



**Republic of Malawi, Ministry of Finance,  
Economic Planning and Development**

**Malawi Watershed Services Improvement  
Project (P167860)**

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

**January 31, 2020**

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Malawi, through its Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development *will implement* the Malawi Watershed Services Improvement Project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the following Ministries: Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Water Development and the Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Mining. The *International Development Association*] (*hereinafter the Association*) *has agreed to provide* financing for the Project.
2. The Republic of Malawi through its Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development 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 Republic of Malawi through its Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development will also comply with the provisions of any other E&S documents required under the ESF and referred to in this ESCP, such as Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Resettlement Plans (RP), , Labor Management Plan (LMP), Process Framework (PF), Dam Safety and Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEP), and the timelines specified in those E&S documents.
4. The Republic of Malawi through its Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development] is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the Ministry, agency or unit 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 Republic of Malawi through its Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development 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 Republic of Malawi, 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, the Republic of Malawi 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 Republic of Malawi. The Republic of Malawi through its Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development 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 Republic of Malawi through its Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development shall provide additional funds, if needed, to implement actions and measures to address such risks and impacts, which may include environmental, community and worker health and safety impacts, gender-based violence and land acquisition.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY	COMPLETION DATE
<b>MONITORING AND REPORTING</b>				
A	<p><b>REGULAR REPORTING:</b></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&amp;S documents required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, functioning of the grievance mechanism(s).</p>	<p><i>Quarterly reporting throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	<p><i>The Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Development</i></p>	
B	<p><b>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS:</b></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 including injuries requiring off-site medical attention, mistreatment of communities, incidents of GBV/SEA, damage to natural habitats, damage to physical cultural resources. 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>	<p><i>Notify the Association within 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident. A report would be provided within a timeframe acceptable to the Association, as requested. Maintained throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	<p>MoAIWD and MoNREM</p>	
<b>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>				
1.1	<p><b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:</b></p> <p>Establish and maintain an organizational structure with qualified staff and resources to support management of E&amp;S risks including as a minimum one Environmental Specialist and one Social Specialist in the Project Implementation Unit (PIU).</p>	<p><i>The organizational structure, including the environment and social specialists are to be in place by effectiveness, and should be maintained throughout Project implementation</i></p>	<p>MoAIWD and MoNREM</p>	

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY	COMPLETION DATE
1.2	<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT:</b> Update, adopt, and implement, the Environmental and Social Management Framework that has been prepared as part of the Project, and prepare and implement subproject Environmental and Social Management Plans or other necessary instruments, with the scope based on the anticipated risks in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p> <p>Where new information requires the ESMF to be revised the revised document disclosed.</p>	<p><i>Environmental and Social Assessment process for subprojects will be done during subprojects planning.</i></p> <p><i>Implementation of the mitigation measures contained in the ESMF should continue throughout the Project implementation.</i></p>	MoAIWD and MoNREM	
1.3	<p><b>MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS:</b> Screen any proposed subproject in accordance with the necessary instruments such as Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Dam Safety Plan prepared for the Project.</p> <p>Draft, adopt, and implement the necessary subproject instruments such as Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP, Dam Safety Plan) for sub-projects, as specified in the ESMF, in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p>	<p><i>Instruments submitted for the Association's approval before launching the bidding process where contractors are involved, or before commencing any community works for the respective subproject. Once prepared, tools and instruments apply throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	MoAIWD and MoNREM	
1.4	<p><b>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS:</b> Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESMF, including the relevant E&amp;S documents and/or plans, and the Labor Management Procedures, into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents with contractors. Thereafter ensure that the contractors comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts. Ensure contractors comply with specifications in the LMP, Code of conduct and ESMP, and other relevant instruments in their respective contracts.</p>	<p><i>Prior to the preparation of procurement documents.</i></p> <p><i>Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation. Reporting on compliance to be continued throughout project implementation.</i></p>	MoAIWD and MoNREM	
<b>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</b>				

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY	COMPLETION DATE
2.1	<p><b>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES:</b> Update, adopt, and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) that have been developed for the Project covering Community Volunteers, Contracted Workers, Short Term Consultants and Direct Project Workers.</p> <p>Terms and conditions of employment prepared, documented and provided to each worker.</p> <p>Contractor's/sub-contractor's labor management policies will be developed</p>	<p><i>Labor Management Procedures have been developed and will be maintained throughout Project implementation.</i></p> <p><i>Workers documents at the start of employment</i></p> <p><i>Contractors documents on award of contract and before commencement of works.</i></p>	MoAIWD and MoNREM	
2.2	<p><b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS:</b> Establish, maintain, and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.</p>	<p><i>Worker grievance mechanism operational prior to engaging Project workers and maintained throughout Project works.</i></p>	MoAIWD and MoNREM, Contractors	
2.3	<p><b>OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OHS) MEASURES:</b> Prepare, adopt, and implement occupational, health and safety (OHS) measures specified in the ESMP, LMP or other necessary instruments.</p> <p>Site Specific risk assessments to be carried out and preventative action and mitigation measures to be developed in ESMP or other necessary instruments.</p>	<p><i>OHS measures operational prior to engaging Project workers and maintained throughout Project implementation.</i></p> <p><i>Site specific Risk Assessments to be completed prior to commencement of work under the same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the ESMPs or other necessary instruments but before subproject commencement.</i></p>	MoAIWD and MoNREM, Contractors	
<b>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>				
3.1	<p><b>INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT PLAN:</b> If necessary, prepare, adopt, and implement a Pest Management Plan where the use of pesticides or chemicals are considered necessary within the climate smart agriculture and livelihoods activities as part of the sub-project ESMP or other necessary instruments.</p>	<p><i>Same timeframe as that of the preparation and implementation of the ESMPs or other necessary instruments but before subproject commencement.</i></p>	MoAIWD and MoNREM	

