

Solomon Islands Government



Solomon Islands Sustainable Mining Development Technical Assistance Project (P173018)

ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

Version: Final
June 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Solomon Islands Government (SIG) (hereinafter the Recipient) will implement the Solomon Islands Sustainable Mining Development Technical Assistance Project (the Project), with the involvement of the Ministry of Mines, Energy, and Rural Electrification (MMERE). The MMERE will lead and coordinate with the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management, and Meteorology (MECCDEM) and other government ministries on Project implementation as may be necessary. The International Development Association (hereinafter the Association) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Recipient will implement material measures and actions so that the Project is implemented in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs). This Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) sets out material measures and actions, any specific documents or plans, as well as the timing for each of these.
3. The Recipient will also comply with the provisions of any other Environmental and Social (E&S) documents required under the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and referred to in this ESCP, such as the Overarching Project Terms of Reference (ToR), the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), and the Labor Management Procedure (LMP), and the timelines specified in those E&S documents.
4. The Recipient is responsible for the terms of reference, work plans or other documents defining the scope and outputs of technical assistance activities will be drafted so that the advice and other support provided is consistent with ESSs1–10 with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the Ministry referenced in 1. above.
5. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP will be monitored and reported to the Association by the Recipient as required by the ESCP and the conditions of the legal agreement, and the Association will monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout implementation of the Project.
6. As agreed by the Association and the Recipient, this ESCP may be revised from time to time during Project implementation, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to assessment of Project performance conducted under the ESCP itself. In such circumstances, MMERE 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 MMERE. The MMERE will promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
7. Where Project changes, unforeseen circumstances, or Project performance result in changes to the risks and impacts during Project implementation, the Recipient shall provide additional funds, if needed, to implement actions and measures to address such risks and impacts.

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SOLOMON ISLANDS SUSTAINABLE MINING DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTING</p> <p>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 documents required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the grievance mechanism(s).</p>	Six-monthly throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <p>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. Provide sufficient detail regarding 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 supervising entity, as appropriate. Subsequently, as per the Association's request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to prevent its recurrence.</p>	Minor incidents will be reflected in the six-monthly reports to the Association, major incidents will be reported to the Association within 24 hours. A report would be provided to the Association, as requested.	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>The MMERE shall establish and maintain a Project Management Unit (PMU) that will comprise a core team which will include a full time Gender and Social Inclusion Officer, ES and Stakeholder Engagement Officer. The ES and Stakeholder Engagement Officer will ensure project activities are implemented consistent with ESSs1–10, the Project's E&S risk management documents, and Solomon Islands law.</p>	The PMU including the Gender and Social Inclusion Officer, the ES and Stakeholder Engagement Officer will be established within three (3) months after Project effectiveness. The organizational structure, including the Gender and Social Inclusion Officer, ES and Stakeholder Engagement Officer, will be maintained throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification

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1.2	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/ MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS / CONTRACTORS</p> <p>a. Assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of the mining sector development, elaborating on the NMP in areas covered across several SIG Ministries and their cross-cutting environmental and social policies and identify legislative harmonization needs and capacity building needs across relevant agencies in an institution-centered rapid SESA. The SESA will contain an action plan listing reforms which a set of institutions [that] are responsible for implementing [the action plan] and associated costs.</p> <p>b. Assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of the Project’s technical advisory activities, in accordance with the Overarching Project ToR for the Project and include provisions in the activity-specific ToRs to ensure that technical advisory services are consistent with ESS1-10 and the overarching Project ToR.</p> <p>c. Include environmental and social aspects in consultant and staff terms of reference (ToR) in accordance with ESS1.</p> <p>d. Submit all ToRs for the SESA, technical assistance, design, and capacity building activities (20 specialists and two firm contracts) and completed studies to the Association for review and 'no-objection' to ensure the services requested are consistent with ESS1 and other relevant ESS standards.</p> <p>e. Develop, consult, disclose and implement environmental and social management plan/s (ESMP) for the minor construction and refurbishment works.</p> <p>f. Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including the Labor Management Procedures, into the ESHS specifications of the contractor procurement documents for the minor construction and refurbishment works. Thereafter ensure that the contractors comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p>	<p>a. Prepare the SESA TOR within three months of project effectiveness. Prepare the rapid SESA within six months of project effectiveness.</p> <p>b. Adopt, implement and update the Overarching TOR throughout Project Implementation. Screening of technical activities will continue throughout project implementation.</p> <p>c. Throughout project implementation.</p> <p>d. Throughout project implementation.</p> <p>e. During project implementation, prior to any physical works commencing.</p> <p>f. Prior to the preparation of procurement documents. Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation.</p>	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification

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1.3	<p>EXCLUSIONS</p> <p>Exclude the following types of activities as ineligible for financing under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical assistance activities that include recommendations that may cause long term, permanent and/or irreversible (e.g. significant loss of natural habitat, any loss of critical natural habitat) adverse impacts; • Technical assistance activities that include recommendations that have high probability of causing serious adverse effects to human health and/or the environment; • Technical assistance activities that include recommendations that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict; • Technical assistance activities that include recommendations that may affect lands or rights of indigenous people or other vulnerable minorities; • Technical assistance activities that include recommendations that may involve permanent resettlement or land acquisition or any involuntary taking of land (even temporary) or adverse impacts on cultural heritage; • All other excluded activities set out in Table 7, Chapter 7.3 of the Overarching Project ToR; and • New construction activities that may have significant adverse impacts on people or the environment. 	<p>During the assessment process conducted under action 1.2.a. above.</p>	<p>Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification</p>

