

February 19, 2025

Mr. Vineet Kumar
Program Manager
PIU-PWD, U-PREPARE

**Subject: Uttarakhand Disaster Preparedness and Resilience Project (U-PREPARE)
Land Compensation and Resettlement Action Plan (RAP)**

Dear Mr. Kumar,

I am writing in response to your letter dated **January 31, 2025**, regarding the **Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) issues** for the five bridge contracts. As my colleague, **Ms. Mridula Singh**, explained during her recent visit to the project, compliance with the **World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) is required**.

To clarify the Bank's policy on activities undertaken before the project agreement is signed, I am sharing relevant excerpts from the ESF:

Environmental and Social Standard 1 (ESS1) – Paragraph 18: *"If the project comprises or includes existing facilities or existing activities that do not meet the requirements of the ESSs at the time of approval by the Bank, the Bank will require the Borrower, as part of the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), to adopt and implement measures satisfactory to the Bank so that the material aspects of such facilities or activities meet the requirements of the ESSs within a timeframe acceptable to the Bank."*

In line with this provision, the **Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)** mandates the **preparation, disclosure, and implementation** of the **RAP** to ensure compliance.

Given that the land has already been purchased, we kindly request you to provide the following information by **February 26, 2025**:

1. The **Government Order** detailing the procedure used to determine the base value for negotiated land purchases.
2. The **procedures followed** to inform landowners about the land required for the sub-project, along with supporting documents.
3. **Minutes of negotiation meetings** held with landowners.
4. The **method of payment** for the land.
5. Details on the **disbursement of livelihood assistance**, as per the project's **Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF)**.

Please share the requested information within the specified timeframe to facilitate compliance with the Bank's policies. Should you require any clarification, feel free to reach out to me (wfang1@worldbank.org) and Mr. Ashraful Islam (bislam@worldbank.org).

Yours sincerely,



Wanli Fang
Senior Urban Specialist / Task Team Leader
World Bank

Mr. Vinod Kumar Suman, Secretary, Disaster Management, Government of Uttarakhand
Mr. S. K. Birla, Additional Project Director, U-PREPARE