

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development Kosovo Improvement and Rehabilitation of Irrigation Systems (P179737)

ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

March 2023

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MARD)
KOSOVO IMPROVEMENT AND REHABILITATION OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS (P179737)
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is planning to implement the Climate Resilience and Agriculture Development Project (the **Project**), through the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), which will have responsibility for the project management, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). Funds to finance the activities of the project are provided by European Union (EU) under the Instrument of Pre-accession Assistance (IPA). The IPA 2020 program for Kosovo aims at fostering rural economic development through improved management of natural resources and increased income generation opportunities related to cultural tourism and improved capacities and alignment to standards in the agriculture sector. Under this program, EUR 10 million have been allocated to support the further development of irrigation systems based on the Kosovo Irrigation Master Plan and Investment Framework developed under the Bank-funded Agriculture and Rural Development Project. These funds will be channeled through the European Commission - World Bank Partnership Program for Europe and Central Asia Part III program.
2. MARD will implement material measures and actions so that the Project is implemented in accordance with the World Bank Environmental and Social Standards (**ESSs**). This Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (**ESCP**) sets out a summary of the material measures and actions.
3. The Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) of the World Bank was launched on October 1, 2018 and enables the World Bank and Borrowers to better manage the environmental and social risks of projects and to improve development outcomes. The ESF offers broad and systematic coverage of environmental and social risks. It makes important advances in areas such as transparency, non-discrimination, public participation, and accountability—including expanded roles for grievance mechanisms. It also brings the World Bank’s environmental and social protections into closer harmony with those of other development institutions. The present Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) has been prepared to match the requirements under the ESF regarding Environmental and Social Standards (ESS).
4. The table below summarizes the material measures and actions that are required as well as the timing of the material measures and actions. MARD is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when the implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the Ministry, 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 Bank by MARD as required by the ESCP and the conditions of the legal agreement, and the Bank will monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout the implementation of the Project.
6. As agreed by the Bank and MARD, 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 the assessment of Project performance conducted under the ESCP itself. In such circumstances, MARD will agree to the changes with the Bank 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 Bank and the MARD. The MARD will promptly disclose the updated ESCP. Depending on the project, the ESCP may also specify the funding necessary for the completion of a measure or action.

7. Where Project changes, unforeseen circumstances, or Project performance result in changes to the risks and impacts during Project implementation, the MARD shall provide additional funds, if needed, to implement actions and measures to address such risks and impacts, which may include such as environmental, social, health and safety impacts, labor influx, and gender-based violence.



SUMMARY OF THE MEASURES AND ACTIONS TO MITIGATE THE PROJECT'S POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
ESCP MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	REGULAR REPORTING: Prepare and submit to the Bank regular monitoring reports on the implementation of the ESCP, including, but not limited to, stakeholder engagement activities and grievances log.	Submit biannual reports to the Bank throughout Project implementation, commencing after the Effective Date. Submit each report to the Bank no later than 10 days after the end of each reporting period.	MARD/PIU
B	INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS: Promptly notify the Bank 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. 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 Bank's request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to address it and prevent its recurrence.	Notify the Bank no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident. Provide subsequent reports to the Bank within a timeframe acceptable to the Bank.	MARD/PIU
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: Establish an organizational structure with qualified staff, with full-time Environmental and Social Specialist within the PIU at MARD to oversee social and environmental issues and mitigate potential social and environmental risks in line with the ESF.	full-time Environmental and Social Specialist to be hired by the project's effectiveness, and thereafter maintain this position throughout Project implementation.	MARD/PIU
1.2	ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS: a. Finalize, disclose, consult, adopt, and implement an all-inclusive for three subschemes Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the works under the Project, in accordance with the ESSs, the Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs), and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP), and in a manner acceptable to the Bank. The ESIA shall include, inter alia, screening procedures, ESHS risks and impacts assessment, natural disaster risk assessment, and mitigation measures.	a. The draft ESIA was prepared, consulted, disclosed, and adopted in a manner acceptable to the Bank by the conclusion of the Project appraisal Date. The final ESIA shall be adopted before the start of the bidding processes for the corresponding works.	MARD/PIU

