

CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

June 5, 2017

[APPROVED BY MAIL]: DPSP II: DOMINICA: GEOTHERMAL RISK MITIGATION (WORLD BANK) (CTF) - XCTFDM619A

WORLD BANK RESPONSE TO COMMENTS FROM UNITED STATES

The existing production well is in the proximity of the Mounne Trois Pitons Natural Park, which was declared as an UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997. As a result, the geothermal power plant and the associated reinjection lines to be constructed under the project are expected to be located on the periphery of the Park. Exact locations for these facilities remain to be confirmed and will be defined during project preparation so as to minimize environmental impacts, among the other things. It should be noted that a small geothermal power plant as the one envisaged under the proposed project has a very limited environmental footprint and overall the project is expected to be beneficial as it will displace more than half of the existing polluting diesel generation capacity. Nonetheless, the project has been attributed with a Safeguards category A, because of the proximity to a World Heritage Site as well as because its direct area of influence could be located in high value biodiversity areas. (See link to PID/ISDS [here](#)). The preparation of the ESIA, which will include the ESMS, will begin soon and it is expected to be completed by October 2017 and disclosed at least 120 days ahead of project approval by the Bank's Board of Directors.

The terms of reference (ToRs) for the ESIA, which include a Biodiversity Assessment, have been attentively reviewed by the World Bank and approved by the Regional Safeguard Advisor, who will monitor closely the preparation of safeguard instruments and the setting up of the ESMS. The project implementing agency, the Dominica Geothermal Development Company, has enlisted the services of Jacobs Engineering Group, a global consultancy firm with international experience in geothermal development including safeguard aspects. The firm has been contracted by the Governmental New Zealand (GoNZ), as part of its support to Dominica for project preparation and implementation. Jacobs is working with DGDC's Safeguard Officer and will provide continued support and capacity building for safeguards throughout project preparation and implementation as needed. The high-quality of the ESIA ToRs signals that their support is being very effective.