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY	COMPLETION DATE
3.2	<p><b>RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT:</b> Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures for each sub-project will be covered under the ESMP or other necessary instruments to be prepared. this will also include dust control and air quality issues resulting from construction. All impacts will have mitigation measures in the ESMP or other necessary instruments. Plans to be developed for excavated materials and its disposal, if necessary, for all construction work and restore all sites (where relevant).</p>	<p><i>Same timeframe as that of the preparation and implementation of the ESMPs or other necessary instruments but before subproject commencement</i></p>	<p>MoAIWD and MoNREM</p>	
<b>ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>				
4.1	<p><b>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY:</b> Prepare, adopt, and implement measures and actions to assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities, including, inter alia, behavior of Project workers, worker sanitation arrangements, response to emergency situations, traffic safety management, and include these measures in the ESMPs or other necessary instruments to be prepared in accordance with the ESMF, in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p>	<p><i>Same timeframe as that of the preparation and implementation of the ESMPs or other necessary instruments but before subproject commencement.</i></p>	<p>MoAIWD and MoNREM</p>	
4.2	<p><b>DAM SAFETY:</b> Engage experienced and competent profesionanls for the design and construction supervision of dams supported under the project</p> <p>Prepare and adopt operational procedures (including emergency preparedness) for all dams constructed or rehabilitated under the project</p>	<p><i>Before commencement of any sub-project involving dams</i></p> <p><i>Six months prior to the start of the initial filling of the dam reservoir</i></p>	<p>MoAIWD</p> <p>MoAIWD</p>	

4.3	<p><b>GBV AND SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE RISKS:</b> Develop a costed Labor Influx Management Plan/GBV Action plan as part of the ESMPs to be prepared in accordance with the ESMF, in a manner acceptable to the Association with actions to assess and manage the risks of gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).</p> <p>Carry out regular community sensitization and awareness among target communities in accordance with the SEP about forms of GBV and SEA, dangers, preventive measures and mitigation measures.</p>	<p><i>The plan will be reviewed bi-annually and updated annually by the respective project implementing entities</i></p> <p><i>Same timeframe as that of the preparation and implementation of the ESMPs or other necessary instruments but before subproject commencement.</i></p>	MoAIWD and MoNREM	
<b>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</b>				
5.1	<p><b>RESETTLEMENT PLANS:</b> Prepare, adopt, and implement resettlement plans (RPs) in accordance with ESS 5 and consistent with the requirements of the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) that has been prepared for the Project using the methods for land acquisition as described within the RPF, before carrying out the associated activities, in a manner acceptable to the Association. Budget for resettlement to be provided by GoM.</p>	<p><i>Resettlement Plans submitted for the Association approval and implemented fully prior to commencement of any works in the subproject.</i></p>	MoAIWD and MoNREM	
5.2	<p><b>GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM:</b> The grievance mechanism to address resettlement related complaints is described in the RPF and SEP. The Project GM will be used to address resettlement related complaints and issues. Specific Resettlement Plans will describe this GM as will be applicable.</p>	<p><i>GRM to be in place before RAP implementation. Implementation of GRM should continue throughout resettlement implementation.</i></p>	MoAIWD and MoNREM	
<b>ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</b>				
6.1	<p><b>BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS:</b> Screening for biodiversity and living natural resources risks will be carried out at sub-project level. Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources measures for each sub-project will be covered under the ESMP or other necessary instruments to be prepared.</p>	<p><i>Same timeframe as that for the preparation and implementation of the ESMPs or other necessary instruments but before subproject commencement.</i></p>	MoAIWD and MoNREM	

ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE				
8.1	<p><b>CHANCE FINDS:</b> Prepare, adopt, and implement the chance finds procedure described in the ESMF developed for the Project. Screening of sub-project sites and necessary measures for each sub-project will be covered under the ESMP or other necessary instruments to be prepared.</p>	<p><i>Same timeframe as that for the preparation and implementation of the ESMPs or other necessary instruments but before subproject commencement.</i></p>	MoAIWD and MoNREM	
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE				
10.1	<p><b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION:</b> Update, adopt, and implement Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP).</p>	<p><i>Implementation of the measures contained in the disclosed SEP should continue throughout the Project implementation.</i></p>	MoAIWD and MoNREM	
10.2	<p><b>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM:</b> Prepare, adopt, maintain and operate a project grievance mechanism, as described in the SEP and as in the RPF.</p>	<p><i>Same timeframe as that of the preparation and disclosure of the SEP.</i></p> <p><i>Project GRM operational before commencement of any sub-project implementation.</i></p> <p><i>Implementation of GRM will continue throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	MoAIWD and MoNREM	
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)				
CS1	<p>Carry out assessment of environmental and social capacity building needs. Prepare and implement training program to strengthen stakeholder capacity in coordinating, planning, implementing and monitoring environmental and social issues.</p>	<p>Within 3 months of project effectiveness.</p> <p>Plan developed 1 month after project effectiveness and continue throughout project implementation.</p>	MoAIWD and MoNREM	