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	<p>b. Prepare, disclose, consult, adopt and implement an RPF to guide the project in dealing with restrictions to access, or any economic and/or physical displacement is prepared. The RPF will also define the approach on how to deal with potential land acquisition and/or livelihood impacts for the investment activities</p> <p>c. Prepare, update, disclose and consult the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report as required with Kosovar EIA Law for environmental permitting.</p>	<p>b. The draft RFP is prepared, consulted and disclosed, and adopted in a manner acceptable to the Bank by the conclusion of the Project appraisal Date.</p> <p>c. The EIA report as required with Kosovar EIA Law for environmental permitting shall be prepared and sent to the Bank for review and approval. These shall be disclosed, consulted, and adopted before the start of the bidding processes for the corresponding works. The EIA shall be implemented during the execution of the corresponding works.</p>	
1.3	<p>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE Ensure that the consultancies, studies, capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project are carried out in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Bank, that duly incorporate and take into consideration the requirements of the ESSs.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	MARD/PIU
1.4	<p>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</p> <p>a. Incorporate relevant aspects of the ESCP, including requirements as per the ESIA, and other relevant E&S documents and/or plans, and the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), into the ESHS specifications of respective bidding and contract documents for contractors.</p> <p>b. Ensure robust supervision of the contractors during the implementation of the Project to ensure that they comply with all relevant ESHS specifications and codes of conduct as specified in their respective contracts, and take the corrective actions as required.</p>	<p>a. As applicable, requirements are incorporated into the bidding processes and contracts with contractors and supervisory firms, prior to initiating the relevant activities. Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>b. Throughout Project implementation and reported in the monthly and semiannual reports.</p>	MARD/PIU
1.5	<p>EXCLUSIONS: The ESIA sets out the principles, rules, guidelines, screening criteria, and procedures to assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of project activities. The screening questions for Potential Environmental and Social Impacts are part of the ESIA. The results</p>	These exclusions shall be applied as part of the E&S screening process conducted under Action 1.2 above.	MARD/PIU

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	<p>will guide confirmation of the overall E&S risk rating and classification of the activities to be financed based on the screening.</p> <p>Exclude the activities listed below as ineligible for financing under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expansion and construction of new irrigation scheme, realignment of irrigation network; ▪ Activities that would lead to the degradation of critical natural habitats, critical land areas, and clearing of forests or forest ecosystems; ▪ Activities that will result in the involuntary taking of land, loss of assets or access that leads to loss of income sources or other means of livelihoods, and interference with households' use of land and livelihoods; ▪ Use of equipment and goods on lands abandoned, or the ownership of the land is disputed or cannot be ascertained; ▪ Use of goods and equipment involving forced labor, child labor, or other harmful or exploitative forms of labor; ▪ Activities which, when being carried out, would affect, or involve the use of, the water of rivers or of other water bodies (or their tributaries) which flow through or are bordered by countries other than the Borrower, in such a manner as to in any way adversely change the quality or quantity of water flowing to or bordering said countries. 		
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <p>Adopt and implement Labor Management Procedures (LMP) for the Project, 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 (including provisions on SEA and SH), forced labor, child labor, grievance arrangements for Project workers, and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors, and supervising firms. Implement the LMP, in a manner acceptable to the Bank.</p>	Draft LMP is prepared, consulted and disclosed prior to the appraisal, and thereafter implement throughout the Project implementation.	MARD/PIU
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>	Establish a grievance mechanism for Project workers prior to engaging Project workers and thereafter, maintain and operate it throughout the Project implementation	MARD/PIU
2.3	<p>OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OHS) MEASURES</p>	Same timeframe as action 1.2 above	MARD/PIU