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ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <p>The Project shall be carried out in accordance with the applicable requirements of ESS2, in a manner acceptable to the Association, including through, inter alia, implementing adequate occupational health and safety measures, setting out grievance arrangements for Project workers, and incorporating labor requirements into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. The Recipient shall adopt and implement Labor Management Procedures (LMP) incorporating the relevant requirements of ESS2.</p>	Adopt, implement and update the Labor Management Procedures throughout Project Implementation.	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification
2.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</p> <p>Establish, maintain, and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.</p>	Adopt, implement and update the Grievance Mechanism throughout Project Implementation.	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification
2.3	<p>OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OHS) MEASURES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare, adopt, and implement occupational, health and safety (OHS) measures specified in the ESMPs, contractor Health and Safety Plans, and COVID-19 management SOPs for the minor construction and refurbishment works. 2. Consultations and workshops must be COVID-19 safe and this will be specified in the consultant(s) contracts as described in the overarching Project TOR. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. During project implementation, prior to any physical works commencing. 2. Throughout Project implementation. 	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification
2.4	<p>WORKER CODE OF CONDUCT</p> <p>Ensure that all contracted workers adhere to the Code of Conduct.</p> <p>Provisions to prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) shall be included in the Code of Conduct (CoC) for Project staff and for contracted workers, as set out in the LMP and in line with relevant national laws and legislation and ESS2 and adopted and applied under the Project.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification

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2.5	CHILD LABOR AND MINIMUM AGE Prohibit child labor (any person under the age of 18) due to the hazardous work situation.	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification
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ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	Relevant impacts from the minor construction and refurbishment works including increased noise and dust, minor hydrocarbon spills and waste disposal will be managed through the development and implementation of ESMP/s and contractor waste management plans. Relevant aspects of this standard shall also be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above, including, inter alia, measures to manage all types of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, as well as legacy pollution issues associated with mining operations.	Throughout implementation of the Project	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	Relevant impacts from the minor construction will be managed through the development and implementation of ESMP/s, contractor health and safety plans, and COVID-19 SOPs. Meaningful consultation will take place including capacity building regarding engaging responsibly with mining affected communities, this will involve community liaison and outreach (defining a community liaison function and engagement plan and building staff skills) and establishing an advisory centre. Relevant aspects of this standard shall also be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above, including, inter alia, safety of Tailings Storage Facilities and use of security forces.	Throughout implementation of the Project	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	The Project may not include any activities which will result in land acquisition, restrictions on land use or involuntary resettlement. The ToR to support 'harmonization of environmental regulations' will include considerations and TA advice that are consistent with ESS5. Relevant aspects of this standard shall also be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above, including, inter alia, landowner and community rights in mining sector reforms.	Throughout implementation of the Project	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	The TA activities related to harmonizing environmental regulations, improving the environmental approvals process and better enforcing compliance and mine closure requirements will be undertaken consistent with ESS6. Relevant aspects of this standard shall also be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.	Throughout implementation of the Project	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			

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7.1	The Association will approve all ToRs for TA activities to ensure that the Project is consistent with ESS7. Relevant elements of the policy are integrated into the SEP and the overarching Project ToR. The Project will identify and prepare a gap analysis on the legislation concerning legal framework for benefit sharing, customary rights, free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) which will be considered in the ToRs for the TA support. Relevant aspects of this standards shall also be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above, including, inter alia, benefit sharing, customary rights FPIC.	Throughout implementation of the Project	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	The Association shall approve any ToRs and completed studies to ensure that the Project is consistent with ESS8, as there may be some implications for tangible and intangible cultural heritage from revisions to the regulatory framework. Relevant aspect of this standard shall also be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above.	Throughout implementation of the Project	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
Not relevant			

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ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION</p> <p>a. Implement the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p> <p>b. Update the SEP periodically, upon changes reflecting the COVID travel restrictions of the country.</p> <p>c. Submit all ToRs and completed studies to the Bank for review to ensure they are consistent with ESS10.</p>	<p>a. A draft SEP has been prepared and disclosed prior to project appraisal. Updated SEP to be finalized within 30 days after Project effectiveness.</p> <p>b. Throughout Project implementation</p> <p>c. Throughout Project implementation</p>	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification
10.2	<p>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM:</p> <p>Prepare, adopt, maintain and operate a grievance mechanism, as described in the SEP.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification

CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
CS1	The MMERE PMU and other relevant implementing support staff responsible for the Project to receive training on the Project's ESF instruments and the relevant requirements of the Overarching Project ToR, LMP, and SEP and the roles and responsibilities of different key agencies in their implementation.	Within three (3) months of the Effective Date and as new Project team members join the Project throughout implementation.	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification
CS2	Contractors to receive training on the relevant aspects of the Project ESF instruments and relevant ESHS requirements.	Prior to work commencing, throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification