

Republic of Kazakhstan

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

For

Kazakhstan Digital Acceleration for an Inclusive Economy
(DARE) Project (P179204)

October 2023

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Kazakhstan (the **Recipient**) will implement the Kazakhstan Digital Acceleration for an Inclusive Economy (the **Project**), with the involvement of the Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation, and Aerospace Industry (MDDIAI), as set out in the Loan Agreement. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development has agreed to provide financing for the Project as set out in the referred agreement.
2. The Recipient will ensure that the Project is implemented 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 Grant 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 will carry 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 Bank. Once adopted, said E&S instruments may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Bank.
4. As agreed by the Bank and Recipient, this ESCP will be revised from time to time if necessary, during Project implementation, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to Project performance. In such circumstances, the Recipient and the Bank will agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through the exchange of letters signed between the Bank and the Recipient. The Recipient shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

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MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTING</p> <p>The Recipient will prepare and submit to the Bank 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 mechanism(s).</p>	<p><i>Semi-annual reports after the project's effective date and throughout Project implementation.</i></p> <p><i>Submit each report to the Association no later than 15 days after the end of each reporting period.</i></p>	PIU
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <p>Promptly notify the Association of any incident or accident related or having an impact on the Project which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on environment, 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 and/or multiple injuries, vehicle accidents, large spills of biological and chemical substances, such as oils or fuels, and serious environmental pollution.</p> <p>Provide sufficient detail regarding the scope, severity, and possible causes of the incident or accident, including 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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p><i>Notify the Bank within 48 hours after learning about the incident or accident.</i></p> <p><i>Submit each report to the Association no later than 15 days after the end of each reporting period.</i></p>	PIU
C	<p>CONTRACTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS</p> <p>Contractors and supervising firms to provide monthly monitoring reports on ESHS performance in accordance with the ESHS metrics specified in the respective bidding documents and contracts, and submit such reports to the Bank, upon request.</p>	<p><i>Submit the reports to the Association monthly, or upon request, separately or as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action A above.</i></p>	PIU

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ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>The Ministry of Digital Development, Innovation, and Aerospace Industry shall maintain the PIU established for the DARE project, with qualified staff and resources to support effective management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project, including one environmental specialist and one social development specialist within the PIU responsible for ensuring full compliance with the ESF and relevant instruments.</p>	<p><i>An environmental specialist and a social specialist shall be recruited within 30 days of project effectiveness and thereafter and will maintain these positions throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	PIU
1.2	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</p> <p>Prepare, consult, adopt, disclose, adopt and implement an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)</p> <p>Prepare, adopt, and implement the site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), the guidelines shall be provided in the ESMF.</p>	<p><i>The ESMF shall be prepared during the first three months of the project implementation stage, and, if necessary be reviewed, updated, and adopted by the Recipient throughout Project implementation.</i></p> <p><i>ESMPs shall be prepared and adopted prior to the issuance of bidding documents for civil works and will be implemented throughout the subproject duration.</i></p>	PIU
1.4	<p>MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS</p> <p>Screen any proposed sub-project in accordance with the ESMF prepared for the Project and, thereafter, ensure the preparation, disclosure, and implementation of any required sub-project ESIA/ESMPs in a manner acceptable to the Recipient and the Bank.</p>	<p><i>All sub-projects are subject to post-review by the Bank team throughout Project implementation through the Semi-annual reports and implementation support missions.</i></p>	PIU
1.5	<p>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</p> <p>Based on conducted sub-projects ESIA/ESMPs, incorporate the relevant environmental and social issues and/or plans, along with the LMP, into the ESHS specifications of contracts for civil works or landscape restoration. Thereafter, ensure that the contractors will be required to comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p>	<p><i>As part of the preparation of all bidding documents and contracts.</i></p> <p><i>Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	PIU
1.6	<p>EXCLUSIONS: The following type of activities shall not be eligible for finance under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities that may cause long-term, permanent, and/or 	<p><i>These exclusions shall be applied as part of the assessment process conducted under action 1.2 above.</i></p>	PIU

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	<p>irreversible (e.g., loss of major natural habitat) adverse impacts on the environment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict: • Activities that may involve permanent resettlement or land acquisition or adverse impacts on cultural heritage. <p>All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project.</p>		
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <p>Prepare, adopt, and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) for the Project, including, inter alia, provisions on working conditions, management of worker's relationships, occupational health, and safety (including personal protective equipment (PPE), and emergency preparedness and response), code of conduct (including relating to SEA and SH), forced labor, child labor, grievance arrangements (GRM) for Project workers, and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors, and supervising firms.</p>	<p><i>Prior to appraisal, the LMP will be adopted, and disclosed by the Recipient, and thereafter maintained throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	PIU
2.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</p> <p>Establish, maintain, and operate a Grievance Mechanism (GM) specifically for Project workers consistent with ESS2.</p>	<p><i>The grievance mechanism for Project workers shall be made operational prior to engaging Project staff and thereafter maintained throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	FWC/PIU
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1			PIU
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	<p>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</p> <p>The ESMF will include an assessment of work-related health risks; COVID-19 infection; HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases; handling and disposal of hazardous materials; excessive noise and dust levels, site safety awareness and access restrictions; etc., whereas the ESMP will provide mitigation measure to the risks.</p>	<p><i>Prior to commencement of civil works and in the same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.</i></p>	PIU
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
ESS 5 is not relevant for the project			
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			

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6.1	ESS6 is not relevant, however, the ESMF shall contain criteria prohibiting investment activities in or near protected areas or critical natural habitats.	<i>Prior commencement of civil works and in the timeframe of preparation and implementation of the ESMPs.</i>	PIU
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
ESS 7 is not relevant for the project			
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	CULTURAL HERITAGE RISKS AND IMPACTS ESS 8 is not relevant. While it is highly unlikely that the project will result in any chance finds, some parts of Kazakhstan are home to several bronze age sites; therefore, the ESMF will include a section on the protection of Cultural Heritage including "chance find" procedures to be followed for proposed pilot activities.	<i>In the timeframe of preparation and implementation of the ESMPs.</i>	PIU
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
ESS 9 is not relevant for the project			
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION Adopt and implement the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS 10, which shall include measures to, <i>inter alia</i> , 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.	<i>The SEP has been prepared by the Client, reviewed by the Bank, and will be disclosed prior to Project Appraisal. Implement throughout project duration</i>	PIU
10.2	PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM Establish, scale up, publicize, maintain, and operate an accessible grievance mechanism, to receive and facilitate the 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	<i>The Project GRM is to be established within 30 days after the Effective Date and thereafter maintained and operated the mechanism throughout Project implementation.</i>	PIU

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	<p>manner consistent with ESS10. GM of the existing HEP will be scaled up for the proposed Project.</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>		
CAPACITY SUPPORT			
CS1	<p>Training to be provided to PIU staff on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific aspects of environmental and social assessment (Screening and Scoping) • Orientation training on implementing the various provisions of ESF and ESMF • Implementation progress and monitoring report on ESMP implementation compliance. • Specific aspects of E&S risks, Occupational and Community Health and Safety • Implementation of LMP, its provisions, and labor complaints management • Stakeholder identification, engagement, and GRM • Emergency preparedness and response. • Labor Management Procedures. • Prevention of and response to SEA/SH sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment. • Incident reporting and understanding of ESIRT (Environmental and Social Incident Reporting Toolkit) provisions. • Training on stakeholder mapping and engagement 	<p><i>Training is to start within the two months of Project implementation and to be provided throughout project implementation; once a year as refresher training for each action point</i></p>	PIU/Contractor