

Public Information Summary

Host Country(ies)	Nigeria (LMIC), Ghana (LMIC), Senegal (LMIC), Togo (LIC), Benin (LMIC), Ivory Coast (LMIC), Burkina Faso (LIC), Mali (LIC), Sierra Leone (LIC), Kenya (LMIC), Democratic Republic of Congo (LIC), Uganda (LIC), Tanzania (LMIC), Rwanda (LIC), and any other country in which DFC is able to provide support at the time a Disbursement is made and with DFC’s prior consent (after the receipt of any applicable internal DFC approvals and completion of any congressional notification procedures).
Name(s) of Borrower(s)/Guaranteed Party(ies)	Ignitia AB (Sweden)
Project Description	Ignitia is a tropical weather forecasting service designed for smallholder farmers. This is an ASBC transaction.
Proposed DFC Loan/Guaranty	\$1,000,000 USD, direct loan, senior/unsecured
All-Source Funding Total	\$1,000,000 USD (grant/TA resources from USAID and other providers TBD)
Policy Review	
U.S. Economic Impact	This Project exclusively involves the provision of services in the Host Countries. Additionally, there is no U.S. procurement associated with DFC involvement in this transaction. Based on this, DFC-support for this Project does not represent the potential for a significant negative impact on the U.S. economy.
Developmental Objectives	<p>Given its dependence on weather, agriculture is especially vulnerable to the increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather-related and climate-induced events.¹</p> <p>The majority of the population in Sub Saharan Africa lives in rural communities that cannot afford infrastructure to protect against unpredictable and severe weather. Less than 4% of the cultivated land area is equipped for irrigation in sub-Saharan Africa and 97% of staple production is rainfed.²</p> <p>Weather patterns are becoming less favorable to agriculture production in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa, increasing the volatility of crop and livestock yields and leading to higher price volatility for farmers and consumers.³</p>

¹ FAO. [The Impact of Disasters and Crises on Agriculture and Food Security](#). 2021

² FAO. [The State of the World’s Land and Water Resources for Food and Agriculture](#). 2021

³ McKinsey Global Institute. [How will African farmers adjust to changing patterns of precipitation?](#) 2020.

	<p>In sub-Saharan Africa, weather forecasting quality is still generally poor, and rainfall forecasts specifically are likely only marginally useful for much of the year.⁴ Improved weather information is a key tool for climate adaptation in the agricultural sector given the potential to increase resilience, yield, and farmer income.</p> <p>The Borrower uses satellite observations as inputs and runs its own models, which are hyper local and designed for tropical weather conditions, addressing one of the main shortcomings of existing forecasts and resulting in more accurate weather predictions. Farmers pay as little as \$0.04 per forecast message to receive information that influences key decisions during the growing season. For these reasons, the Project is expected to have an exceptional developmental impact.</p>
<p>Environment and Social Assessment</p>	<p>The Project has been reviewed against the DFC’s 2020 Environmental and Social Policies and Procedures manual (“ESPP”) and has been determined to be categorically eligible. DFC direct investments to into companies providing cloud technology products are screened as a Category ‘C’ for environmental and social assessment. The project is expected to result in minimal adverse environmental and social impacts.</p> <p>To ensure that the Project is consistent with the DFC’s statutory and policy requirements, the DFC loan will be subject to conditions regarding the use of proceeds. The primary environmental and social issues identified in this transaction relate to the need for an Environmental and Social Policy (“ESP”) that meets the 2012 IFC Performance Standards, and the requirement of an anonymous internal grievance mechanism.</p> <p>Under the DFC’s ESPP, the Borrower is required to comply with applicable local and national laws and regulations related to environmental and social performance and applicable provisions of the 2012 International Finance Corporation’s Performance Standard (“PS”) 1 and 2. A desk-based due diligence assessment indicates that because the Project will use DFC support for technology application access expansion in Eastern Africa, significant adverse impacts concerning community health and safety, private security, biodiversity, land acquisition and resettlement, indigenous peoples, and cultural heritage are not anticipated; therefore, PS 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are not triggered at this time.</p> <p>The Borrower does not have an environmental and social policy as described in IFC PS 1, has partially aligned grievance mechanisms, and fully aligned human resources policies commensurate with its business size and scale. The Borrower will be required to provide for DFC</p>

⁴ Rethink Priorities. [Better Weather Forecasting: Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Benefits in Low- and Lower-Middle-Income Countries](#), 2023.

	<p>review and approval an environmental and social policy that includes an appointed responsible individual for its management, reporting, and implementation, a process to categorize projects for environmental risks including screening against the DFC prohibited activities list. The Borrower will be required to update its internal grievance mechanism to provide a pathway of anonymous submission.</p>
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