AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC

STATE AGENCY OF AZERBAIJAN AUTOMOBILE ROADS

Regional Connectivity and Development Project

Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) Documents Preparation

Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

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Abbreviations

AHP	Azerbaijan Highway Project
DDISC	Detail Design Implementation and Supervision Consultant
EHS	Environment, Health and Safety
ESCP	Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
ESF	Environmental and Social Framework
EHSG	Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
ESS	Environmental and Social Standard
GBN	Gender Based Violence
GHG	Green House Gases
GoA	Government of Azerbaijan
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
LMP	Labor Management Procedures
MDB	Multilateral Development Bank
MENR	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
MIC	Melioration and Irrigation Committee
MOH	Ministry of Health
PAP	Project Affected Person
PCN	Project Concept Note
RCD	Regional Connectivity and Development
ROW	Right of Way
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
RUC	road user charging
SAAAR	State Agency of Azerbaijan Automobile Roads
SCGMR	State Committee of Geology and Mineral Reserves
SEA	Sexual Exploitation and Abuse
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
SWM	Solid Waste Management
TA	Technical Assistance
ToR	Terms of Reference

Units of Measurement

°C	-	degree Celsius
km	-	kilometer
km/h	-	km per hour
km^2	-	square kilometer
m	-	meter
m^3	-	cubic meter
mm	-	millimeter

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Project Description

The Regional Connectivity and Development Project (RCDP) will provide safe, efficient and climate resilient transport connectivity and improve market accessibility along the Yenikend-Bilasuvar road corridor. The State Agency of Azerbaijan Automobile Roads (SAAAR) has initiated the planning for the Regional Connectivity and Development Project (project) with financing from the World Bank targeting mainly the Rayons of Salyan and Bilasuvar with the following main components: (i) Road Connectivity; (ii) Road Sector Sustainability; (iii) Local Development and Logistics; and (iv) Project Management and Impact Assessments. The rehabilitation and reconstruction of the Yenikend-Bilasuvar road will incorporate climate resilient design and engineering, to improve resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Purpose of the ESMF

This ESMF sets out the principles, rules, guidelines and procedures to assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of the RCDP. The ESMF contains measures and plans to reduce, mitigate and/or offset adverse risks and impacts, provisions for estimating and budgeting the costs of such measures, and information on the agency or agencies responsible for addressing project risks and impacts, in line the World Bank's Environment and Social Framework (ESF). In addition, the ESMF also covers aspects relevant to community health and safety, such as site safety and traffic management, COVID-19 and transmittable disease prevention and other site-specific risks that will be identified under the ESF process

The ESMF presents the following:

- Brief details on the project description;
- Institutional and Legal Framework guiding the project and the WB ESF, including a gap analysis;
- Potential Environment and Social Risks and Impacts, and Mitigation Measures;
- ESMF Procedures for Screening and Preparation of ESMPs, including capacity assessment and needs;
- Institutional arrangements to implement the ESMF and other instruments;
- Process for Stakeholder Engagement
- Grievance Redress Mechanism;
- Monitoring and Reporting; and
- Indicative Budget.

This ESMF includes as annexes a template for the ESMP Checklist for Construction and Rehabilitation Activities, and Chance-Find Procedures.

Potential Impacts and Mitigation Measures

The identified major infrastructures in the RCDP are Subcomponent 1.1 – Yenikend-Bilasuvar road rehabilitation within the existing alignment; and Subcomponent 3.1 – which entails small scale envisages small scale investments into selected road-side market and agri-logistic facilities' improvement. The project will potentially bring significant benefits to the communities in the two rayons through better connectivity, thus, ensuring enhanced mobility, more options for route of goods and improved transport safety. Considering the type of project activities, the impacts will be temporary, reversible and will be adequately addressed in implementation of the ESMP.

For Subcomponent 1.1 (Yenikend to Bilasuvar road reconstruction) Section 3, Table 11, presents potential project risks and mitigation measures. For this road project, the impacts will generally be due to earthworks, removal of existing pavement, removal or relocation of objects that are within the construction strip, laying of subbase and base course layers and asphalt pavement, extension of necessary waterway crossings and installation of road furniture. Some unavoidable impacts can be expected in the extraction of materials from burrow pits and quarries, establishing asphalt plant and cement batching plant sites, emissions in producing the asphalt mix and bitumen spill may occur

during handling and mix preparation. For the concrete works, cement dust can contaminate the air and other related cement plant operations can result into soil and water contamination.

For Subcomponent 3.1, since the associated impacts and risks will be small to negligible, the SAAAR (with support of its Consultants) will prepare an ESMP Checklist based on the template provided in Annex 1, for the project interventions and activities. Such undertaking may entail certain environmental and social impacts and risks related to the implementation of physical works to be ranging from installation of equipment to small scale refurbishment, depending on specific needs, and might include generation of small amount of waste and noise, and require implementation of occupational health and safety and community safety measures.

ESMF Procedures

The purpose of the ESMF is to manage potential adverse impacts by establishing a guidance document that will inform SAAAR, Detailed Design Implementation and Supervision (DDIS) consultants, related government ministries, as well as contractors, of the agreed set of environmental and social procedures and measures for Subcomponent 1.1 of the RCDP. For Subcomponent 3.1, the Checklist shall be prepared as part of the project requirements.

The ESMF describes procedures for screening and scoping, as well as detailed steps to prepare ESMP, including the information required, responsibilities and capacity needs and training necessary for project staff in charge of ESMP monitoring. Institutional arrangements for the project at the SAAAR and government-level, as well as for consultants and contractors, are also described in Section 4.4 of this document.

Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement

The RCDP will undertake consultation activities and stakeholder engagement as per the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). The SEP seeks to ensure that Project communities, as well as other Project stakeholders, are informed and involved in all the stages of the Project. The Project recognizes the need to seek representative and inclusive feedback. The ESMF is to be publicly disclosed in the SAAAR website, as well as the World Bank website.

Grievance Redress

The grievance mechanism seeks to resolve concerns 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. Grievances can be submitted if someone believes the Project is having a detrimental impact on the community, the environment, or on their quality of life. The GRM is described in full in the project's SEP, as well as in Section 6 of this document.

In the RCDP it is envisaged that primarily the grievances to road works implementation (including relating to environmental and social impacts, health, road safety, etc.), will be resolved as detailed in the GRM. Any worker-related disputes are covered in the in the Labor Management Procedure document.

Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring ensures that mitigation measures shall be implemented and expected to be effective. The SAAAR-PIU (with its DDIS) shall develop monitoring and auditing protocol for RCDP, with the reports provided to the WB. In addition, environmental management activities and reporting of project related incidences/accidents should form part of the Internal Monitoring System. The SAAAR-PIU with the assistance of the DDIS shall monitor the compliance of the Contractor in accordance with the ESMP. Monthly and quarterly reporting shall be established for such purposes.

Budget

The ESMF implementation cost will include the development of the specific site-specific environment and social instrument/s, including staff costs, travel, consultation workshops, translation, trainings, etc. The total indicative cost is estimated at 251,350 USD (Table 12) plus the costs of specific mitigation measures in the ESMP and RP (if applicable). Funds will be sourced by a combination of WB and counterpart financing, from the project management component.

1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1.1 Overview

It is recognized that in Azerbaijan, roads are the dominant transport mode and their role in the national economy is expected to become vital. It is for this reason that the Government of Azerbaijan (GoA) wishes to enhance its focus on the capacity and quality of the road network to ensure higher mobility, reliability, and safety. Through the assistance of Multilateral Development Banks (MDB's), the road sector in Azerbaijan has progressed in the previous years starting with the reconstruction of major roads. In previous years with the World Bank, the Government of Azerbaijan, had been implementing a road program aimed at improving the country's road network starting with the major roads designated as Magistral (M) road. With the upgrading of the M highways near completion, next earmarked for reconstruction are secondary road networks, and tertiary or local roads (Y roads).

To sustain the important role of road transport in the economy, the rehabilitation of secondary and local roads is becoming an important agenda. In some regions, the secondary and local roads are of the key road sector development gaps that need attention. These are among the primary infrastructure that the proposed Project will address. Accordingly, the Azerbaijan Government, through the State Agency of Azerbaijan Automobile Roads (SAAAR) has initiated the planning for the Regional Connectivity and Development Project (project) with financing from the World Bank. This project entails the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Yenikend-Bilasuvar corridor road, development of ancillary agri-logistics infrastructure, Advisory and Training Initiatives, a technical assistance for financial sustainability and operational efficiency within the road sector, and institutional development support.

The project is located within the rayons of Salyan and Bilasuvar in the Aran economic region, a lagging region of the country with socioeconomic problems that the project can alleviate such as: (i) welfare and living standards of the population being below country averages; (ii) lack of well-paying jobs and business opportunities; (iii) insufficiency of infrastructure and services; (iv) nominal average monthly wages of about 40 percent lower than the country average; and (v) a significant part of the population in the region remaining socially vulnerable and at risk of falling into poverty. The map of the RCD Project is shown below.

Figure 1: Map of RCD Project

1.2 Detailed Description of Project and its Components

The development objective of the Regional Connectivity and Development Project is to provide safe, efficient and climate resilient transport connectivity and improve market accessibility along the Salyan-Bilasuvar road corridor. For Azerbaijan, this will be the one of the first of such initiatives to be

undertaken that reflects the Government's and Bank's focus on poverty alleviation and the enabling role that transport networks have for local development and economic recovery in the post-COVID-19 pandemic period. Such approach demonstrates cross-sector dimensions, closely integrating road investments with economic and social policies and regional development.

The project will finance three streams of activities as follows:

(i) The first stream of activities will comprise infrastructure investments in both roads and ancillary agri-logistics infrastructure. These investments will contribute to supporting connectivity and market accessibility to maximize the socio-economic development impact of upgraded road infrastructure. In the short to medium term, the combination of safe and resilient road infrastructure and improved logistics will create conditions for increasing productivity in beneficiary communities, new employment opportunities and household incomes.

(ii) The second stream will support the design and arrangement of roadside facilities (marketplaces, logistics facilities, among others), and the provision of skills training to local entrepreneurs, in order to improve income-generating opportunities for local communities. The design of the former activities will be based on community mobilization to identify and prioritize the exact types and locations where project investments will take place. An important aspect of the design of roadside facilities will be to support development of a suitable model of management of these facilities, one that provides for equitable usage and addresses long-term maintenance and operation of the facility.

(iii) The third stream will support financial sustainability and operational efficiency within the road sector, through TA to introduce options for road user charges, thereby enabling the development of new sources of revenue for road maintenance and operations. Under this stream, TA will also be provided to help address deterioration of the road network through prevention of overloaded heavy vehicles. Having additional sources of revenue and operational improvements that provide for adequate levels of road maintenance and costs, will help guarantee the long-term sustainability of the road infrastructure provided under this project and other road investments.

