



# **LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY**

**Reducing Rural Poverty and Malnutrition Project (P178883)**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)**

**Version 2 (1 May 2023)**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN**

1. The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) (hereinafter the Recipient) will implement the Reducing Rural Poverty and Malnutrition Project II (RRPM II) (the Project), with the involvement of the Department of Rural Development and Cooperation (DRDC) of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) and the Department of International Cooperation (DIC) of Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI). The International Development Association (the Association) has agreed to provide financing for the Project, as set out in the referred agreement.
2. The Recipient 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 Association. The ESCP is a part of the Financing Agreement. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the referred agreement.
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 and implemented under the Project, all of which shall be subject to prior consultation and disclosure, consistent with the ESS, and in form and substance, and in a manner acceptable to the Association. Once adopted, said E&S instruments may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Association.
4. As agreed by the Association and the Recipient, this ESCP may be revised from time to time after each consultation with stakeholders during Project implementation, to reflect their feedback, adaptive management of Project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to assessment of Project performance conducted under the ESCP itself. In such circumstances, the Recipient will agree to the changes with the Association and will update the ESCP to reflect such changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP will be documented through the exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Recipient. The Recipient will promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
<b>MONITORING AND REPORTING</b>			
A	<b>REGULAR REPORTING</b> Prepare and submit to the Association regular monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) performance of the Project, including but not limited to the implementation of the ESCP, status of preparation and implementation of E&S instruments required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the grievance redress mechanism (GRM).	Six-monthly, annual throughout Project implementation. Submission date is no later than 45 days after the end of each reporting period.	PMU/DRDC, MAF
B	<b>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</b> Promptly notify the Association of any incident or accident related 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, 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.  Subsequently, at the Association's request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to address it and prevent its recurrence.	Notify the Association no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident.  Provide subsequent report to the Association within a timeframe acceptable to the Association	PMU/DRDC, MAF
C	<b>CONTRACTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS</b> Require contractors (office upgrading) to provide monthly monitoring reports on ESHS performance in accordance with the metrics specified in the respective bidding documents and contracts, and submit such reports to the Association	Monthly, throughout the construction period	Contractor, PMU
D	<b>NOTIFICATIONS RELATING TO DAAB COMPLIANCE REVIEW OF CONTRACTOR COMPLIANCE WITH SEA/SH PREVENTION AND RESPONSE OBLIGATIONS</b>  Notify the Association of any referral submitted to the Dispute Avoidance and Adjudication Board (DAAB) to initiate a process of compliance review in relation to a contractor's obligations to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), and/or sexual harassment (SH) specified in the respective works contract with such contractor; and, in the event of any such referral, notify the World Bank/Association] of: (i) the DAAB's decision on such referral; (ii) the contractor's Notice of Dissatisfaction, if any, with such DAAB decision; (iii) any notification received on the commencement of an emergency arbitration proceeding or full arbitration proceeding in relation to the DAAB's decision; and (iv) the resulting emergency arbitration order and/or full arbitration order, if any.	No later than 7 days after the issuance or receipt, as applicable, of the relevant document (i.e., referral to the DAAB, issuance of DAAB decision, Notice of Dissatisfaction, notice of commencement of emergency/full arbitration, emergency/full arbitration order, as applicable).	PMU/DRDC, MAF
<b>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>			

