

# Ethnolinguistic Minorities in Southern Angola: Opportunities for Inclusion

Olmos, S.; Begbie-Clench, B.; Bezeredi, A.; Serrat Capdevila, A.; Varghese Paul, B.



**Santiago Olmos**

*World Bank*

*Angola*

[solmos@worldbank.org](mailto:solmos@worldbank.org)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/seolmos/>

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/socialsustainability>



ESS7:  
Indigenous  
Peoples and  
Sub-Saharan  
African  
Historically  
Underserved  
Traditional Local  
Communities

- Environmental and Social Standard 7 (ESS7) of the World Bank's *Environmental and Social Framework* (ESF) aims to ensure that project interventions respect the rights, culture and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and promote their participation in projects while avoiding adverse impacts

## Core Features of ESS7

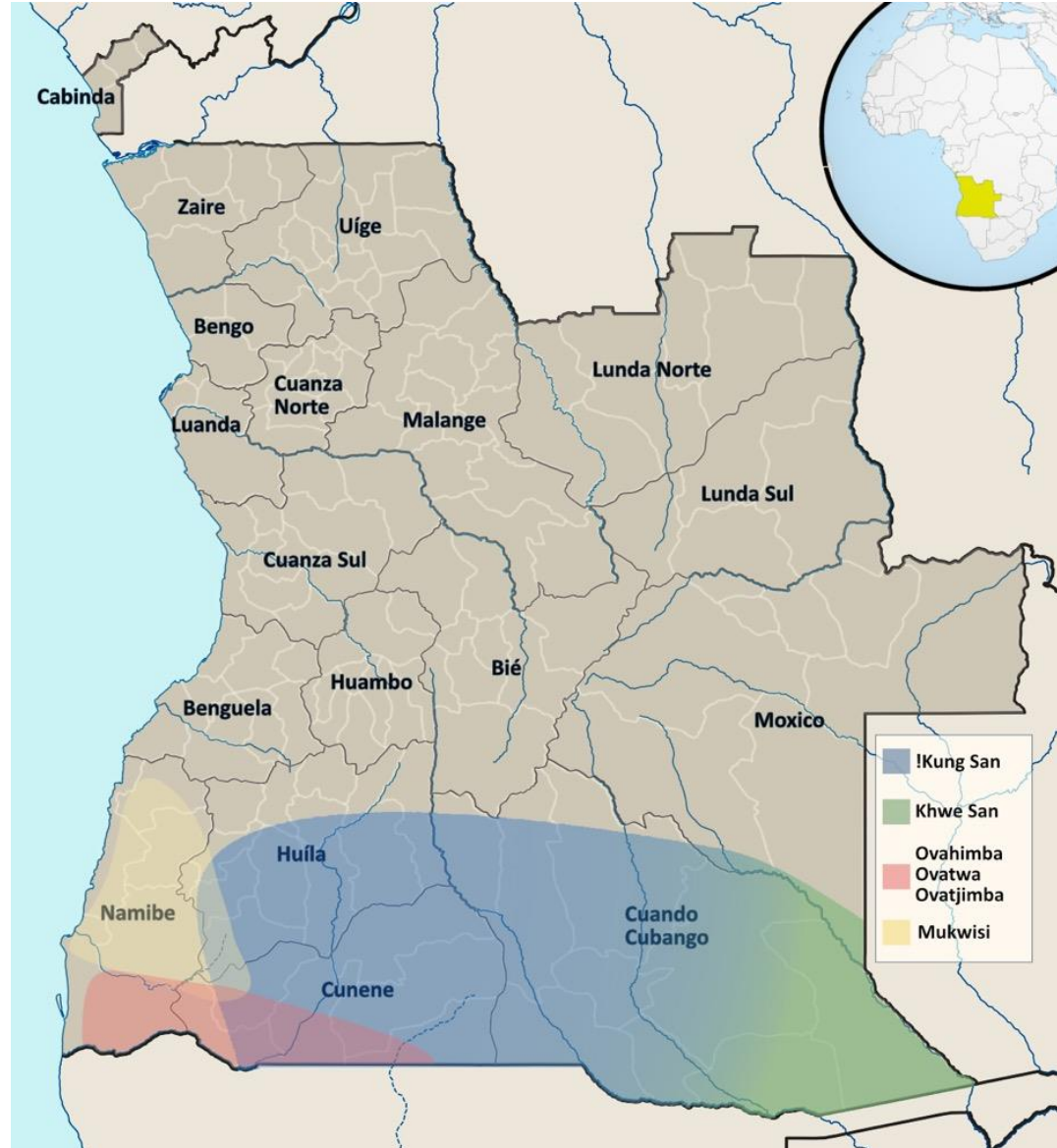
- Higher standards of community consultation
- Need for Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) where a project:
  - has adverse impacts on land/natural resources used; or
  - causes relocation from traditional territory; or
  - has significant impacts on the group's cultural heritage