Consistent with the objectives of the Regional Connectivity and Development Project four (4) components are hereby envisioned to be implemented as follows:

Table 1: Project Components

Component		Subcomponent
No.	**Title**	
1	Road Connectivity	1.1 Regional Road Rehabilitation
		1.2 Construction Supervision
		1.3 Design of Future Investments
2	Road Sector Sustainability	2.1 Development of Road Network Management System
		2.2 Development of Road User Charging Models
		2.3 Development of System to Prevent Axle Overloading
3	Local Development and Logistics	3.1 Development of Road Side Logistics and Market Facilities
		3.2 Advisory and Training Initiatives
4	Project Management and Impact Assessments	4.1 Support for Project Management
		4.2 Result Measurement and Impact Assessment

Component 1 - Road Connectivity

Subcomponent 1.1 – Regional Road Rehabilitation. This subcomponent will finance rehabilitation of selected sections of the M3 road (original alignment) between km 31.9 and km 103.3. The cost of constructing the road-side markets and logistics facilities will also be financed under this component (although planned and designed under Component 3).

The road section will be rehabilitated along the existing alignment as a second category road according to the national road classification. Some sections of the road between km 54.4 and

km 60.0 within the Salyan town boundaries are considered for lighter rehabilitation due to their existing technical characteristics. The design will ensure a resilient road to properly serve densely populated proximate residential areas and provide a safe alternative to the M3 motorway. Specifically, the road will be upgraded with climate resilience measures including improving the capacity of drainage systems and adaptation of bridges to the flooding risks and other resilience solutions. The enhanced safety considerations will include improved shoulders, guardrails in the high embankment and super-elevation sections, and improved signage among others. Consultations on the road rehabilitation design will be conducted to ensure that needs of local residents are taken into account into the final design and that local communities can provide feedback particularly on aspects such as locations of bus stops, crossing areas, and/or other points of access.

Subcomponent 1.2 – Construction Supervision. This subcomponent will finance costs of supervision activities as required for rehabilitation of the Subcomponent 1.1. road.

Subcomponent 1.3 – Construction Supervision. This sub-component will finance costs associated with implementation of technical design, environmental and social studies required for rehabilitation of the remaining sections of M3 highway (original alignment).

Component 2 – Road Sector Sustainability

Subcomponent 2.1 – Road Network Management Systems. This Technical Assistance (TA) is to improve network management and operation efficiencies through application of intelligent transport systems (ITS). The TA will explore needs and opportunities for establishment of an integrated network-wide management system incorporating electronic tolling and heavy vehicle monitoring, and other ITS modules, including systems for early warning of weather and geohazards that will impact the road network. Component 2.1 will establish the context and architecture for Components 2.2 and 2.3.

Subcomponent 2.2 – Development of Road User Charging Models. TA will focus on development of systems for road user charging (RUC), through e-tolling, vignettes and other similar systems. Technology offers new options to differentiate toll tariffs, so that vehicles that damage the roads most, or make more emissions, pay more, and this will also be explored. The study will consider feasibility, RUC technology choice, back-office requirements, governance, toll collection and accounting, willingness to pay, regulatory issues, communications campaigns/awareness, technical specifications, and other aspects.

Subcomponent 2.3 – Development of Systems to Prevent Over-loaded Axles. TA to specifically focus on systems to prevent premature road deterioration by controlling heavy vehicle overloading, through weigh-in-motion (WIM) technology, and other traffic management systems. The study will consider preparation of detailed documentation including feasibility, technology choice, back-office requirements, governance, enforcement and regulatory issues, technical specifications, among others.

Component 3 – Local Development and Logistics

Subcomponent 3.1 – Development of Road-side Logistics and Market Facilities. This sub-component will provide financing for TA to guide the planning and development of road-side market and logistics facilities and their implementation. The investments will be identified and designed as a result of participatory planning with local communities and with the strong involvement of the local authorities. An important aspect will be to support development of a suitable model to manage the facilities, one that provides for equitable usage by beneficiary groups and addresses long-term maintenance and operation of the facility. The project will improve existing roadside market and logistics facilities and/or create new ones along the project road in selected areas. Facilities considered as part of the sub-component interventions will involve, but not be limited to small markets, selling points, warehouses, cold storage, packaging and distribution facilities.

Subcomponent 3.2 – Advisory and Training Initiatives. Financing for TA to develop a curriculum and then to deliver training and advisory services specific to small-scale agricultural producers and agri-logistics, operating in the project area; for example, businesses supplying organic food products from Salyan to Baku. Activities will include guidance on working safely and strategies to contain the spread of pandemics. There will be a particular focus on the needs of women growers and women entrepreneurs, but the training will be open to all in the project area communities. The sub-component will be tailored to the needs of local beneficiaries, such as farmers, cooperatives and entrepreneur groups, to be identified through participatory needs assessment and community mobilization work. Advisor and training initiatives will also align with Component 3.1. Advisory services and training will cover such areas as community and cooperative development, business development, branding, digital literacy (e.g., in the use of the e-commerce and e-services platforms and applications), and the like. Some training activities will be tailored to the needs of women entrepreneurs and at least 50 percent of the beneficiaries will be women.

Component 4: Project Management and Impacts

Financing will support various project management functions including staff costs, incremental operating costs and costs of individual consultant services in support of project implementation and management capacity of the implementing agency, as well as financial audits. Financing for the associated incremental operating costs will be applied towards training of SAAAR and Project Implementing Unit (PIU) staff, office space and equipment, office consumables, transport as required to implement the project and for site visits, consultant assistance for management of technical, safeguards and fiduciary aspects, interagency coordination; results monitoring; completion reviews, impact assessments and monitoring of results; and the like. The component will also finance preparation of a Project Operating Manual (POM) and support the development of a COVID-19 emergency response plan mainly aimed at project contractors and local communities.

As part of the climate co-benefits from the project, under Subcomponent 1.1, the road-works will incorporate climate resilient design and engineering, to improve resilience to the impacts of climate change, which is expected to be rising ambient summer temperatures, increase in the intensity and duration of precipitation with the potential for river and flash-flooding, and increased fire risk. The old M3, which is being rehabilitated, will provide better connectivity and access for local area traffic and in emergency situations, the project road may be used to divert traffic form the new M3.

The engineering design of the road rehabilitation will consider culverts and side-drains sized for the catchment and on rainfall and runoff records. Bridge infrastructure will be designed with adequate protection of the abutments and piers, against erosion, and with suitable water-way areas to accommodate peak flood flows. Similarly, erosion protection will be provided at culvert inlets and outlets. The invert level of side drains will be designed to be lower than the road formation, to prevent ponding water from infiltrating the road sub-base and base layers. The combination of earthquake and increased rainfall may increase susceptibility to landslides; however, engineering design standards and appropriate quality materials will be applied to provide improved resilience to low seismic hazard and landslide susceptibility. Fire hazard could impact short-term connectivity through smoke, dust and road closures. Road surfacing and road-side furniture may also be impacted by fire, but these can be repaired through re-surfacing, or replaced, without lasting consequence.

With these added considerations, the general public will benefit through better connectivity, thus ensuring enhanced mobility, more options for route of goods and improved transport safety. The existing dilapidated road is no longer able to provide the intended service, thus with the planned rehabilitation, the transport systems in these two rayons will improve and boost the economy and alleviate the standards of living.

1.3 Description of Project Area

The project will be implemented within the boundaries of the Salyan and Bilasuvar Rayons. The project area is around 150 km southeast of the capital Baku and can be reached by new motorway M3. Both of the urban centers of the Rayons are along the old M3 alignment. The Subcomponent 1.1 of the project aims to rehabilitate this old M3 corridor road. Considering Subcomponent 1.1 (the Regional Road Rehabilitation for Yenikend to Bilasuvar) and Subcomponent 3.1 (improving existing roadside market and logistics facilities and/or creating new ones along the project road, i.e., Yenikend-Bilasuvar), apparently, the intended Project Area is the strip corridor of the secondary road, with expected positive influences on the rayons as a whole. Within the Yenikend-Bilasuvar road corridor, there are two World War II monuments found at Km 38+410, RHS and at Km 80+800, LHS - apart from which no other cultural heritage site or object was surveyed.

Salyan Rayon is situated on the Kura-Araks lowland, in the Mugan steppe in the southeast of the country with a total area of 1,600 km^2. The Kura River, one of the main rivers of Azerbaijan, flows through the territory of the rayon and through the Salyan town itself, which is the principal urban center. The floral vegetation in Salyan is semi - desert and desert type, which are mainly cypress, wildflower, algae, blackberries, etc. The climate in Salyan is predominantly considered a local steppe climate. It experiences a small amount of precipitation averaging to 288 mm with average annual temperature of15.2 °C.

Bilasuvar Rayon, occupying the south-western and southern part of the Mugan plain, is to the southwest of Salyan, with a total area of 1358 km^2. The climate is similar to that of Salyan with average rainfall of 260mm. Most of the area of Bilasuvar is below the sea level, 542 hectares of which are forests.

Within the broad project Study Area of the Yenikand-Bilasuvar corridor, there are areas with protection status or of importance that are needed to be recognized and considered in the overall project cycle. These areas with their closest distance to the project road are:

- Shirvan National Park - with an area of 54,373.5 hectares, (located at left-hand side, 1.2km from Km 49+800 of the project road, bordered by farmlands and structures);
- Durovdag mud volcano - a protected nature monument (located at left-hand side, 16.2km at Km 69+300, east of Kur River and Salyan city);
- Gyzyl-Agach Bay State Nature Reserve - designated Ramsar Wetland of International Importance: state-owned, strictly protected areas designated for nature protection and scientific research (located at left-hand side, 26.km from Km 81+000 of the project road, southeast of Shorsulu);
- Makhmudchala wetland about 8,000 hectare and an Important Bird Areas (IBA AZ045) (straddles the left-hand side of project road from Km 90+700 to Km 92+900, approximately 2.2km); and
- Akchala (Novogolovka-chala) wetland – about 15,000 hectare and an Important Bird Areas (IBA AZ047) (located at left-hand side, 10.km from Km 90+000 of the project road, south beyond Makhmudchala wetland).

As currently envisioned in project descriptions, the construction works shall be confined within the existing corridor with no “land take” to be undertaken. In the vicinity of the Makhmudchala wetland the old road shall be rehabilitated at its current alignment. The mitigation of potential impacts on the Makhmudchala wetlands is defined under the corresponding ESMP, and will be further elaborated once the detailed design is available and before the respective civil works bidding documents are finalized. Shirvan National Park is bordered by farmlands and structures serving as buffer to the reconstruction activities. Hence, the impact to this area will be minimal, if ever. The rest of the ecological sensitive areas are quite far to be affected. Also, this ESMF provides for a screening mechanism (Section 4.2) to avoid activities which might cause serious impacts on biodiversity and natural resources.

The bases of agriculture in Salyan district is cotton, grain, vegetable and animal husbandry. Dry subtropical fruit-growing like melon, viticulture (table varieties)[1] and gardening are important agricultural areas. Currently, most of the fishes sold in the country such as beluga, sturgeon, stellate sturgeon, salmon, catfish and pike perch come from Salyan.