1.1	<b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Establish and maintain a Project Management Unit (PMU) at MAF to implement Component 1, 2, and 3 with qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project, including 1 full time environmental and social officer (ESO) and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project.</li> <li>b. The ESO will be responsible for planning, monitoring, and reporting on application of the ESF instruments to Project activities including provide training to Project staff and those of key implementing entities on the management and reporting of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project.</li> <li>c. At provincial and district levels (PAFO/DAFO), an ES focal point (ESFP) will be assigned and responsible for coordination, monitoring, and reporting on the ESF implementation including ensuring that GRM is functioning effectively.</li> <li>d. Establish and maintain a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) at MPI to implement Component 4 to support, coordinate and track the implementation of the nutrition convergence approach.</li> </ul>	<p>By Project effectiveness, establish and maintain the PMU, and after 60 days appointed the ESO at PMU and the ESFPs at province and district levels.</p> <p>Appointment of the ESO and ESFPs will be maintained for implementation of ESF instruments throughout the Project implementation period.</p>	PMU/DRDC, MAF PAFO and DAFO
1.2	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>e. Adopt and implement an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs.</li> <li>f. Assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of proposed Project activities, in accordance with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to be prepared, disclosed, and adopted for the Project, including to ensure that individuals or groups who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable, including minority ethnic groups, have access to the development benefits resulting from the Project.</li> <li>g. Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement any environmental and social management plans or other instruments required for the respective Project activities based on the assessment process, in accordance with the ESSs, the ESMF, the EHSs, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) including relevant WHO guidelines on COVID-19 response in a manner acceptable to the Association.</li> <li>h. Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including, inter alia, any environmental and social management plans or other instruments, ESS2 requirements, and any other required ESHS measures, into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors. Thereafter ensure that the contractors comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adopt the ESMF as soon as Project becomes effective, and thereafter implement the ESMF throughout Project implementation.</li> <li>2. Before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities.</li> <li>3. Before launching the procurement process for the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities.</li> </ol>	PMU/DRDC, MAF with the support of ESF consultants
1.3	<b>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</b> <p>Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the relevant E&amp;S</p>	As part of the preparation of	PMU/DRDC of MAF and DIC/DRI of

	instruments, the Labor Management Procedures, and code of conduct, into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply and cause subcontractors to comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.	procurement documents and respective contracts.  Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation.	MPI
1.4	<b>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</b> The appointed ESF consultant of PMU of MAF shall provide capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project including, ESF instruments such as ESCOP, Do's and Don'ts and other relevant Environmental and social instruments that are consistent with the ESSs.	Throughout Project implementation.	PMU/DRDC of MAF and DIC/DRI of MPI with the support of ESF consultants
1.5	<b>CONTINGENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE FINANCING (CERC)</b> a) Ensure that the CERC Manual as specified the legal agreement includes a description of the ESHS assessment and management arrangements, if applicable, for the implementation of the CERC component, in accordance with the ESSs.  b) Adopt any environmental and social (E&S) instruments which may be required for activities under the CERC component of the Project, in accordance with the CERC Manual and, if applicable, and the ESSs, and thereafter implement the measures and actions required under said E&S instruments, within the timeframes specified in said E&S instruments.	a) The adoption of the CERC manual and, if applicable, other instruments, as relevant in form and substance acceptable to the Association is a withdrawal condition under Section [XX] of Schedule 2 of the legal agreement for the Project.  b) Adopt any required E&S instrument and include it as part of the respective bidding process, if applicable, and in any case, before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities for which the E&S instrument is required. Implement the E&S instruments in accordance with their terms, throughout Project implementation.	The responsible entity, as assigned by GOL to be responsible for CERC
1.6	<b>EXCLUSIONS</b> Exclude the following type of activities as ineligible for financing under the Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New infrastructure that involved land acquisition and/or physical and/or economic displacement.</li> <li>• Any activity requiring Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) under ESS7.</li> <li>• Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict.</li> </ul>	During the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.	PMU/DRDC of MAF and DIC/DRI of MPI
<b>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</b>			
2.1	<b>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</b> Adopt and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) for the Project,	Before engaging Project workers in the	PMU/DRDC of MAF and DIC/DRI of

