

Republic of Armenia
Ministry of Territorial Administration and
Infrastructure

Armenia Water and Irrigation Services
Enhancement Program- Phase 1 Project
(P508124)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL
COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

Appraisal Version

April 16, 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Armenia (“Borrower”) will implement the Armenia Water and Irrigation Services Enhancement Program – Phase 1 Project (“Project”) of the Multi-phase Programmatic Approach, with the involvement of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure (MTAI) and its Water Committee as set out in the Loan Agreement (the “Agreement”). The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the “Bank”) has agreed to provide financing for the Project, as set out in Agreement.
2. The Borrower shall ensure that the Project is 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 Agreement. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreement.
3. Without limitation to the foregoing, this ESCP sets out material measures and actions that the Borrower shall carry out or cause to be carried out, including, as applicable, their respective timeframes; institutional, staffing, training, monitoring and reporting arrangements; and grievance management. The ESCP also sets out the environmental and social (E&S) documents that shall be prepared or updated, consulted, disclosed and implemented under the Project, consistent with the ESSs, in form and substance acceptable to the Bank. Said E&S documents may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Bank. As provided for under the referred Agreement, the Borrower shall ensure that there are sufficient funds available to cover the costs of implementing the ESCP.
4. As agreed by the Bank and the Borrower, this ESCP will be revised from time to time, if necessary, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes or unforeseen circumstances or in response to Project performance. In such circumstances, the Bank and the Borrower agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Bank and the WC of the MTAI as the Borrower’s Representative specified in the Agreement. The Borrower shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
5. The subsection on “Indicators for Implementation Readiness” below identifies the actions and measures to be monitored to assess Project readiness to begin implementation in accordance with this ESCP. Nevertheless, all actions and measures in this ESCP shall be implemented as set out in the “Timeframe” column below irrespective of whether they are listed in the referred subsection.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND CAPACITY SUPPORT			
A	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>a. Establish and maintain a Project Coordination Team (PCT) within MTAI/WC that is tasked with E&S management, covering sub-project level activity E&S assessment and instrument preparation, supervision, capacity building and overall reporting. The team shall be equipped with qualified staff and resources to effectively manage the environmental, social, health and safety aspects of the Project. At a minimum, it shall include one environmental specialist, one social specialist, one gender specialist and one occupational and health and safety (OHS) specialist.</p> <p>b. Enter into cooperation with relevant government agencies both at the national level: Ministries of Finance, Economy, Environment, labor and Social Issues, Environmental Impact Expertise Center, Health and Labor Inspection Body, Environmental Protection and Mining Inspection Body, etc. and at regional level: Aragatsotn, Armavir, Kotayk, Lori and Kotayk Regional Administrations as well as non-government organizations to manage E&S risks and impacts of the Project.</p>	<p>a. Establish the PCT and hire E&S specialists and a gender specialist by not later than 45 days after the Effective Date. Hire an OHS specialist prior to the start of civil works. Maintain the PCT and the E&S positions throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>b. Prior to the start of cooperation arrangements for relevant Project activities.</p>	PCT
B	<p>CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN/MEASURES</p> <p>Prepare, adopt, and implement the capacity building plan as part of the Project's Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Project Operations Manual (POM), including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> training for PCT staff, relevant government stakeholders, Water User Associations (WUAs), contractors, and supervision engineers on key E&S aspects of the Project. This will cover project and sub-project level activities' environmental and social impact assessment (ESIAs) and environmental and social management plans (ESMPs), Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), Community Health and Safety (CHS), emergency preparedness and response, stakeholder engagement, prevention and management of Sexual Exploitation or Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH), and grievance management. community engagement sessions and awareness programs on relevant E&S aspects of the Project to promote safer Project implementation and ensure affected communities understand their rights and available support systems. 	Adopt by not later than 3 (three) months after the Effective Date and thereafter maintain throughout the implementation of the Project.	PCT
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
C	REGULAR REPORTING		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
<p>Prepare and submit to the Bank regular monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health and safety (E&S) performance of the Project. The reports shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • status of preparation and implementation of E&S documents required under the ESMF, Resettlement Framework (RF) and ESCP. • summary of stakeholder engagement activities carried out as per the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) covering engagement at the Project and sub-project levels activities. • complaints submitted to the Project’s feedback and grievance redress mechanism(s) (FGRM), the grievance log, and progress made in resolving them. • E&S performance of contractors and subcontractors as reported through monthly contractors’ and supervision firms’ reports. • number and status of resolution of incidents and accidents reported under action E below and other cases of non-compliance as determined by the World Bank. • status of capacity building activities under action B above. 	<p>Submit quarterly monitoring reports to the Bank throughout Project implementation, commencing after the Effective Date not later than 20 Business days after the end of each reporting period. The status of E&S performance shall be synthesized and incorporated into the bi-annual Project progress reports.</p> <p>Submit each semestral progress report to the Bank by not later than 45 business days after the end of each reporting period.</p>	<p>PCT</p>
<p>D CONTRACTORS’ MONTHLY REPORTS</p> <p>Require contractors and supervising firms to provide monthly monitoring reports on E&S performance in accordance with the metrics specified in the respective bidding documents and contracts and submit such reports to the Bank.</p>	<p>Submit the monthly reports to the Bank upon request and as annexes to the reports submitted under action C above.</p>	<p>PCT</p>
<p>E INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <p>a. Notify the Bank of any incident or accident relating to the Project which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public or workers, including those resulting in death or significant injury to workers or the public; acts of violence, discrimination or protest; unforeseen impacts to cultural heritage or biodiversity resources; pollution of the environment; dam failure; forced or child labor; displacement without due process (forced eviction); allegations of SEA/SH or disease outbreaks. Provide available details of the incident or accident to the Bank upon request.</p>	<p>a. Notify the Bank no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident. Provide available details upon request.</p>	<p>PCT</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Arrange for an appropriate review of the incident or accident to establish its immediate, underlying and root causes. Prepare, agree with the Bank, and implement a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) that sets out the measures and actions to be taken to address the incident or accident and prevent its recurrence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Provide review report and CAP to the Bank by not later than 10 days following the submission of the initial notice, unless a different timeframe is agreed in writing by the Bank. 	
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENTS AND/OR PLANS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Finalize, redisclose, and implement the ESMF to guide the overall management of E&S risks and impacts, the preparation of sub-project level activities' assessments, and the development of management plans. Update the ESMF as needed to reflect evolving Project risks, impacts, and any changes in Project activities during implementation. b. Prepare, finalize and implement site-specific ESIA's and corresponding ESMPs, or apply Environmental and Social Codes of Practices (ESCOPs) for low-risk civil works under Parts 2 and 3 of the Project, ensuring alignment with the relevant ESSs. c. Require contractors and subcontractors to develop Construction Environmental and Social Management Plans (C-ESMPs) aligned with the respective ESMP for the works. Ensure that supervision engineers review, approve, and monitor compliance with these plans as part of contract management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Not later than 3 (three) months after the Effective Date and thereafter implement throughout the Project implementation. b. Preparation of site-specific ESIA's and ESMPs during the detailed design phase, to be finalized no later than the initiation of the procurement process for activities under Parts 2 and 3. c. To be completed before the commencement of civil works under Parts 2 and 3 and continuously monitored throughout the implementation of the respective activities. 	PCT