Bilasuvar is agricultural plant-growing region with a large cattle-breeding sector, as well as grain, and cotton cultivation[2]. In 2018, Bilasuvar farmers harvested more than 800 tons of pomegranates, among which 50% were sold to foreign markets[3].

Economy of agricultural districts such as Salyan and Bilasuvar, where most of the study area falls within, may be improved by means of the trade enhancement due to efficient road network. The reconstructed route within the districts will provide improved access for the agricultural sectors of these economies.

The household in the rayons is generally headed by male, who makes the major decisions concerning its economic undertakings. The household size ranges from 2–8 members. Family members often include the household head and his wife, grown up children with/without their husband/wife, and their grandchildren. The household head's age ranges from 38–72 years. The highest educational attainment of the household head is usually secondary level but occasionally one has a university degree. Migration of family members seems to be low; however, this may not be indicative of the real situation as a number of adult male members of households in the village usually find work outside, normally in Baku, but are not reported as having migrated. A 2018 statistics data from the State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan on demographics and wages for both Salyan and Bilasuvar Rayon are shown below.

Table 2: Demographics and Wages

Indicator	Salyan	Bilasuvar
Population	138,600	103,800
Men	69,300	52,400
Women	69,300	51,400
Population density per km2	87	76
Labor		
Number of employees	14,200	8,100
No employees on industry	2,061	1,333
No. employees construction	138	196
Ave monthly nominal wages	363.9 manat	298.7 manat
Ave monthly nominal wages (industry)	863.8 manat	326.2 manat
Ave monthly nominal wages (construction)	324.3 manat	277.9 manat
No employed population	65,100	47,100
No civil servants	209	200

The economy of agricultural rayons, such as Salyan and Bilasuvar, where the most of the study area falls within, may be improved by means of the trade enhancement due to efficient road network. The reconstructed route within the districts will provide improved access for the agricultural sectors of these economies. Some economic data from State Statistics Committee is shown below for 2018.

Table 3: Gross Product Outputs

Indicator	Salyan	Bilasuvar
Output of goods and services in main sectors of economy, per capita (manats)	2948.8	3039.6

[1] Wikipedia.org. "Salyan District, Azerbaijan". Retrieved from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salyan_District,_Azerbaijan
[2] Wikipedia.org. "Bilasuvar District". Retrieved from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bilasuvar_District
[3] Fresh Plaza, October 4, 2019. "Azerbaijan: Bilasuvar region exports pomegranates to Russia". Retrieved from: https://www.freshplaza.com/article/9150290/azerbaijan-bilasuvar-region-exports-pomegranates-to-russia/

Volume index of output in main sectors of economy (manats)	89.90%	110.40%
Income of population (million manats)	370.4	344.6

Agricultural data in Salyan and Bilasuvar obtained from State Statistics Committee is shown below.

Table 4: Agricultural Production

Indicator	Salyan	Bilasuvar
Production of cereals and dried pulses (tons)	59,788	87,229
Production of cotton (tons)	10,356	22,732
Production of sunflower for seed (tons)	5	1,080
Production of potatoes (tons)	5,094	6,994
Production of vegetables (tons)	34,805	55,174
Production of watermelons and melons (tons)	12,188	1,525
Production fruits and berries (tons)	3,370.70	7,176.40
Stock of cattle and buffaloes (heads)	62,663	40,113
Stock of sheep and goats (heads)	185,770	139,369
Stock of poultry (heads)	676,624	375,058
Meat production (in slaughtered weight) (tons)	7,294	4,562
Milk production (tons)	49,957	27,105
Eggs production (thousand units)	34,865	15,509
Wool production (in greasy weight) (tons)	347	310
Production of pomegranate (tons)	2,175	3,601
Production of olive (tons)	42.2	0.7
Production of hazel-nuts (tons)	0.6	29.3
Stock of bee families (units)	306	2,480
Wheat production (tons)	29,163	45,328
Apple production (tons)	68.3	235.4

With reference to basic social infrastructure of the studied settlements, it is generally available within villages or a nearby urban centers. Schools and polyclinics are located within walking distances. Most roads to or within villages are unpaved or in a poor state. Such roads are a source of dust nuisance for villagers in the dry summer months. During the wetter autumn, winter and spring months they are a source mud and related inconvenience (difficult to drive or walk over, mud carried into houses on people's shoes). Public transport system is only available in major roads and railway networks: people use them for special needs (e.g., hospital visits) or occasions (e.g., visiting relatives, weddings) for going to major urban centers or Baku. Some data on education and health from State Statistics Committee is shown below for 2018.

Table 5: Data on Education and Health

Indicator	Salyan	Bilasuvar
Education and Culture		
Number of pre-school educational institutions by towns and regions of the country (number)	17	11
Number of children in preschool educational institutions at the beginning of the year (number)	799	505
The number of day general educational institutions at the beginning of the school year by towns and regions of the country (number)	54	37
The number of pupils at day general educational institutions at the beginning of the school year by towns and regions of the country	20,725	16,234
Number of public libraries	44	30
Number of clubs	29	17

Indicator	Salyan	Bilasuvar
Number of museums	3	3
Number of children in school preparation groups of the day general educational institutions total	1,662	1,382
Health and Sport		
The number of physicians per 10 000 population (persons)	18	10
The number of paramedical staff per 10 000 population (persons)	54.3	30.5
The number of hospitals per 10 000 population (pieces)	36.3	17.7

Women in the area have been given opportunities for employment in recent years. In 2017, a Women Resource Centre was opened in the Salyan district of Azerbaijan as a result of a partnership among the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs (SCFWCA) and The Coca-Cola Foundation[4]. In the same time period, a job fair in Bilasuvar rayon of Azerbaijan brought together over 70 job-seeking women and approximately 20 local companies[5]. The event aimed to connect the job-seeking women with potential employers according to their education and skills, and to assist the local unemployed women in finding jobs and enabling them more actively exercise their economic rights. The current (2018) state of entrepreneurship in Salyan and Bilsuvar is shown below (from the State Statistics Committee)

Table 6: Gender Segregated Entrepreneurs

Indicator	Salyan	Bilasuvar
Number of registered individual entrepreneurs	11,497	13,755
Women registered individual entrepreneurs	2,005	3,077
Men registered individual entrepreneurs	9,492	10,678

The households are generally headed by men, who make the major decisions concerning its economic undertakings. The household size ranges from 2–8 members (average of 4-5). Family members often include the household head and his wife, grown-up children with/without their husband/wife, and their grandchildren. The household head's age ranges from 38–72 years. The highest educational attainment of the household head is usually secondary level but occasionally one has a university degree. Migration of family members seems to be low; however, this may not be indicative of the real situation as a number of adult male members of households in the village usually find work outside, normally in Baku, but are not reported as having migrated.

Despite this, it is obvious that the risk of poverty is higher for households headed by unemployed people. Among the most positive social impacts of the Project implementation is that there will be a possibility to reduce poverty within the adjacent settlements during project realization and after its completion. The construction works are expected to provide hundreds of work opportunities over a period of several years for the local population according to their capabilities. During the operational phase, petrol stations and recreational areas may be established at various locations along the highway. These too will provide employment opportunities.

A socioeconomic study[6] also was undertaken in October 2020 which entailed survey focus social and economic conditions for 14 villages[7] situated within 3km from the Yenikend-Bilasuvar project road. Some of the key socioeconomic data in the surveyed villages are as follows:

- There are 51,546 persons (25,657 males and 25,889 females) living in 11,792 households in 14 sampled Project villages. Two rayon cities, Salyan and Bilasuvar have the population

[4] United Nations Azerbaijan, October 20, 2017. "UNDP, Government of Azerbaijan, Coca-Cola open Women Resource Centre in Salyan district". Retrieved from: http://unazerbaijan.org/en/undp-government-of-azerbaijan-coca-cola-open-women-resource-centre-in-salyan-district/

[5] United Nations Azerbaijan, November 18, 2017. "EU, UNDP, Government and civil society support job fair in Bilasuvar". Retrieved from: http://unazerbaijan.org/en/eu-undp-government-and-civil-society-support-job-fair-in-bilasuvar/

[6] Oct. 2020. SAAAR. Preparation of a Socio-Economic Study for the Areas Along Sections of M3 Salyan-Bilasuvar Corridor (Draft)

[7] Villages in Saylan: Marishli, Hasanli, Arbatan, Guychu, Gizilaghaj, Sarvan, Boranikend, Shorsulu, Chukhanli, Seyidsadigli, Yenikend; villages in Bilasuvar: Beydili, Khirmandali, Ashaghy Jurali

of 72,000 (32,500 Bilasuvar and 39,600 Salyan). The largest village is Khirmandali in Bilasuvar rayon with population of 10,418 (2,318 households) and the smallest village is Guychu with 831 inhabitants living in 157 households. On average, there are four persons living in one household.

- Out of 11,792 households, 1,049 (8.89%) households are single women-headed households, and 9.42 % are considered poor8.
- All sampled villages have electricity, gas supply, irrigation and drinking water of satisfactory levels. However, drinking water which is supplied from the water purification facilities through public water taps do not fully meet needs of all households in the villages since the water taps are often located far away from some of households as well as water is available for a short period of time, so villagers have to fetch enough water for their households needs during the time taps are operating. Households without access to purified water use canal or river water for drinking.
- Almost all villages (except Guychu), have the school and medical station. Only five villages have kindergartens and women often have to travel to the neighboring villages or the rayon center to take their children to the kindergarten.
- Most of the villages have a cultural center and number of small grocery shops. Public transport is available in 12 out of 14 villages. Only Hasanli and Yenikend villages do not have the public transport and villagers use private cars and taxi services.
- Based on the data of local authorities' statistics, the major economic activities in all the surveyed villages are agriculture, animal husbandry and some fruit production.
- The main crops are grain, lucerne, cotton, vegetables and fruits. Animal husbandry is prevalent in the village households. Villagers keep cows and small-horned animals for milk and dairy products as well as for meet. Many households keep a large number of birds, mostly chicken, for eggs and meet which are usually sold by women at the roadside stands. There are a few households keeping bees, while fisheries are developed especially in Shorsulu and Boranikend villages. Small businesses are mostly concentrated in larger villages such as Khirmandali, Boranikend and Shorsulu. In total, there are 230 small businesses in these 14 villages.

Potentially vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the project area who either may be disproportionately affected or face barriers to fully benefit from project benefits, include, among others, women and women-headed households, youth, elderly (especially persons living alone), poor and unemployed persons and their households, persons with disability and their caregivers, refugees, migrants, ethnic minorities (though none in the project area), and internally displaced persons. The project will undertake differentiated measures to ensure that the needs, concerns, and voice of these groups is equally represented in consultations and project decisions, that they can access information about the project in an equitable manner, and have the opportunity to benefit from the project. Measures in this regard are described in the present ESMF, as well as in the project's Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Labor Management Procedures (LMP), and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP).

Project realization of Subcomponent 1.1 will improve the current conditions of road infrastructure at regional and local level, with expected positive spillovers for local and regional economic development. Rehabilitated road infrastructure will additionally enhance accessibility to public facilities and services, improve public transportation, travel efficiency and public safety for urban and rural population. In Subcomponent 3.1, the piloting of roadside market and ancillary agri-logistics infrastructure along with necessary support activities will improve the marketability of local produce and boost incomes of small agricultural producers in the area.

All of these positive socio-economic developments are expected once the road infrastructures are rehabilitated. However, great care should be taken so that there will be net positive impacts of the Project operations to the environment. Road infrastructure development typically has the most notable impacts on the fauna living within the designated project site, such as habitat loss and barrier to

[8] Poverty criteria is defined as the subsistence minimum for the country (190 AZN/month for 2020 year) which is defined by the Law on Subsistence Minimum of Republic of Azerbaijan

movement, leading to less habitats available, less accessibility to food and mates, and population subdivision, all of which will ultimately contribute to reduced fauna population size[9].

In the Bilasuvar region, the most common fauna are foxes, gray rabbits, wild boars, jackals, and birds such as pheasants, pigeons and domestic fowls[10], while in the Salyan region, some of the faunal populations in the area are antelopes, herons, rabbits, nightingales, quails, doves, storks, wolves and jackals[11]. The Shirvan National Park in Salyan has been established to conserve the Goitered gazelle species, conduct ecological monitoring, educate the population from an ecological point of view, and create all conditions for the development of tourism and recreation[12]. The Goitered Gazelle is categorized in the IUCN Red List as Vulnerable (VU) (IUCN SSC Antelope Specialist Group 2017). In the Red Book of Azerbaijan, it is listed as a "species distributed at the edge of its global range, which can become extinct without protection measures

With regards to solid waste management (SWM) systems for Salyan and Bilasuvar, current information were obtained directly from the staff of the Executive Powers of the respective rayons and presented below.

Table 7: Features of the SWM Systems

Attributes	**Salyan**13	**Bilasuvar**14
Description and location of garbage disposal site	There is a central landfill in the territory of Chukhanli village	There is a central landfill in a close vicinity of Bilasuvar town and in the territory of Yukhari Aghali village
Area of disposal site (in hectares)	5	10
Equipment at the disposal sites	None	None
Areas/villages where garbage is being collected	Centralized garbage collection covers only Salyan town Villages randomly organize garbage collection and its utilization (most of garbage is buried into initially dug pits) If villages transport their garbage to the central landfill, they pay extra fee for disposal	Centralized garbage collection covers only Bilasuvar town Only Beydili village municipality has a tractor to transport garbage from the village to the landfill
Number of trucks/equipment for collection	7 trucks and 1 tractor	There is a tractor and one garbage truck Beydili village has a tractor
Collection frequency	Once a day	Once a day
Are there segregation or sorting of garbage in individual homes or some other sites (if yes, specify)	None	None
Are there individuals buying/selling/ dealing with recyclable materials?	Individuals in the central disposal are sorting garbage to collect metals and plastic	
Is there composting activities in the rayon?	None	None

[9] Quintero, J. Green Roads: Towards Sustainable Road Development.
[10] Ulduz Tourism. "Bilasuvar district". Retrieved from: https://ulduztourism.az/en/azerbaijan/aze-cities/bilasuvar-district
[11] Ulduz Tourism. "Salyan district". Retrieved from: https://ulduztourism.az/en/azerbaijan/aze-cities/salyan-district
[12] Wikipedia.org. "Salyan District, Azerbaijan". Retrieved from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salyan_District,_Azerbaijan
[13] Information was provided by Elmeddin Kazimov, a head of Salyan town Housing Maintenance and Service Unity
[14] Information was provided by Gabil Khanmadov, a representative of Executive Power Office for Bilasuvar town

What are the normal ways of dealing with garbage in each of the rayons?	After sorting by individuals, the rest of the garbage materials are buried into initially dug pits	After sorting by individuals, the rest of the garbage materials are burned

Based on the above data, it is observed that both major towns (Salyan and Bilasuvar) have their respective disposal sites, but mainly being used as dumping areas. No efficient SWM systems are established in accordance to standard practice of minimization, segregation, and efficient recycling. Collection activities are limited to the central towns with some villages also being collected or conducting self-collection and self-transport. It is also being reported that burning of garbage is being done in Bilasuvar, which manifests low understanding of a good SWM system.

1.4 Purpose and Scope of the ESMF

As part of the continuing commitment of the World Bank in supporting the implementation of Azerbaijan's road program, the RCDP has been conceptualized following the new WB ESF Framework which took effect in October 2018. Based on that document, this ESMF has been drafted to establish the principles, rules, guidelines and procedures to assess the environmental and social risks and impacts for the project. As defined in ESS1, the ESMF is an instrument that examines the risks and impacts when a project consists of a program and/or series of subprojects, and the risks and impacts cannot be determined until the program or subproject details have been identified – making it a precursor document to any ESMP.

The ESMF provides measures and plans to reduce, mitigate and/or offset adverse risks and impacts, provisions for estimating and budgeting the costs of such measures, and information on the agency or agencies responsible for addressing project risks and impacts, in line with the Environment and Social Standard (ESS) 1, "Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts", of the World Bank's Environment and Social Framework (ESF). This ESMF incorporates impacts associated with the road rehabilitation under Subcomponent 1.1, and with the implementation of the Market and Logistics Facilities under Subcomponent 3.1. This ESMF also covers aspects relevant to community health and safety, such as site safety and traffic management, COVID-19 and transmittable disease prevention and other site-specific risks that will be identified under the ESF process.

This ESMF addresses issues related to the relevant ESSs as follows:

- ***ESS 1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts.***
  - ***For Subcomponents 1.1, & 3.1***

- An overview of the Azerbaijan Environment and Social Assessment policies, legal, and administrative conditions.
- Assessment of the environmental and social baseline conditions of the Project area, including geography, climate (rainfall for climate change relevance), biodiversity, landscape, environmental sensitivities, socio-economic indicators, etc.
- Identification of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups who may be disproportionately affected by project activities or face obstacles to benefit from the project in equitable manner, and proposal of project activities to ensure to reduce or eliminate such obstacles for vulnerable populations.
- ESMP guidelines for the identification and assessment of potential environmental and social risks and impacts and determination of generic mitigation measures to be undertaken for identified activities at all stages - from identification and selection, through the design and implementation, to the monitoring and evaluation of results which will include:

- instructions on identifying environmental and social risks and impacts;
- developing mitigation measures and monitoring activities;
- outlining roles and responsibilities for implementing ESMPs;
- detailing labour management requirements;
- outlining stakeholder engagement;
- quantifying the costs and benefits of alternatives; and
- incorporating the estimated costs of implementing the ESMPs.

- Guidance on preparing ESMP Implementation Budgets that include:
- a clear statement of financial responsibilities;
- identification and summaries of costs for implementation of proposed mitigation measures; and
- guidance on preparing detailed estimated budgets and contingencies for all Project phases including planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

▪ ***For Subcomponents 11. & 3.1***

- A general assessment of the kinds of environmental and social impacts and risks associated with the activities using secondary data and primary data (e.g., site surveys, including focus group discussions and key informant interviews in the project area).
- A detailed guidance and description of the environment and social assessment procedures to be followed for each type of potential activity, which include setting screening criteria for identifying the level of environmental due diligence required excluding ineligible activities.

➢ ***ESS 2 Labor & Working Conditions (For Subcomponents 1.1 & 3.1)***

- With due considerations on direct workers and contracted workers, the ESMF contains:
- Summary of and reference to the project Labor Management Procedures (LMP) that will detail the requirements for labor management in each of the types of activities to be financed (Also to be part of ESMP requirements);
- Guidelines on Environment Health and Safety (EHS) including specific instruments that will need to be prepared either by the client or the contractor prior to commencement of works (ESH checklists, codes of conduct; safety training etc.);
- Guidelines on incorporation of social and environmental mitigation measures based on the WBG EHS Guidelines and the ESMF into civil works contracts financed by the Project. All civil works contracts will include industry standard Codes of Conduct that include measures to prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH); and
- Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) specifically for project workers – for direct workers (employees of SAAAR) to be adopted within SAAAR, and for contacted workers (employees of all civil works contractors, sub-contractors, and consultants) to be adopted by the respective contractor or consulting company.

➢ ***ESS 3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management. (For Subcomponents 1.1 & 3.1)***

- The ESMF includes discussions on resource efficiency, pollution prevention and management, assessment of risks and impacts (with proposed mitigation measures); and to be included into the specific ESMP outline.

➢ ***ESS 4 Community Health and Safety. (For Subcomponents 1.1 & 3.1)***

- The ESMF identifies possible adverse impacts on the health and safety of surrounding communities anticipated during the construction and refurbishment works and the measures that will be employed to prevent and mitigate such impacts.
- The ESMF elaborates on potential risks and impacts associated with labor influx, gender-based violence / sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment as a result of project activities and use of security forces.

➢ ***ESS 5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement. (For Subcomponents 1.1 & 3.1)***

- Though the RCD Project may not require land acquisition, land use restrictions, or involuntary resettlement, prior to Project Appraisal a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) was prepared to guide the management of ESS5-related impacts if any are encountered during implementation.
- The RPF, to be approved and disclosed by Project Appraisal, sets out the procedures to be followed if resettlement impacts occur in the course of the Project, including the procedures for the preparation and implementation of site-specific Resettlement Action Plans.

➢ ***ESS 6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources. (For Subcomponents 1.1 & 3.1)***

- With the existence in the vicinity of the Project area of protected areas, sites of high ecological value, and natural water bodies, the ESMF provides a set of environmental and social screening criteria which will be applied. This is to ensure that project activities will not cause adverse impacts on biodiversity and living natural resources in the Project area, in order to ensure that any risks of impacting biodiversity and natural resources are avoided or minimized.

➢ ***ESS 8 Cultural Heritage. (For Subcomponents 1.1 & 3.1)***

- In case of discovery of significant archaeological or cultural artifacts, Chance Find Procedures are included in the project's ESMF and in the template for site-specific ESMPs.

➢ ***ESS 10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure. (For Subcomponents 1.1 & 3.1)***

- The ESMF includes a summary of and reference to the project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) which identifies different stakeholders of the project (affected groups and other interested parties), including vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, and provides an approach towards reaching and engaging with, collecting feedback from each of the stakeholder sub-groups.
- The SEP identifies impediments, if any, to reaching out to stakeholders as well as reflects on the capacity-building needs within SAAAR to effectively engage with stakeholders. The SEP includes:

– Stakeholder mapping of direct beneficiaries and other interested parties;
– Guidance on how to conduct public consultation and prepare a document record of public consultations and other records that will indicate participation of interested and affected parties including: for example, types of surveys used to seek views of affected stakeholders; date and location of consultation meetings; a list of attendees, their affiliation, contact addresses and a summary; feedback provided and how it has been taken into account in project design or implementation, among others.
– Guidance on how the Project information will be disclosed;
– A plan for providing capacity building to stakeholders on environmental and social risks and mitigation related to Project activities; and
– A Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) to enable receiving and addressing / resolving of stakeholders' concerns, comments, or suggestions in relation to the project.

1.5 Application of the ESMF

The ESMF is integrated into the preparation and implementation stages of the project Component 1 (Road Connectivity), and Component 3 (Local Development and Logistics) to be financed by this project. It shall serve as guidance in the project cycle from planning, including site identification, design, implementation and operation/maintenance, to attain the above outlined purposes and objectives.

1.6 Revision / Modification of the ESMF

The ESMF will be considered as a 'Live Document' which shall be subject to revisions, when and where necessary and applicable. Any unexpected situations and/or relevant changes in the design of the project Components would be assessed and appropriate management measures would be incorporated by updating the ESMF. Revisions will be agreed with the World Bank, and the revised ESMF re-disclosed and consulted as needed.

2 INSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 National Environmental Laws, Regulations, Guidelines, and Standards

The constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan defines principles for environmental protection and ownership of natural resources along with regulations for their use. As stipulated in the Constitution, the legislative framework relating to the environment consists of:

- Parliamentary legislation that establishes the State regulation of strictly protected natural areas, and the protection and use of the environment and biodiversity;
- Presidential Decrees and orders and the resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers that ensure the implementation of the major provisions of the laws;
- By-laws of the executive authorities (Ministries and Committees) that specify the activities to implement the laws; and
- International Agreements and Conventions to which Azerbaijan is a signatory.

The law that governs environmental protection in Azerbaijan is *The Law on Environmental Protection (EP) of 1999*, which identifies the legal, economic and social bases of environment protection. The legislations on land use and development consists of the Land Code and other legislative acts. Laws that pertain to protection and sustainable use of natural resources include: *Law on Plant Protection* (1996), *Forestry Code* (1997), *Water Code* (1997), *Law on Fisheries* (1998), *Law on Fauna* (1999) and *Law on Protected Areas* (2000). In addition, there are laws regulating environmental pollutants that are stipulated in environmental protection (1999), atmospheric pollution (2001), pesticides and agrochemicals (1997), industrial and domestic waste (1998) and water supply and wastewater (1999).

The officially protected areas in Azerbaijan consist of the following:

- National Parks, e.g., Shirvan National Park and Hirkan Forest National Park: areas with ecological, historical and aesthetic values, designated for nature protection, environmental awareness, scientific, cultural and other purposes. All land and natural resources belong to the Park management authority, and some economic activities (including ecological tourism) are allowed.
- Strict Nature Reserves, e.g., Gyzyl-Agach Bay State Nature Reserve and designated Ramsar Wetland of International Importance: state-owned, strictly protected areas designated for nature protection and scientific research. No economic activity is allowed. All have management plans and both enforcement and scientific staff.

Buffer zones are designated surrounding these protected areas, and other natural areas such as rivers and water sources. The level of protection is accorded according to their respective significance as – international, national, regional or local.

2.2 National Laws, Regulations and Standards on Environmental, Social Protection and Land Issues

In addition, the legislative framework relating to the environment generally consists of the following:

- Parliamentary legislation that defines and establishes the State regulation of protected natural areas, and the protection and use of the environment and biodiversity;
- Presidential Decrees and orders and the Cabinet of Ministers resolutions
- By-laws of the executive authorities (Ministries and Committees)
- International Agreements and Conventions to which Azerbaijan is a signatory

Itemized below is a compilation of legal and regulatory framework related to road rehabilitation and improvement.

Table 8: Relevant Laws and Regulation on Environmental and Social Protection and Land Issues on Road Rehabilitation

Reference	Description
Law No. 1175-VQ on Environ mental Impact Assessment, June 12, 2018	This Law establishes: • rules on environmental impact assessment and strategic ecological assessment for the identification of possible adverse effects on the environment and human health during the implementation of the activities specified in its Annex. • the assessment, elimination or reduction of their scale and intensity over time and space. • that the impact of proposed activities on the following will be assessed, atmospheric air quality; surface and ground water; wastewater; bottom-surface of reservoirs; natural and artificial landscapes; subsoil and soil; flora and fauna; forests; ecosystems and biodiversity; ecologically sensitive areas *(such as wildlife sanctuaries, national parks, other sanctuaries, botanical garden, or area of international significance (e.g., protected wetland designated by the Wetland Convention)*; public health; socio-economic sphere including employment, education, health, road transport and engineering infrastructure; cultural heritage; and climate change. • provisions on the responsibilities of the relevant stakeholders, international cooperation in the fields of protection of environment and ecological safety, and state control.
The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Environment Protection, 9 February 1999	The general framework for all national objectives in the area of environmental protection: Chapter I. General Provisions Chapter II. Rights and duties in the area of protection of the environment Chapter III. Use of nature Chapter IV. State cadaster and monitoring of the environment, natural resources, standardization and certification Chapter V. Economic regulation in the area of protection of the environment Chapter VI. Regulation of ecological equilibrium of the environment Chapter VII. Ecological requirements upon industrial and other categories of operations Chapter VIII. Ecological examination Chapter IX. Education, training, scientific researches, statistics and information in the area of ecology and protection of the environment Chapter X. Extraordinary ecological situation and zones of ecological disasters Chapter XI. Control over protection of the environment Chapter XII. Ecological audit and implementation of ecological audits Chapter XIII. Liability for breach of legislation on protection of the environment, resolution of disputes Chapter XIV. International co-operation in the area of protection of the environment
Chapter 7: Articles 35, 36, 37, and 38: Ecological Demands during Project Design and Implementation.	During the feasibility study, it should be confirmed that the project will comply with: • the maximum permitted discharges and emissions of pollutants in the natural environment • the maximum permitted noise and vibration levels, and other harmful physical influences as well as health norms and standards of hygiene
The Law on Ecological Safety (04.08.1999)	This law defines legal bases of ecological safety as component safety of the state, society and population, the purpose of which is establishment of legal bases for protection of life and health of the person, society, its material and moral values, environment, including atmospheric air, space, water objects, resources of the ground,

Reference	Description
	natural landscape, plants and animals from danger, arising as a result influence natural and anthropogenic action.
Article 50: Ecological Expertise	Requires identification of impact on environment caused by any activities, examine the results of such impacts and predict possible impacts in accordance with the environmental requirements and qualitative parameters of environment.
Article 54: Objects of the State Ecological Expertise	Defines the types of project which require compulsory "State Ecological Expertise (SEE)', *i.e.,* to undergo the systematic EIA process.
Law on Environmental Security 08.06.1999 and Decree No172 on application of the Law on environmental security 04.08.1999	This Law defines and sets the legal bases and dimensions of environmental safety with the related danger, dangerous situation, environmental emergency situation and disaster subsets together with their impact areas and subjectivity to risk exposure within the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
The Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on Specially Protected Natural Areas and Objects 24 March 2000	This Law sets the legal bases of organization and protection of specially protected natural areas, protection of specially protected natural units within the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Specially protected natural areas are sites of land and water (water area), and atmospheric space above them consisting of natural complexes and objects, representing special ecological, scientific, cultural, aesthetic and improving value, habitats of rare and endangered species of flora and fauna, fully or partly, constantly or temporarily excluded from economic circulation. Specially protected natural areas and objects in the Republic of Azerbaijan are classified into their categories of international, republican, regional and local value. Restrictions on economic use of natural resources in the specially protected natural areas and objects or specially allocated sites are provided in the regulated regime of economic activity. The Law allows the use of specially protected natural areas for the following purposes: • nature protection; • scientific researches; • monitoring of the environment, sanitation; • training and education; and • tourism and rest (recreation).
Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on provision with environmental information March 2002 270 - IQ	This Law regulates relations connected with provision by State and local self-government bodies and authorities of in-time and exact information on environmental condition and application of natural resources. This Law interprets environmental information about: • condition of soil, water, Earth surface, atmosphere and living organisms; • changes, as a result of human activity, which may occur or have occurred in environmental components, which affect or may affect human health; • assessment of these changes; • environmental protection; and • measures on efficient application and expenses. According to the Law, by procedure of provision with environmental information, it is divided into restricted-type and open-type information; and excluding restricted information, every person, independent of time and unconditionally enjoys the right of getting information.

Reference	Description
The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Sanitary and Epidemiological Safety, 1993 Section III: Responsibilities of State Bodies, Agencies, Companies… on the Provision of Sanitary and Epidemiological Safety	General framework provisions on the requirement to provide healthy and safe conditions at workplaces and work camps (and many others) in compliance with the relevant sanitary hygiene, construction regulations, and norms (particularly items 14, 15 and 16).
The Law on Fauna *N. 675-IQ* *4 June 1999*	This law determines legal grounds of usage and protection of fauna in Azerbaijan Republic. The objects and subjects are enumerated in the 4th article of the Law. Generally, objects of fauna are different species of fauna, zoolites, products of their life activity, and ranges of their location. Subjects of fauna are natural and legal persons. Law (article 5) distinguishes State, municipal and private property on fauna and determines termination bases of this law (article 26). All animals in nature are state property, and animals, which are separated from nature by different licenses and, which are determined by state list may be municipality property and private property.
Law on the Protection of Plants *210 – IQ* *December 3, 1996*	The aim of the Law is the realization of system of measures directed to prevention of mass propagation of the plant's vermin, illnesses and Weed, barring of losses of production, production of ecological clean products, protection of environment, health of the population, useful flora and fauna from the harmful influence of pesticides, quarantine, isolation and liquidation of other especially dangerous vermin.
Law "On Fisheries" *457 – iQ* *13 June 1998*	This Law establishes legal grounds of organization, management, increase application and protection of fish resources in Azerbaijan Republic. Fish resources are State property. One of important obligations of State in the sphere of protection of fish reserves is the creation of special regime, ichthyologic and temporary reserves for protection of fish species, water flora and fauna plants, included into Red Book, creation of ichthyologic and temporary reserves, allotment of special protected areas of water.
Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on subsurface (subsoil) *№ 439-IQ of 13 February 1998*	This Law shall regulate relations in connection with the development (exploration, research), efficient use, protection and safety of works in the subsurface in the territory of the Azerbaijan Republic, including subsurface in the Azerbaijan Republic section of the Caspian Sea (Lake), provide for the protection of interests of the state, users of the subsurface and individuals in course of use of the subsurface
Regulations on Carrying Out the State Expertise of Geological Information on Subsoil Plots Granted for the Use and Reserves of Mineral Resources. *No. 102 of 13 February 1999*	These Regulations have been prepared in accordance with the Laws of the Azerbaijan Republic “On Subsoil”, the Decree of the President of the Azerbaijan Republic No. 701 of 27 April 1998 “On Application of the Law of the Azerbaijan Republic On Subsoil”, and shall determine the conduct and approval of the state expertise of as well as the main requirements on geological information on subsoil plots necessary for the construction and operation of underground installations not connected with the extraction of mineral resources in the Azerbaijan Republic, and the state expertise of the reserves of the already explored mineral resources fields and conditions for mineral resources (hereinafter shall be referred to as the “state geological expertise”).
Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on Fertility of Lands *№ 788-IQ of December 30 1999.*	This Law shall establish legislative provisions related to reinstatement, increase and protection of fertility of state, municipal and private lands in the Azerbaijan Republic.

