Initial Project Summary – Puerto Antioquia

Project Location: Urabá, Colombia

Name of Applicant: PiO SAS

Name of Project: Puerto Antioquia

Project Description: The Project involves the development, construction and operation of a multi-purpose port facility for handling containers, dry bulks, general cargos and roll-on roll-off cargo, located near the city of Turbo, on the Gulf of Uraba, in the northern part of the Department of Antioquia. The Project consists of: an offshore marine terminal, an onshore logistics area on the banks of the Leon River, a 4 km trestle with bridge that connects the offshore and onshore areas, an onshore bridge over the Leon River, an approximately 2.5 km access road from the onshore terminal to the town of Nueva Colonia, worker housing for 400 workers, and an approximately 4 km transmission line from the Nueva Colonia substation to the port. EPM, the national electricity authority, is planning to construct a longer transmission line to connect the Nueva Colonia substation to Turbo. Details regarding the route and potential impacts of this EPM transmission line will be reviewed once known. The Project is considering construction of new roads for port traffic during the operational phase. The road alternatives being considered vary between 7.5 and 11.5 km in length and would pass primarily through banana plantations, minimizing potential impacts to communities.

A 30-year concession for the Project from the Agencia Nacional de Infraestructura (ANI) has been granted for the exclusive use of an offshore area of 130 ha; onshore facilities will be on 38 ha of private land. The land site is currently a green field used for agricultural/cattle management purposes. The surface area of the offshore facility will be 12.8 ha. To connect the offshore viaduct with the onshore terminal, the Project will build a bridge over the Leon River and a 778 m long – 20 m wide road. This road that will be constructed will affect 1.55 ha of land pertaining to the Protected Area (PA) Reserva Forestal Protectora de los Humedales entre los ríos León y Suriquí. The area presents mangroves habitats and different species of relevant importance for the local ecosystem. The degree of project impacts to artisanal fishing activities in the Gulf of Uraba is being assessed.

Acquisition of the onshore land involved resettlement of the El Canal Community. The relocation of 33 out of 35 households was carried out in 2015. Negotiations with the remaining two households are ongoing and resettlement is expected to occur in the near future. In addition to the El Canal Community, the community of Nueva Colonia will be directly impacted by the Project. In March 2018, the Ministry of Interior recognized and officially registered the Consejo Mayor de Comunidades Negras de Nueva Colonia-COMANUNCO as an Afro-descendent community. Other communities in the Project area of influence include Puerto Girón and Rio Grande. Puerto Girón is an Afro-descendent community officially recognized by the Colombian Government in 2013 and located 1.7 km upstream of the project area on the right bank of the Rio Leon. The community of Rio Grande, which is located 9.5 km from the port site, will be impacted by traffic from the Project.

Environmental and Social Categorization and Rationale: The Project has been reviewed against OPIC’s categorical prohibitions and determined to be categorically eligible. The Project is screened as Category A because potential impacts are diverse and irreversible. The major environmental and social concerns associated with the Project are related to physical resettlement and economic displacement; impacts to
Indigenous Peoples; impacts to biodiversity; community health and safety impacts, particularly due to marked increase in traffic during construction and operation; sediment mobilization and potential adverse impacts on the marine environment due to dredging and dredge spoil disposal; occupational health and safety; and waste management.

Environmental and Social Standards: International Finance Corporation’s (IFC) Performance Standards (January 2012) 1 (Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts), 2 (Labor and Working Conditions), 3 (Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention), 4 (Community Health, Safety and Security), 5 (Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement), 6 (Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Resource Management), 7 (Indigenous Peoples) and 8 (Cultural Heritage). Applicable provisions of the IFC General Environmental, Health and Safety (EH&S) Guidelines and EH&S Guidelines for Ports, Harbors and Terminals also apply to the Project.

Location of Local Access to Project Information: Initial public consultation was carried out during the ESIA process in 2010, and has been followed by additional informational meetings with stakeholders in 2015 as part of the Project’s modification of the Environmental License. The Project has developed a draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan and conducts ongoing meetings with communities. The original Colombian EIA and the Supplemental ESIA Document are available for review at these two locations:

Nueva Colonia Library (FIFES): Carrera 29 # 29-25 barrio 24 de diciembre Nueva Colonia

Camara de Comercio de Apartado: Calle 104 # 101 – 15 Apartado