

Ministry of Environment
RESILAND: *Armenia Resilient Landscapes*
Project (P179988)

Project Preparation Grant

**ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL
COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)**

June 30, 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Ministry of Environment (“the Recipient”) is planning to implement the proposed RESILAND: Armenia Resilient Landscapes Project (“the Project”), for which the Recipient has requested a Project Preparation Grant (PPG), as set out in the PPG Agreement. The proposed Project is financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and co-financed from Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (“the Bank”) acting as the implementing entity of the Global Environment Facility, has agreed to provide the PPG to finance activities (“the Activities”) related to the preparation of the Project, as set out in the referred Agreement. PPG will be implemented by the Recipient with the involvement of the Environmental Project Implementation Unit (EPIU).
2. The Recipient shall ensure that the Activities are carried out in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (“ESSs”) and this Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (“ESCP”), in a manner acceptable to the Bank. The ESCP is a part of the PPG agreement. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the referred agreement(s).
3. Without limitation to the foregoing, this ESCP sets out material measures and actions that the Recipient shall carry out or cause to be carried out, including, as applicable, the timeframes of the actions and measures, institutional, staffing, training, monitoring, and reporting arrangements, and grievance management. The ESCP also sets out the environmental and social (“E&S”) instruments that shall be adopted under the Activities, all of which shall be subject to prior consultation and disclosure, consistent with the ESSs and in form and substance, and in a manner acceptable to the Bank.
4. As agreed by the Bank and the Recipient, this ESCP will be revised from time to time if necessary, during the implementation of the Activities, to reflect adaptive management of changes and unforeseen circumstances related to the Activities or in response to assessment of performance of the Activities. In such circumstances, the Recipient through EPIU and the Bank agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Bank and the Recipient. The Recipient shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

| MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS | | TIMEFRAME | RESPONSIBLE ENTITY |
|---|--|---|---|
| MONITORING AND REPORTING | | | |
| A | <p>REGULAR REPORTING</p> <p>Prepare and submit to the Bank monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) performance of the Activities, including but not limited to the implementation of the ESCP, status of E&S instruments under preparation, stakeholder engagement activities, log and status of any complaints received, and report and status of any incidents.</p> | Submit monthly monitoring reports to the Bank during implementation of the Activities, commencing after the Date of PPG Agreement. Submit each report to the Bank no later than 15 days after the end of each reporting period. | EPIU will be responsible for funding and submitting ESHS performance reports for review, discussion and agreement with the Bank |
| B | <p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <p>Promptly notify the Bank of any incident or accident related to the Activities which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public or workers, including, inter alia, cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH), and accidents that result in death, serious or multiple injury. Provide sufficient detail regarding the scope, severity, and possible causes of the incident or accident, indicating immediate measures taken or that are planned to be taken to address it, and any information provided by any contractor and/or supervising firm, as appropriate.</p> <p>Subsequently, at the Bank's request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to address it and prevent its recurrence.</p> | <p>Notify the Bank no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident.</p> <p>Provide subsequent report to the Bank within a timeframe acceptable to the Bank.</p> | EPIU |
| ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS | | | |
| 1.1 | <p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>Appoint an environmental specialist and a social specialist to support the preparation of the Project and management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Activities.</p> <p>Establish an E&S Management Information and Reporting System.</p> | Appoint the environmental and social specialists no later than 15 days after the Date of PPG Agreement, and thereafter maintain these positions throughout the implementation of the Activities. | EPIU |
| 1.2 | <p>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</p> <p>Ensure that the consultancies, studies (including feasibility studies, if applicable), capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance carried out as part of the Activities, including, inter alia, conduct of chemical tests of the excess material deposited at the project sites and preparation of site-specific environmental and social management plans, are carried out in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Bank, that are consistent with the relevant ESSs. Thereafter ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the terms of reference.</p> | Throughout implementation of the Activities. | EPIU |

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| 1.3 | <p>MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS</p> <p>Prepare the following E&S management instruments for the Project, all in agreement with the national regulations, consistent with the relevant ESSs of the Bank, and aligned with Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines of the World Bank Group (EHSG):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental and Social Commitment Plan - Stakeholder Engagement Plan - Labor Management Procedures - Environmental and Social Management Plans for the afforestation of two sites with legacy deposits of access material from mining - Environmental and social risk and impact screening tool for the inclusion into the Project Operations Manual | Draft management tools and instruments in Armenian and English languages, disclose, and conduct stakeholder consultation prior to End Date of PPG Agreement | EPIU |
| ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS | | | |
| 2 | <p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <p>Ensure that workers are engaged in the implementation of the Activities consistent with ESS2.</p> <p>To this end, ensure that the following measures are carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provide workers with information and documentation that is clear and understandable regarding their terms and conditions of employment through written contracts setting out their rights, including, inter alia, rights related to hours of work, wages, overtime, compensation and benefits, as well as written notice of termination of employment, and details of severance payments, as applicable; b) Implement occupational health and safety (including personal protective equipment, and emergency preparedness and response) measures, taking into account the General EHSG; c) Implement measures, as applicable, to, inter alia: (i) prevent the use of all forms of forced labor and child labor; (ii) enable workers to benefit from, inter alia, access to grievance and redress mechanisms without fear of retaliation; and effective freedom to form and join workers organizations or alternative mechanisms for expressing their concerns and protect their rights related to labour and working conditions; | Carry out the measures throughout the implementation of the Activities. | EPIU |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d) Develop a code of conduct for workers, which shall include, inter alia, measures to prevent and respond to SEA and SH cases; and e) Incorporate the above requirements in the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with consultant to be engaged in the implementation of the Activities. | | |
| ESS 3, ESS 4, ESS 5, ESS 6, and ESS 8 | | | |
| | Technical assistance referenced in action 1.2. above shall be delivered in consistency with relevant aspects of these standards. | Same timeframe as for action 1.2. | EPIU |
| ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE | | | |
| 10.1 | <p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</p> <p>Incorporate stakeholder engagement and information disclosure measures in the implementation of the Activities, in a manner consistent with ESS10.</p> <p>To this end, ensure that the following measures are implemented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Provide stakeholders with information about the environmental and social risks and impacts of the Activities in a timely, understandable, accessible, and appropriate manner and format, including but not limited to any environmental and social instruments prepared as part of the Activities [consider specifying where such information shall be available e.g., the Activities sites, government offices, websites, etc.]; b) Consult stakeholders in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation, including with regards to any environmental and social instruments prepared as part of the Activities; c) Document the stakeholder engagement activities as part of the preparation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, including: (i) stakeholder mapping; (ii) description of consultations and participation mechanisms utilized, and records of meetings held; (ii) feedback received and responses to said feedback; and (iv) measures to engage stakeholders who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable. | Implement the stakeholder engagement activities throughout the implementation of the Activities. | EPIU |

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| 10.2 | GRIEVANCES Receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the Activities, promptly and effectively, in a transparent manner that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible to all parties affected by the Activities, at no cost and without retribution, including concerns and grievances filed anonymously, in a manner consistent with ESS10. | Throughout implementation of the Activities. | EPIU |