Reference	Description
Azeri Law on Automobile Roads: Section 39: Protection of Environment, March 10, 2000.	Spells out that any construction or reconstruction of roads requires the official approval of the Azerbaijan State Ecological Expertise, must introduce state of the art technology, and chemicals used must be environmentally benign. The unit of the ministry responsible for road environment must approve the environmental, health and safety norms of the construction.
Law the Azerbaijan Republic on "Industrial and domestic waste" *No: 514-iQ* *Adopted: 30 June 1998*	This law regulates in Azerbaijan Republic relationships, connected with the protection of environment from industrial and domestic waste (further called waste) generated, as a result of human activity, decrease of hazardous influence of those waste, provision of ecological balance in nature, determines state policy on the usage of waste, as secondary raw materials, excluding hazardous gas, sludge water and active waste. • For responsibilities and Obligations: – the responsibilities of the state authorities include "…allocation, upon agreement with the relevant executive authority, of plots of land for location, burial and processing of wastes; designing and construction of facilities for storage, use and neutralization of wastes; ensuring economic, social and legal framework in the area of use and reduction of level of accumulation of wastes". – In Chapter 2 (Articles 7-14) – Requirements in relation to design, construction and re-construction of enterprises, facilities and other installations, conditions of waste processing, requirements for waste processing places, disposal, transportation, at the same time for cleaning up the residential areas from domestic wastes are commented. – Articles 9 and 10 of the Law, stipulate the conditions for waste processing and the requirements for the places of waste processing. The following requirements related to waste processing are also put forward parallel to the others • For permits as per Article 11: – Waste disposal is carried out based on permit of MENR. MoH and local executive powers – Special researches with permissions of relevant authorities (MENR, SCGMR, MIC & Local Executive Powers) with public consultations for disposal sites • For Disposal Facilities as per Article 11: Shall not be in location or within cities, residential settlements, resort, treatment / health areas, forest, recreation zone, groundwater, industrial and drinking water reservoir, mineral resources, and mining operations.
Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on municipality water industry *29 June 2001* *N. 159-IIQ*	The Purpose of this Law is to determine the legal bases of relationship between municipalities and the corresponding bodies of executive power, legal and physical persons, connected with the usage and protection of water industrial objects, located at the territory of the municipalities of Azerbaijan Republic. Water industrial objects of local significance, being state property and located at municipal land area are transferred to municipal property, in order to be established by the President of Azerbaijan Republic. Municipal property on water industrial objects may be established by taking into account the following conditions: • transferring of water industrial objects belonging to state property to municipality ownership, in order established by legislation; • establishing of new water industrial objects by municipalities;

Reference	Description
	• purchase of water industrial objects, belonging to legal and physical persons by municipalities on base of agreements; and • By other conditions, taken into consideration by legislation, (article 3).
Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on safety of hydrotechnical installations *December 27, 2002* *N. 412 - HQ*	The Law regulates relations connected with guaranteeing of safety of hydro-technical installations during design, construction, operation, reconstruction, recovery, preserving and liquidation of them and determines relevant duties of state power organs, owners and operators of these installations. The hydro-technical installations may be state, municipal and private property. Right for operation of hydro-technical installations is to be obtained in the order determined by the legislation of Azerbaijan Republic. At the territories of location of hydro-technical installations, relevant protection regime is to be applied depending on the classification of them on safety issues, and the protection zones are to be formed around them. Sizes of protection zones, their boundaries and use rules are determined by relevant executive power organ. Features of guaranteeing the safety of hydro-technical installations operated within enterprises of the state energetic and water transport systems, including safety of off -share installations located in the Sector of the Caspian Sea (Lake) owned by Azerbaijan Republic are to be determined by Regulations approved by the relevant executive power organ. Carrying out of explosion work and mining of nature resources, also location and activity of objects rendering negative physical, chemical and biological effect to these installations and environment are prohibited. Economic activity of legal entities or natural persons at the origins and zones of rivers, water basins and at sea, which negatively effect to safety of hydrological installations, is to be terminated or limited.
Law on the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments of Azerbaijan Republic *№ 470-IQ, Baku, 10 April 1998*	This Law is regulating the issues connected to protection, investigation and using of historical and cultural monuments. Article 13. Protection of the monuments during construction and other service works Article 14. Archaeological investigations on the sites of new constructions
Rules of Issue of the Status of "Mountainous-Mining Allocation" To Subsurface Section for Extraction of Mineral Resources, Construction and Operation of Underground Facilities Not Associated with Extraction of Mineral Resources *No. 1 of January 9, 1999*	These Rules shall establish procedures for the issue of the status of "Mountainous-Mining Allocation" to a subsurface section upon special permission (license) for extraction of mineral resources and construction and operation of underground facilities not associated with extraction of mineral resources on the territory of the Azerbaijan Republic.
Rules for Liquidation and Conservation of Enterprises Engaged into Extraction of Mineral Resources, Mountainous-Mining Excavations, Drilling Wells and Underground Facilities not associated with extraction of mineral resources *No. 2 of 9 January 1999*	These Rules shall be compulsory for all subsurface users irrespective of the type of ownership engaged into exploration, extraction of mineral resources and construction and operation of underground facilities not associated with mineral resources in the territory of the Azerbaijan Republic and the Azerbaijan Republic section of the Caspian Sea (lake).

Reference	Description
Labor Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan 1 February 1999 № 618-IG.	The Code sets the conditions for contractual relations between employers and employees and minimum standards on labor protection.
new Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On Employment» August 28, 2018	Supersedes the Law on Employment, dated July 02, 2001 with the following updates: • Creation of employment subsystem in the central electronic information system of the MLSPP; • Registration of job seekers and unemployed persons in employment subsystem and provision of electronic services to them; • Insured persons' salary financing program (subsidized employment); • Registration of legal entities engaged in mediation in employment activity in the register; • Setting up an electronic vacancy bank and the obligations of the employer in connection with it; • Determination of quota and social workplaces for employment of persons in need of social protection • Creating a registry of employed people • Development of standards for social enterprises and jobs beyond the quota • Rules of organization and activity of labor exchanges and job fairs; • Creation of unified information resources for control of informal employment; and • State support for self-employment
Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan No 768-IIQ dated 5 October, 2004 «On Living Wage" (as amended by Law No. 109-IIIQD dated May 12, 2006, and Law No. 260- IIIQD dated March 6, 2007)	Describes the principles and procedures of setting the living wage in the Azerbaijan Republic and its state support, as well as its increase in consistence with the social and economic development in the country.
Law on entrepreneurship activity № 405, dated December 15, 1992	Defines the principles of entrepreneurship in the Republic of Azerbaijan, rights and obligations of business entities, forms and methods of its protection and approval by the state, and the interaction of entrepreneurs with the state bodies and relevant executive authorities (hereinafter – the organizations)
Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On social insurance" (18 February 1997 No. 250-IQ)	This Law regulates relationships in the area of social insurance, defines legal, economical and organization grounds for social insurance in the Republic of Azerbaijan.
16 February 2011 – "Regulation on the State Employment Service under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Azerbaijan".	This Regulation defines the role and responsibilities of the State Employment Services under MLSPP in organizing delivery of state employment services in the country
"Unemployment Insurance Law" of the Republic of Azerbaijan (approved on June 30, 2017)	The purpose is to strengthen social protection of the unemployed and job seekers. Implementation of this law will provide wider opportunities for the organization of vocational trainings and re-training courses on advancement of professional skills, public work, labour exchange and labour fairs, as well as extensive adoption of self-employment projects and legalization of labour relations
Law on Targeted State Social Assistance № 1039–IIQ dated 21 October 2005 (with	This regulates the purposes and principles of rendering targeted state social assistance, the legal basis for the appointment and other relations arising in this area. Targeted state social assistance is a subsidy provided by the state to low-income families. Before

Reference	Description
amendments made in 2008, 2015, 2018, 2019)	the need criterion, was an annual limit approved by the state budget for the purpose of establishing targeted state social assistance, depending on the subsistence minimum for the major socio-demographic groups of the population.
Law on "Prevention of Disability, Rehabilitation and Social Protection of Disabled" (August 1995)	Defines "disabled person" as "a person, with limited functions, who needs social assistance and protection due to congenital or injury/illness caused by physical or mental deficiencies.
Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 275-IVQ dated December 30, 2011 "On social service"	Establishes legal, organizational, economic and organizational basis of state policy in the field of social servicing of persons who are in difficult life situation and governs the relations arising in this area
Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 55-IIIQ dated February 7, 2006 "On social benefits" (Law No.720-IVQD of 30 September 2013 to Amend Law on Social Benefits)	Establishes social benefits in the Republic of Azerbaijan and other relations arising in this area regulates. The following basic definitions are used for the purposes of this Law: • Social benefits (hereinafter referred to as allowances) - as defined by law provision of social assistance to certain categories of persons in the established order monthly or lump sum money; • Disabled persons - disabled people, aged up to 18 years with limited opportunities of health, children, the women who reached age of 62 years, the men who reached age of 67 years, the women who reached age of 57 years, women who gave birth to 3 and/or more children and brought them up to 8 years of age, or brought up the child with limited opportunities of health to 8-year age, the men who reached the age of 62 years and independently bringing up 3 and/or more children to 8-year age in view of the death of mother or deprivation of its maternal rights without entering repeated scrap or raised up the child with limited opportunities of health to 8 years of age, the children of the deceased supporter who did not reach age of 18 years (before the end of the training by pupils in fulltime courses, but not advanced age of 23 years), or handicapped children who are over 18 years, which limited opportunities of health are established before achievement of 18 years by them.
Land Code 25 June 1999 No: № 695-iQ	When land is required for projects of national interest, compensation is initially offered on the basis of valuations made in accordance with the standard code (no. 158 dated 1998). If landowners are unhappy with this valuation, there is a scope for agreeing a revised valuation. In the event that such agreement cannot be reached, the acquiring authority can process its application for acquisition through the courts, but this is often a long and complex process. The landowner also has an option for seeking recourse through the courts. The Land Code also allows for exchange land to be given, that is equivalent to the land being acquired.
Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No. 42 (On Some Normative and Legal Acts Relating to the Land Code of the Azerbaijan Republic dated 15 March 2000)	This resolution outlines procedures for the compulsory acquisition of land for state or municipal needs.
Cabinet of Ministers Resolution No 110 (On Approval of Regulations for an Inventory Cost estimation of Buildings Owned by Natural Persons dated June 1999)	This resolution outlines procedures for acquisition and compensation valuation for affected buildings and immovable properties. It refers to the standard code No. 58 that is to be used for making valuations of land and property to be acquired. These valuations are made on the basis of standard unit rates for different types of construction in different regions of Azerbaijan.