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	<p>d. Develop Terms of Reference (ToRs) for a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) ensuring alignment with the scope of regulatory reforms and national strategy development for the irrigation and prepare the assessment to guide the management of downstream E&S risks and impacts associated with policy reforms and the development of the national water, national irrigation and rural water supply and sanitation strategies.</p>	<p>d. ToRs to be prepared prior to the initiation of regulatory reforms and strategy development. SESA to be initiated prior to the implementation of the Technical Assistance (TA) activities under Part 1.</p>	
1.2	<p>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</p> <p>Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the relevant E&S assessments or plans, the Labor Management Procedures (LMPs), and code of conduct, into the E&S specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply and that they require their sub-contractors to comply with the E&S specifications of their respective contracts in their C-ESMPs. Provide copies of the relevant contracts with contractors/subcontractors and supervision firms to the Bank.</p>	<p>As part of the preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts. Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation. Copies of relevant contracts provided to the Bank upon request.</p>	PCT.
1.3	<p>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</p> <p>Carry out the consultancies, studies including feasibility studies and detailed design development for Phase 2 of the MPA), capacity building, training, and any other TA activities under the Project including policy reform and strategy development, and training activities to stakeholders in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Bank, that are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter prepare and finalize the outputs of such activities in compliance with the terms of reference.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	PCT.
1.5	<p>ASSOCIATED FACILITIES</p> <p>In the event that Associated Facilities are identified during Project implementation, in line with the requirements of the ESSs, ensure and cause the owner and/or operator of such facilities carry out the activities in accordance with the applicable requirements of this ESCP and the ESSs, including ESMF, ESMPs, LMP, RPF, and SEP.</p> <p>Identify any future Associated Facilities to the Project, and in consultation with and in a manner acceptable to the Bank, apply the relevant actions listed above.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation. Promptly notify the Bank of any potential Associated Facilities throughout Project implementation.</p>	PCT