	including, inter alia, provisions on working conditions, management of workers relationships, occupational health, and safety (including personal protective equipment, and emergency preparedness and response), code of conduct (related to SEA/ SH), forced labor, child labor, grievance arrangements for Project workers, and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors, and supervising firms.	implementation of any on ground activity. All other measures specified in this action 2.1 shall be implemented throughout Project implementation.	MPI
2.2	<b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</b>  Establish and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.	Establish grievance mechanism prior to engaging Project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.	PMU/DRDC of MAF and DIC/DRI of MPI
<b>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>			
3.1	<b>WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN</b> Adopt and implement a Waste Management Plan (WMP) to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, consistent with ESS3.	Adopt the WMP prior to commencing office upgrading, and thereafter implement the WMP throughout contract life.	PMU/DRDC of MAF and DIC/DRI of MPI
3.2	<b>RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b> Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the ESCOP that has been prepared as part of ESMF	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESCOP.	PMU/DRDC of MAF and DIC/DRI of MPI
<b>ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>			
4.1a	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above including, inter alia, measures to minimize the potential for community exposure to communicable diseases; ensure that individuals or groups who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable, have access to the development benefits resulting from the project; manage the risks of the use of security personnel; manage the risks of labor influx; and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment.	Before relevant activities initiated and during implementation stage	PMU/DRDC of MAF and DIC/DRI of MPI
4.1b	<b>TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY</b> Incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks as required in LMP prepared under action (2.1) above. Traffic and road safety measures are applied to all Project workers, including community workers (in the role of Village Facilitator to be engaged for all Project villages)	Applied before Project workers commencing their works/contract	PMU/DRDC of MAF and DIC/DRI of MPI
4.2	<b>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b> Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities, including, inter alia, risks related to traffic safety, risks related	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the POM.	PMU/DRDC of MAF and DIC/DRI of MPI

	to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment, Violence Against Children, Domestic Violence, and include mitigation measures in Project Operation Manual (POM) to be prepared in accordance with the ESMF.		
4.3	<b>SEA AND SH RISKS</b> Update, adopt, and implement measures to avoid/minimize the risks related to SEA/SH/VAC as part of SS-ESMPs based on the ES assessment, and manage the risks of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) and Violence Against Children (VAC).	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMF.	PMU/DRDC of MAF
<b>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</b>			
	Not relevant, given that office upgrading to be financed under the Project will be undertaken within the existing premises of PAFO/DAFO offices		
<b>ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
	Not relevant. The Project does not have any activities that affect biodiversity in the Project area.		
<b>ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>			
7.1	<b>MEASURES FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OR ETHNIC PEOPLE:</b> The Project shall be carried out in accordance with the applicable requirements of ESS7, including, inter alia: (i) ensuring that the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) includes meaningful consultations with ethnic peoples throughout Project implementation; (ii) implementing procedures, protocols and/or other measures to ensure that ethnic peoples have access to Project benefits in an fair, equitable, inclusive and culturally appropriate manner, including, as relevant, with regards to CCT or other project benefits, as set out in the ESMF and the SEP; and (iii) implementing measures to ensure that ethnic peoples are able to access the Project’s grievance redress mechanism (GRM) in a culturally appropriate manner.	Before relevant activities initiated and during implementation stage	PMU/DRDC of MAF and DIC/DRI of MPI
<b>ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>			
	Not relevant. However, chance finds procedures will be included in civil works contract		
<b>ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES</b>			
	Not relevant.		
<b>ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b>			
10.1	<b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION</b> Adopt and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Project, 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.	A draft SEP was prepared and shall be finalized before project appraisal. The SEP shall be implemented throughout the Project implementation.	PMU/DRDC of MAF and DIC/DRI of MPI with the support of ESF consultants
10.2	<b>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</b> 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	Throughout Project implementation.	PMU/DRDC of MAF, PAFO and DAFO, DIC/DRI of MPI and their local authorities

	<p>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 grievance mechanism 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>		
<b>CAPACITY SUPPORT</b>			
CS1	<p>PMU/DRDC of MAF, PAFO, DAFO, DIC/DRI of MPI, and other relevant stakeholders to receive training on the Project relevant ESF instruments including CoC and provisions to prevent SEA, SH, and VAC, the ESMF, LMP, SEP, and ESCOP application for the civil works, and the roles and responsibilities of each entity in the preparation and implementation of these instruments.</p> <p>PMU/DRDC and related stakeholders to receive training on TOR preparation and contract management to ensure that the ESS obligations, especially, ESCOP, ESHS and LMP requirement included in the bidding documents.</p> <p>Contractors/project workers to receive training on the preparation and implementation of relevant ESF instruments and on occupational health and safety including on emergency prevention and preparedness and response arrangements to emergency situations.</p>	<p>Before the carrying out of the Project activities, and thereafter throughout the Project period.</p> <p>Training to be provided before bidding is conducted.</p> <p>Prior to work commencing, throughout project implementation.</p>	PMU/DRDC of MAF and DIC/DRI of MPI