Reference	Description
Civil Code *1 December 1998*	This Civil Code states that any rights to immovable properties must be registered with the State, and that land may be recalled from owners for state or municipal needs as approved by the relevant courts.
Water Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan *December 26, 1997* *N. 418- IQ*	Regulates the use of water bodies, setting also property rights and covering issues of inventory and monitoring. State, municipalities and individuals may own water bodies depending on their importance. The Code regulates the use of water bodies for drinking and service water and for medical treatment, spas, recreation and sports, agricultural needs, industrial needs and hydro energy, transport, fishing and hunting, discharge of wastewater, fire protection, and specially protected water bodies. It provides for issues of zoning, maximum allowable concentrations of harmful substances and basic rules of conduct for industry.
The Forestry Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan *30 December 1997* *N. 424-iQ*	The purpose and objectives of forestry legislation of Azerbaijan Republic are to manage forests with scientific approach, to preserve biological diversity of ecosystem, on basis of principles of increasing reserve potential to use them effectively, protect and restore. The intents of forestry relations in Azerbaijan Republic are for the establishment of forestry fund of the Azerbaijan Republic, areas of the forestry fund, trees and bushes and its use. All forests within Republic and land lots of forestry fund not covered with plants, (forest and non-forest lands areas) comprise forestry fund of Azerbaijan Republic. Forest fund belongs to State and it is State property. Forests and forest funds are not privatized. Subjects of forestry relations are state bodies, the municipalities, natural and legal persons.
Rules for Use, Protection and Preservation of Trees and Bushes which are not included to the Forestry Fund of Azerbaijan Republic *No 173; 19 of September 2005*	This document includes detailed description of trees and shrubs that are not to include to the forestry Fund and the way of their protection as well as the exclusions and the regulations in case of necessity of their cutting or replanting.
Law of about land lease *№: 587-IQ.* *Adopted: 11 December 1998*	This law determines the legal bases of leasing and leasing relationships of land of state, municipal and private property in Azerbaijan Republic.
EIA Handbook for Azerbaijan (UNDP), 1996	Regulations on EA in Azerbaijan which define the type of projects requiring EA, the contents of an EA document, the roles and responsibilities of the developer and the competent national authorities, the procedures for public participation and the appeal process. • Upon formal application, MENR determines the scope of environmental investigation to be conducted, including categorization. If a full EIA is required, the scope of the EIA investigations will be determined after a scoping meeting convened by MENR with the participation of the developer. • After completion of investigations and consultations, the developer submits an EA report to MENR for approval. MENR makes the EA report available to the public and submits it to the Environmental Review Expert Group, which conducts its own investigations and produces a review document that is submitted to MENR. Official approval of the project may be subject to conditions that can relate to any phase of the project. • On accepting MENR's EA permission, the developer accepts the conditions attached to the permission, which then become legally binding.

Reference	Description
Azeri Law on Automobile Roads: Section 39: Protection of Environment, March 10, 2000.	Spells out that any construction or reconstruction of roads requires the official approval of the Azerbaijan State Ecological Expertise, must introduce state of the art technology, and chemicals used must be environmentally benign. The unit of the ministry responsible for road environment must approve the environmental, health and safety norms of the construction.
Guidelines for Road Construction, Management and Design, February 7, 2000	Addresses environmental issues in road design, construction, and maintenance.
Part I: Planning of Automobile Roads	Requires minimizing the impacts on the ecological, geological, hydrogeological, and other natural conditions, by implementing adequate protection measures.
Part II: Construction and Reconstruction of Automobile Roads	Requires consideration of appropriate protection measures, which shall contribute to the maintenance of stable ecological and geological conditions as well as natural balance.
Section II.3: Protection of the Environment	General overview on the protection of the environment.
Reg. 514-1Q-98: Regulation on Industrial and Municipal Waste	Requirements for industry and enterprises for implementation of standards and norms of environmental protection for waste when designing, constructing, or reconstructing.
SNIP III-4-80: Norms of Construction Safety	Detailed regulations on construction worker's health and safety. Chapters 2 and 5 provide the organizational procedure of construction and work sites and transport sites. Annex 9 contains standards on maximum concentrations of toxic substances in the air of working zones; Annex 11 specifically requires that workers need to be informed and trained about sanitation and health care issues and the specific hazards of their work.
SNIP 2.05.02-85 Building Code & Regulations for Automobile Roads Ch. 3: Environmental Protection	Indicates the general need to minimize adverse environmental impacts in road design and provides, for instructions on the removal and re-use of top soil (no. 3.4); the need to provide buffer between the road and populated areas and to carry out noise reduction measures to assure compliance with the relevant sanitary norms (no. 3.9); on the dumping of excess materials (no. 3.12);
Safety Regulations for Construction, Rehabilitation, and Maintenance of Roads, 1978	Compilation of safety rules related to technical safety requirements of road construction equipment, rehabilitation of bridge, operation and maintenance of asphalt plants, working with toxic substances, working in borrow sites etc.
The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Sanitary and Epidemiological Safety, 1993 Section III: Responsibilities of State Bodies, Agencies, Companies… on the Provision of Sanitary and Epidemiological Safety	General framework provisions on the requirements to provide healthy and safe conditions at workplaces and work camps (and many others) in compliance with the relevant sanitary hygiene, construction regulations, and norms (particularly items 14, 15 and 16).
BCH 8-89 Regulations on Environmental *Protection* in Construction, Rehabilitation and Maintenance of Roads	Comprehensive provisions on environmental protection measures in road construction such as use of soils, protection of surface and groundwater resources, protection of flora and fauna, use, preparation and storage of road construction machinery and materials, servicing of construction machinery; provisional structures, provisional roads, fire protection, borrow pits and material transport, avoidance of dust, protection of soils from pollution, prevention of soil erosion etc. The appendices to this document also include state standards for: maximum permitted concentrations of toxic substances; noise control measures; soil pollution through losses of oil and fuel from construction equipment; quality of surface water.
Sanitary Norms CH 2.2.4/2.1.8.562-96; 1997	Ambient noise quality standards for residential, commercial and industrial areas, hospitals and schools (day/night standards);

As stated in Article 151 *(Legal value of international acts)* of the Azerbaijan Constitution, agreements in International Conventions supersede national laws in case of conflict. This principle is embodied in Articles 81 and 82, Chapter 14 (International Co-Operation on Environment Protection Issues) of the Law on Environmental Protection. Furthermore, Azerbaijan is signatory to most international agreements and conventions relating to the environment, as shown in Table below.

Table 9: International Agreements and Conventions

International Convention	Year Ratified
UNESCO Convention on Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage	1994
UN Framework on Climate Change	1995
UN Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna Convention)	1996
Kyoto Protocol on Greenhouse Gas Emissions	1997
Agreement on Mutual Cooperation of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the area of Hydrometeorology	1998
Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and Agreement on Protection of Sturgeons	1998
UN Convention to Combat Desertification	1998
Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision Making and Access to Justice for Environmental Matters	1998
UN Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in the Trans-boundary Context (Espoo Convention)	1999
Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (Bern Convention)	1999
UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)	1999
UNESCO Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention)	2001
UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Trans-boundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki Convention)	2000
UN Convention on Biological Diversity	2000
FAO Convention on Plant Protection	2000
Protocol on UN Framework Convention on Climate (Kyoto Protocol)	2000
Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal Protocol)	2000
European Agreement about Transportation of Dangerous Goods on International Routes	2000
UN Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (Basel Convention)	2001
UNECE Convention on Long-Range Trans-boundary Air Pollution	2002

Source: Scott Wilson Ltd, D112140EAEMP

On July 18, 2001, the Republic of Azerbaijan ratified the treaties of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance as Waterfowl Habitation which was held in Ramsar city (Iran) and which later became to be known as the Ramsar Convention. The Ramsar Convention was the first of the modern global intergovernmental treaties on the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, and emphasized on the conservation and wise use of wetlands primarily as habitat for water birds. Traditionally regarded as wastelands, wetlands were at constant threat due to conversion of use, especially to agriculture. With the Ramsar Convention, the importance of wetlands has been recognized in sustainable development and for conservation of world's biodiversity. In Azerbaijan wetlands perform vital functions such as flood control, water purification, water regulation, production of fish and etc., making them essential in the biophysical health of the areas. Primarily the signatories to the Ramsar Convention are expected to do the following: (i) specify at least one wetland on the List of Wetlands of International Importance; (ii) encourage the wise use of wetlands; (iii) establish wetland reserves, cooperate in the exchange of information and shared wetlands species.

The following are other laws with relevance to Environment and Roads:

- *The Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on Automobile Roads (March 10, 2000) Section 39: Protection of the Environment:* States that any construction or reconstruction of roads requires

the official approval of the Ecological Committee. State of the art technology must be applied and that chemicals used must be environmentally sound. The unit of the ministry responsible for road environment must approve the proposed environmental, health and safety norms of the construction.

- *SNIP 2.05.02-85 Building Code & Regulations for Automobile Roads Ch. 3: Environmental Protection:* Indicates the general need to minimize adverse environmental impacts in road design and provides for instructions on the removal and re-use of top soil (no. 3.4); the need to provide buffer between the road and populated areas and to carry out noise reduction measures to assure compliance with the relevant sanitary norms (no. 3.9); on the dumping of excess materials (no. 3.12).
- *The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Sanitary and Epidemiological Safety, 1993 Section III:* Responsibilities of State Bodies, Agencies, Companies on the Provision of Sanitary and Epidemiological Safety: General framework provisions on the requirement to provide healthy and safe conditions at workplaces and work camps (and many others) in compliance with the relevant sanitary hygiene, construction regulations and norms (particularly items 14, 15, and 16).
- *Safety Regulations for Construction, Rehabilitation and Maintenance of Roads, 1978:* Comprehensive compilation of safety rules to technical safety requirements of road construction equipment, operation and maintenance of asphalt plants, work in borrow sites, loading and unloading operations, work with toxic substances, etc.
- SNIP III-4-80 Norms of Construction Safety: Detailed regulations on construction worker's health and safety. Chapters 2 and 5 provide organizational procedures of construction and work sites and material transport. Annex 9 contains standards on maximum concentrations of toxic substances in the air of working zones; Annex 11 states that workers need to be informed and trained about sanitation and health care issues and the specific hazards of their work.
- *Guidelines for Road Construction, Management and Design, February 7, 2000: Part I:* Planning of Automobile Roads: Addresses environmental issues in road design, construction and maintenance. Part II: Construction of Automobile Roads: Requires that the impacts on the ecological, geological, hydro-geological and other ecological conditions are minimized by implementing adequate protective measures. Part III: Protection of the Environment: Requires the consideration of appropriate protection measures, which shall contribute to the maintenance of stable ecological and geological conditions as well as the natural balance. Provides general overview on the requirements for environmental protection.
- *BCH 8-89 Regulations on Environmental Protection in Construction, Rehabilitation and Maintenance of Roads:* Comprehensive provisions on environmental protection measures of surface and groundwater resources; protection of flora and fauna; use, preparation and storage of road construction machinery and materials; servicing of construction machinery; provisional structures; provisional roads; fire protection; borrow pits and material transport; avoidance of dust; protection of soils from pollution, prevention of soil erosion, etc. The appendices to this document also state standard for: maximum permitted concentrations of toxic substances; noise control measures; soil pollution through losses of oil and fuel from construction equipment; quality of surface water.
- *Sanitary Norms CH 2.2.4/2.1.8.562-96, 1997:* Ambient noise quality and maximum allowable noise level standards for residential, commercial and industrial areas, hospitals and schools (day/night standards).
- *Reg. 514-1Q-98 Regulation on Industrial and Municipal Waste:* This law includes requirements for industry and enterprises on the implementation of identified standards, norms and environmental protection for waste when designing, constructing or reconstructing.