ESS7 and  
*Minorias  
Etnolinguísticas*  
in Angola

- Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities (IP/SSAHUTLCs): terminology varies from country to country
- These groups are identified by four criteria:
  - self-identification as members of a distinct social and cultural group (and recognition of this by others);
  - collective attachment to land/resources;
  - customary institutions distinct from those of the mainstream society; and
  - distinct language
- IP/SSAHUTLCs are referred to as *Minorias Etnolinguísticas* (“Ethnolinguistic Minorities”) by the Government of Angola

# Minorias Etnolinguísticas in Angola

- Present mainly in Namibe, Cunene, Huíla and Cuando Cubango
- Hunter-gatherers in transition and nomadic/semi-nomadic pastoralists.
- Amongst Angola's earliest inhabitants
- Some of the country's most marginalised and remote communities



## ESS7 Groups in Angola

The **San**, who are related groups of hunter-gatherers in transition, are present in Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe – longest-standing inhabitants of southern Africa

Angolan San are !Xun and smaller populations of Khwe (differing languages, culture)

The **MuKwisi**, a group who have transitioned from traditional livelihoods to providing labour for other groups and subsistence agriculture

**Semi-nomadic pastoralists:** Herero-speaking groups including the Ovahimba, Ovatjimba, Ovatwa, Ovazemba

# Regional Overview – Southern Africa

	Angola	Botswana	Namibia	South Africa	Zambia	Zimbabwe
Populations meeting ESS7 criteria	San ±12,000-20,000? Pastoralists ±20,00-40,000?	San ±60,000-70,000?	San ±40,000-50,000? Pastoralists ±7,500 -15,000?	San ±10,000-20,000? Khoisan ±30,000?+	San ±500-2,000? Forest peoples ±2,000?+	San ±1,500-2,000 Doma ±1,000-2,000
State terminology for IPs	<i>Minorias etnolingüísticas</i>	Remote Area Dwellers (Basarwa)	Marginalised communities > Indigenous Minorities	Khoisan / San	<i>San</i>	Marginalised communities (San/Vadoma)
Policy	N/A	Remote Area Dwellers Programme	Draft White Paper on Indigenous Minorities	Traditional and Khoi-San Leadership Act 3 of 2019	N/A	N/A
Specific Government Department?	No	Remote Area Dweller Programme MLG	Yes, Division Marginalised Communities	Under Dept. for Traditional Affairs	No	MLG
Status	Highly marginalised/ little data	Marginalised but progressing	Marginalised but progressing	Marginalised but progressing	Highly marginalised/ very little data	Highly marginalised

# Key Socio-economic Challenges

---

- Low indicators across issues, including:
  - access to services and ID documents;
  - land tenure;
  - education;
  - health care;
  - food and water security
- Comparable to other vulnerable groups, but due to minority status they often experience greater poverty and less inclusion





# Barriers to Engagement

- Lack of demographic/socioeconomic data;
- Remote to extremely remote areas;
- Poor infrastructure;
- Limited government engagement;
- Limited coverage by civil society organisations; and
- Limited experience and capacity for engaging with ESS7 groups in Angola



# Engagement in Remote Communities of Southern Angola

- ESS7 Screening and community consultations carried out in Namibe, Huíla and Cunene provinces
- Research on the impacts of drought



# Climate Vulnerability

- Drought impacts:

- Severe effects on traditional livelihoods;
- Large numbers of livestock deaths in 2019-2020;
- Increase in livestock theft;
- High food insecurity;
- Reports of villages abandoned – ±2,500-3,000 crossed over to Namibia for food and water





# Development of Frameworks and Plans

---

- Indigenous People's Planning Frameworks (IPPFs): developed for several projects during preparation phase – guidance document
- Indigenous Peoples Plans (IPPs): more specific measures addressing clearly-defined project activities

# Opportunities for Interventions

---

- Land titling
- Income generation/productive inclusion
- Improve access to birth certificates/identification documents
- Scholarships and training opportunities
- GBV prevention
- Increase water access for human consumption and livestock
- Targeted support for households/communities affected by climate shocks

# Discussion

- How to engage more meaningfully with *minorias etnolingüísticas* and other vulnerable groups in the context of development projects?
  - More than consultation is needed
  - Inclusion in the design of interventions is crucial – e.g., response to climate shocks
  - Project interventions must result in tangible benefits for these communities
  - Learnings from other jurisdictions – opportunities for collaboration and avoiding the same mistakes
  - Representation and influence amongst policy-makers is important



# Let's continue the conversation!

Post questions and comments in the IAIA24 app.



**#iaia24**

**Santiago Olmos**

*World Bank*

*Angola*

[solmos@worldbank.org](mailto:solmos@worldbank.org)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/seolmos/>

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/socialsustainability>