred Method of Contact:

10. I, the undersigned, request the AICCRA-FSRP Phase 4 Grievance Resolution Committee to investigate the issues described above.

11. Signature/Thumbprint

Name:

Date

NOTES:

- Please attach supporting documents, if available.

**Section 3: Office Use Only**

Grievance ID Number

Recorded by:

Date

Place/Method grievance was received

### Annex 3: Sample Complaint Acknowledgement Letter

[Your contact information here]

[Date]

[Complainant's name or the name of the organization submitting the complaint if the complainant wishes to remain anonymous]

[Complainant's address or "No physical address"]

Submitted \_\_\_\_\_ [in person or by mail/e-mail/telephone]

Dear Mr./Mrs./Ms. [family name of complainant]:

Re: Complaint regarding [describe briefly]

The Project acknowledges that we received your complaint dated \_\_\_\_\_ [date]. The Project takes stakeholders concerns seriously, and we thank you for submitting your complaint. We will make every effort to ensure that your complaint is considered quickly and fairly.

The Project has a grievance mechanism process that we follow to consider and resolve complaints. Attached is a description of the process, so you can learn more about it. In accordance with our grievance mechanism procedures, we will determine whether your complaint is eligible for our grievance resolution process and consider next steps, as relevant. We will contact you during this period should we need more information.

You can expect to hear from us within [xx] business days from the date of this letter.

Please refer to the attached grievance mechanism procedures for more information on what you can expect as we address your complaint, including timeframes, responsibilities, and your rights throughout the process.

Sincerely,

[Name of Safeguard Focal Person]

[Research Institution]

Enclosure: (The relevant procedures on submitting grievances)

**Annex 4: Complainant Satisfaction Form**

Grievance ID Number:	Date Received:
Recorded by:	Place/Method Grievance was Received
Proposed Action (s)	
The claimant has ACCEPTED/SATISFIED the proposed action? YES/NO	
Further Action Required? YES/NO	
Complainant Acknowledgement	
I, the undersigned, hereby confirms my satisfaction/acceptance of resolution actions implemented to address my complaint.	
Signature/Thumbprint	
Name:	Date

**Annex 6: Grievance Log Sheet**

Case no.	Date Claim Received	Name of Person Receiving Complaint	Where/how the complaint was received	Name & contact details of complainant (if known)	Type of Claim  Add content of the claim (include all grievances, suggestions, inquiries)	Was Receipt of Complaint Acknowledged to the Complainant?  (Y/N – if yes, include date, method of communication & by	Expected Decision Date	Decision Outcome  (include names of participants and date of decision)	Was Decision communicated to complainant? Y/N  If yes, state when, by whom and via what method of communication	Was the complainant satisfied with the decision? Y/N  State the decision.  If no, explain why and if	Any follow up action (and by whom, by what date)?

## Endnotes

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<sup>i</sup> For the purposes of effective and tailored engagement, stakeholders of the proposed project(s) can be divided into the following core categories:

- **Affected Parties:** Persons, groups, and other entities within the Project Area of Influence (PAI) that are directly influenced (actually or potentially) by the project and/or have been identified as most susceptible to change associated with the project, and who need to be closely engaged in identifying impacts and their significance, as well as in decision-making on mitigation and management measures.
- **Other Interested Parties:** Individuals/groups/entities that may not experience direct impacts from the Project but who consider or perceive their interests as being affected by the project and/or who could affect the project and the process of its implementation in some way.
- **Vulnerable Groups:** Persons who may be disproportionately impacted or further disadvantaged by the project(s) compared with any other groups due to their vulnerable status and that may require special engagement efforts to ensure their equal representation in the consultation and decision-making process associated with the project.
- It is important to note that sometimes projects have different components with very different sets of stakeholders for each component. Those different stakeholders should be considered in preparing the SEP.

<sup>ii</sup> It is particularly important to understand whether project impacts may disproportionately fall on disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals or groups, who often do not have a voice to express their concerns or understand the impacts of a project, and to ensure that awareness raising and stakeholder engagement be adapted to take into account such groups' or individuals' particular sensitivities, concerns, and cultural sensitivities and to ensure a full understanding of project activities and benefits. Engagement with vulnerable groups and individuals often requires the application of specific measures and assistance aimed at the facilitation of their participation in the project-related decision making so that their awareness of and input into the overall process are commensurate with those of other stakeholders.