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES Finalize, disclose and implement the LMP for the Project, ensuring that relevant LMP requirements are incorporated into contractual provisions for the PCT and Project workers hired by contractors and subcontractors for works and services. Update the LMP as needed to reflect changes in risk profiles and/or the scope of services in accordance with ESS2.	By Effective Date and thereafter implement throughout the Project lifecycle.	PCT
2.2	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLAN Require contractors and subcontractors to develop and implement OHS Management Plans as part of their C-ESMPs for sub-project level activities with OHS risks, ensuring alignment with the LMP and site-specific ESMPs.	Incorporate this requirement in the bidding document prior to the launch of the procurement process. Reviewed and approved OHS Management Plan in the C-ESMPs prior to start of civil works and activities with OHS risks and thereafter implement throughout contract implementation.	PCT
2.3	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS Establish and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.	Prior engaging Project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.	PCT
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN Prepare and implement a Waste Management Plan (WMP), as part of the site-specific ESMP and C-ESMP prepared for the Project, to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, consistent with ESS3.	Same timeframe as Action 1.1.2 above for the preparation and implementation of the relevant E&S instrument.	PCT
3.2	RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the site-specific ESMP and C-ESMP to be prepared under Action 1.1.2 above.		PCT

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
		Same timeframe as Action 1.1.2 above for the preparation and implementation of the relevant E&S instrument.	
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY Incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks, including risks resulting from transportation of Project related goods, materials and workers as required in the ESMF and site-specific ESMP and C-ESMP for respective contracts.	Same timeframe as Action 1.1.2 above for the preparation and implementation of the relevant E&S instrument.	PCT
4.2	COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities, including, inter alia, traffic management, behaviour of Project workers, response to emergency situations, and include mitigation measures in the site-specific ESMP and C-ESMPs for respective contracts to be prepared in accordance with the ESMF.	Same timeframe as Action 1.1.2 above for the preparation and implementation of the relevant E&S instrument.	PCT
4.3	SEA AND SH RISKS Prepare and implement a SEA/SH Action Plan as part of the site-specific ESMP and C-ESMP, in line with the ESMF, for respective contracts. The plan, which may consist of implementation of codes of conduct, awareness raising and campaign, and SEA/SH sensitive FGRM, should be proportionate to the SEA/SH risks associated with Project activities.	Same timeframe as Action 1.1.2 above for the preparation and implementation of the relevant E&S instrument.	PCT
4.4	SECURITY MANAGEMENT Assess and implement measures to manage the security risks of the Project, including the risks of engaging security personnel to safeguard Project workers, sites, assets, and activities as part of Project ESMF and site-specific ESMPs, where relevant.	Same timeframe as Action 1.1.2 above for the preparation and implementation of the relevant E&S instruments.	PCT
4.5	DAM SAFETY Screen each reservoir scheme to be funded under Part 3 and identify applicable dam safety requirements in accordance with ESS4. These requirements shall be integrated into the ToRs for feasibility studies, detailed designs, site-ESIAs, and ESMPs.	Prior to selection of the irrigation schemes. Dam safety measures need to be incorporated as part of	PCT