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	<p>Develop and implement occupational, health, and safety (OHS) measures, including measures on emergency preparedness and response, as part of the development and implementation of the ESIA in accordance with the guidelines contained under action 1.2 above.</p> <p>Implement training for project workers, designed to raise awareness of risks and mitigate impacts on local communities. This shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Codes of conduct and other topics within the ESIA for the risks of the influx of labor, for contractors including behavior towards the community, sanctions against acts of discrimination, and gender violence (including sexual harassment, sexual exploitation, and abuse • OHS including for community members who are contributing to the project with local contributions • Socialization of the grievance mechanism for all types of workers in the project. 		
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	WASTE MANAGEMENT AND HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT: ESIA for project activities includes a thorough treatment of pollution prevention and management aspects associated with all proposed civil works and direct impacts of construction, including air, water, and noise pollution, as well as solid waste minimization and management in consistence with ESS3.	Same timeframe as action 1.2 above. before the commencement of the works and implement the measures under the ESIA throughout the implementation of the activities	MARD/PIU
3.2	RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures are covered under ESIA prepared under action 1.2 above.	Same timeframe as action 1.2 above.	MARD/PIU
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY: Adopt and implement measures and actions to assess and manage traffic and road safety risks as required in the ESIA developed under action 1.2 above.	Same timeframe as action 1.2 above.	MARD/PIU
4.2	COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY: a. Prepare, adopt, and implement measures and actions to assess and manage specific risks and impacts for the community of Project activities, including, inter alia, codes of conduct for Project workers, measures to prevent and respond to cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment, and any risk of labor influx. These measures are included in ESIA prepared under action 1.2 above.	Same timeframe as action 1.2 above.	MARD/PIU

ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	RESETTLEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK (RPF) Prepare, disclose, consult, adopt and implement a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) that establishes the principles, organizational arrangements and design criteria to carry out the acquisition of land and provide compensation for other activities related to economic and/or physical displacement, in accordance with ESS 5, in a manner acceptable to the Bank.	The RPF is prepared, consulted and disclosed in a manner acceptable to the by prior to Project appraisal.	MARD/PIU
5.2	RESETTLEMENT ACTION PLANS (RAPs) Prepare, disclose, consult, adopt and implement the RAPs in line with the requirements of the RPF that has been prepared for the Project, and, subsequently, adopt and implement the RAPs before carrying out any Project works or other activities that could entail land acquisition, restrictions on land use and/or physical or economic displacement.	Once the need for land acquisition or resettlement has been determined or confirmed, the relevant RAP shall be prepared and consulted. The RAPs shall be submitted to the Bank for approval, and thereafter adopted and disclosed before bidding for the corresponding works. Once approved, the RAPs shall be implemented before carrying out the related Project works or activities that require land acquisition, restrictions on land use and/or physical or economic displacement	MARD/PIU
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
This standard is not relevant to the suggested project interventions.			
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
There are no known distinct social and cultural groups as covered by ESS7 residing in Kosovo. Thus, this standard is not applicable.			
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
This standard is not relevant. The project activities will not affect any known cultural heritage sites since they are mostly rehabilitation works of existing facilities. Nonetheless, the Project ESIA for all activities which may involve any excavation of earth include appropriate "chance find" procedures.			
8.1	CULTURAL HERITAGE AND CHANCE FINDS: Prepare, adopt and implement a chance finds procedure as part of the ESIA prepared under action 1.2 above.	Same timeframe as action 1.2 above.	MARD/PIU
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
This standard is not relevant for the suggested project interventions.			
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION Prepare, disclose, consult, update, adopt and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Project, in a manner acceptable to the Bank.	SEP is prepared, consulted and disclosed prior to the appraisal and thereafter implement it throughout the Project implementation.	MARD/PIU

<p>10.2</p>	<p>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: Prepare, adopt, maintain and operate a grievance mechanism, as described in the SEP. The grievance mechanism shall be designed to receive complaints related to all Project activities, including environmental and social issues, as well as to receive complaints related to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment, in a safe and confidential manner.</p>	<p>Same timeframe as action 10.1 above. The grievance mechanism shall work throughout the Project implementation and shall be applied to all types of grievances related to the Project and its environmental and social performance. Ensure the grievance mechanism is disseminated in Project locations prior to the commencement of any civil works.</p> <p>Present semi-annual monitoring reports to the Bank on the operation of the grievance mechanism during Project implementation. The first report must be submitted 6 months after the Effective Date of the Project.</p>	<p>MARD/PIU</p>
<p>CAPACITY SUPPORT</p>			
	<p>The training shall focus on Project workers, contractors, community organizations and government agent officials involved in the Project.</p> <p>The training plan shall include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEP and GM; • Performance of the Project (and incidence and accident reporting) • Workers and Community Health and Safety; • SEA/SH Risk Prevention and Management; • Traffic Management; • LMP and Labor GM • Codes of Conduct for the contractors’ workers including ESHS, OHS, SEA/SH, SEP and GM. 	<p>Throughout the Project implementation</p>	<p>MARD/PIU</p>