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
		the reservoir designs and respective ESMPs prior to construction.	
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY			
5.1	RESETTLEMENT FRAMEWORK a. Finalize, disclose and implement the RF for the Project, consistent with ESS5. b. Prepare and implement a Resettlement Plan (RP) to address livelihood impacts associated with land acquisition for civil works under Part 2, as set out in the RF and consistent with ESS5.	a. Finalize and disclose RF by not later than 3 (three) months after the Effective Date and thereafter implement the RF throughout Project implementation. b. Implement RPs prior to commencing the relevant works, ensure that full compensation has been provided, and where applicable, displaced individuals have been resettled and received moving allowances prior to land acquisition and asset possession.	PCT
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS Assess and manage risks and impacts associated with biodiversity in accordance with the ESMF, and as part of site-specific ESMPs and C-ESMPs prepared for the Project. Prepare a stand-alone Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) where significant risk and adverse impacts on biodiversity have been identified consistent with ESS6.	Same timeframe as Action 1.1.2 above for the preparation and implementation of the relevant E&S instrument.	PCT
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
7.1	This Standard is not relevant to the Project.		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
8.1	<p>CULTURAL HERITAGE RISKS AND IMPACTS</p> <p>Under Parts 2 and 3, if any irrigation or WSS schemes involve physical objects, sites, or structures of cultural, historical, artistic, or archaeological significance, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) shall be prepared, adopted, and implemented as part of the site-specific ESMP. This shall be done in accordance with the ESMF guidelines prepared for the Project and in compliance with ESS8.</p>	Same timeframe as Action 1.1.2 above for the adoption and implementation of the relevant E&S instrument.	PCT
8.2	<p>CHANCE FINDS</p> <p>Incorporate and implement the chance finds procedures as part of the site-specific ESMP, in accordance with the guidelines of the ESMF prepared of the Project.</p>	Same timeframe as Action 1.1.2 above for the adoption and implementation of the relevant E&S instrument.	PCT
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES [This standard is only relevant for Projects involving Financial Intermediaries (FIs).]			
9.1	This Standard is not relevant to the Project.		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN</p> <p>Implement the Project's SEP, consistent with ESS10, which shall include measures to, inter alia, provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation. Update the SEP as needed to reflect on-the-ground implementation, emerging risks, and any changes in the Project's scope.</p>	Not later than 1 (one) month after the Effective Date and thereafter implement the SEP throughout Project implementation.	PCT
10.2	<p>PROJECT FEEDBACK AND GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM</p> <p>Establish, publicize, maintain, and operate an accessible grievance mechanism, to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the Project, promptly and effectively, in a transparent manner that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible to all Project-affected parties, at no cost and without retribution, including concerns and grievances filed anonymously, in a manner consistent with ESS10.</p> <p>The Project FGRM shall be equipped to receive, register, and facilitate the resolution of SEA/SH complaints, including through the referral of survivors to relevant gender-based violence service providers, all in a safe, confidential, and survivor-centered manner.</p>	Not later than 1 (one) month after the Effective Date and thereafter maintain and operate the mechanism throughout Project implementation.	PCT
INDICATORS FOR IMPLEMENTATION READINESS			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
<p>The following actions are indicators for implementation readiness:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. E&S team has been established and staffed by qualified specialists as per Part A. 2. The Project's E&S instruments covering the ESMP, RF, LMP, and SEP have been finalized and adopted as per Action 1.1.1 under ESS1, 2.1 under ESS2, 5.1 under ESS5 and 10.1 under ESS10. 3. Project-level FGRM has been established as per Action 10.2 under ESS10. 		