2.3 Institutional Responsibilities on National Legislation

The following government agencies will be involved in the management and monitoring of environmental aspects or concerns of the Regional Corridor Development Project Component 1 (Road Connectivity), Component 2 (Road Sector Sustainability) and Component 3 (Local Development and Logistics):

- **State Agency of Azerbaijan Automobile Roads (SAAAR) [Azərbaycan Avtomobil Yolları Dövlət Agentliyi (AAYDA)]** is responsible for planning, constructing, operating, and maintenance of national roads in Azerbaijan. The Project Implementation Unit (PIU) of the SAAAR will be in charge of project management, among others, to ensure that appropriate budget will be provided for the implementation of mitigation measures and monitoring the programme, and that the contract provisions are properly implemented. The Ecology and Safety Sector (ESS) of the SAAAR shall coordinate the Environmental and Social Assessment (ESA) study, carry out required public consultations, ensures implementation of the ESMP and public disclosure of the ESA study. The ESS shall also liaise with relevant government offices for securing environmental approvals. During the operational phase of the Project (especially for Subcomponents 1.1 and 3.1), SAAAR will undertake routine monitoring of road safety, the storm water drainage system, the condition of tree plantations and re-vegetation, etc.
- The ESS and the district offices of SAAAR in Rayons along the project road will undertake day-to-day supervision of construction and oversight of the implementation of environmental and social management plans during project implementation. The Regional Monitoring Department of the MENR shall undertake routine and random monitoring of the project to determine compliance with environmental regulations and standards.
  The Sanitary and Epidemiology Department of the Ministry of Health (MOH) will undertake routine monitoring of the living conditions and sanitary provisions at the contractor's work camp and worksites. MOH's Regional Disinfection Centre shall be involved in approving the contractor's work camp installations and facilities and their compliance with the relevant sanitary and health norms and guidelines.
- There are four principal environmental institutions who handle environmental protection, management and operation caused by infrastructure projects. These include (i) MENR, (ii) the Ministry of Health, (iii) the Ministry of Emergency Situations (which implements construction safety supervision), and (iv) AzerSu / State Amelioration and Water Management Agency (SAWMA) who will manage the Water Supply and Sanitation (WSS) in their respective areas under the Investment Program:

– **Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources.** Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources1 (MENR) is the primary institution entrusted with the responsibility of environmental protection and implementation of environmental related laws. The functions and activities of the MENR are subdivided into the following areas: (i) Environmental policy development; (ii) Environmental protection; (iii) Water monitoring and management; (iv) Protection of marine (Caspian Sea) bio- resources; (v) Forest management; and (vi) Bio-resources and protected areas management. This ministry upholds all natural resource protection laws. The State Ecological Expertise (SEE) Department, under the Department of Environmental Policy and Environmental Protection of MENR acts within this agency on the Program level in reviewing Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs). The activities, fields and sectors to which SEE would apply are specified in Article 54 (The units controlled by the SEE) of the EP Law as:

  - The State and local programs related to development and placement of productive capacities in governmental and economical institutions;
  - The documentation of technical and economical substantiation, construction (reconstruction, enlargement, and renovation technology) and destruction of economical capacities, as well as assessment of the project influence on environment;
  - Documentation concerning creation of new techniques, technologies, materials, and substances, as well as import of the same from abroad;
  - Draft of scientific-methodical and normative-technical documentation concerning environment protection;
  - Certain ecological conditions caused by improper work of industry and extraordinary situations;
  - Ecological conditions of the regions and individual (separate) natural objects and systems;
  - Provisions of draft contracts stipulating use of natural resources, as specified by the relevant decrees of the concerned executive bodies:

- **Ministry of Health: (Sanitary and Epidemiology Service sub-body within Azerbaijan only).** Sanitary and hygienic safety is the responsibility of the Ministry of Health. Its main function is the implementation of control over meeting the sanitary and epidemiological rules and standards as well as hygienic standards. This entity implements anti-epidemiological measures throughout Azerbaijan and NAR by legal and physical persons through application of laboratory and sampling controls.
- **Ministry of Emergency Situations** (Commission of Emergency Situations in the NAR). This agency implements construction safety supervision and standards. Their main involvement in this Program will be to regulate safety on site and to road users.
- **Azersu Open Joint Stock Company** - is in charge of policy and strategy for the water supply and sanitation services in Azerbaijan. The Company makes necessary arrangements for extraction of water from sources followed by treatment, transportation, and sales and takes necessary actions for wastewater treatment. Azersu OJSC engages in the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of intake structures, reservoirs, pumping stations, water pipelines and sewerage collectors.

2.4 Applicable World Bank Environment and Social Standards (ESS)

The ESMF addresses the environmental and social risks and impacts associated with the project**,** in accordance with WB ESF ESSs relevant for the project. The project takes full cognizance of the ESSs that the Borrower (Government of Azerbaijan – SAAAR) and the project will meet through the project life cycle. The following presents the salient points, key objectives and requirements

- ***ESS 1 – Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts*** ESS1 establishes the Client's (*Gov. of Azerbaijan – SAAAR*) responsibilities for assessing, managing and monitoring environmental and social risks and impacts associated with each stage of a project supported by the Bank through Investment Project Financing, in order to achieve environmental and social outcomes consistent with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) (*ESS1 par. 1*). The objective of ESS1 is for the Borrower to conduct environmental and social assessment of projects proposed for Bank financing to help ensure that projects are environmentally and socially sound and sustainable. The environmental and social assessment will be proportionate to the risks and impacts of the project. It will inform the design of the project, and be used to identify mitigation measures and actions and to improve decision making.

  The fundamental requirements are as follows:
  - The Client will undertake an environmental and social assessment to assess the environmental and social risks and impacts of a project throughout the project life cycle (*ESS1 par. 14, 23*).
  - Expected Actions of the Borrower: *(a) Conduct an environmental and social assessment of the proposed project, including stakeholder engagement; (b) Undertake stakeholder engagement and disclose appropriate information in accordance with ESS10; (c) Develop an ESCP, and implement all measures and actions set out in the legal agreement including the ESCP; and (d) Conduct monitoring and reporting on the environmental and social performance of the project against the ESSs* (*ESS1 par. 15).*
  - The environmental and social assessment is the primary means of ensuring projects are environmentally and socially sound and sustainable and will be used to inform decision making (*ESS1 Annex 1 par. 2*).
  - The Client will undertake the environmental and social assessment at the scale and level of detail appropriate to the potential risks and impacts (*ESS1 Annex 1 par. 3*).
  - The environmental and social assessment will be based on current information, including a description and delineation of the project and any associated aspects, and environmental and social baseline data at an appropriate level of detail sufficient to inform characterization and identification of risks and impacts and mitigation measures. The assessment will evaluate the project's potential environmental and social risks and impacts; examine project alternatives; identify ways of improving project selection,

siting, planning, design and implementation in order to apply the mitigation hierarchy for adverse environmental and social impacts and seek opportunities to enhance the positive impacts of the project (*ESS1 par. 24)*.

- The Borrower will ensure that the environmental and social assessment takes into account in an appropriate manner all issues relevant to the project, including: (a) the country's applicable policy framework, national laws and regulations, and institutional capabilities (including implementation) relating to environment and social issues; variations in country conditions and project context; country environmental or social studies; national environmental or social action plans; and obligations of the country directly applicable to the project under relevant international treaties and agreements; (b) applicable requirements under the ESSs; and (c) the EHSGs, and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) The assessment of the project, and all proposals contained in the assessment, will be consistent with the requirements of this paragraph.(*ESS1 par. 26*).
- The environmental and social assessment will apply a mitigation hierarchy, which will: (a) Anticipate and avoid risks and impacts; (b) Where avoidance is not possible, minimize or reduce risks and impacts to acceptable levels; (c) Once risks and impacts have been minimized or reduced, mitigate; and (d) Where significant residual impacts remain, compensate for or offset them, where technically and financially feasible (*ESS1 par. 27*).
- The environmental and social assessment, informed by the scoping of the issues, will take into account all relevant environmental and social risks and impacts of the project, as detailed in *ESS1 par. 28*.
- The environmental and social assessment will be conducted in accordance with ESS1, and will consider, in an integrated way, all relevant direct, indirect and cumulative environmental and social risks and impacts of the project, including 1those specifically identified in ESS2–10. The breadth, depth, and type of analysis undertaken as part of the environmental and social assessment will depend on the nature and scale of the project, and the potential environmental and social risks and impacts that could result. The Borrower will undertake the environmental and social assessment at the scale and level of detail appropriate to the potential risks and impacts (*ESS1 Annex 1 par. 3*).
- The environmental and social assessment will include stakeholder engagement as an integral part of the assessment, in accordance with ESS10 (*ESS1 par. 24*).
- The environmental and social assessment will include and take into account coordination and consultation with affected people and other interested parties, particularly at an early stage, to ensure that all potentially significant environmental and social risks and impacts are identified and addressed (*ESS1 Annex 1 par. 4*).
- For projects involving multiple small subprojects, that are identified, prepared and implemented during the course of the project, the Borrower will carry out appropriate environmental and social assessment of subprojects, and prepare and implement such subprojects, as follows: (a) High Risk subprojects, in accordance with the ESSs; (b) Substantial Risk, Moderate Risk and Low Risk subprojects, in accordance with national law and any requirements of the ESSs that the Bank deems relevant to such subprojects.(*ESS1 par. 30*)

- ***ESS 2 – Labor and Working Conditions***

ESS2 recognizes the importance of employment creation and income generation in the pursuit of poverty reduction and inclusive economic growth. It is for the Borrowers to be able to promote sound worker- management relationships and enhance the development benefits of a project by treating workers in the project fairly and providing safe and healthy working conditions. This Standard applies to project workers including fulltime, part-time, temporary, seasonal and migrant workers.

ESS2 aims to: (i) promote safety and health at work and the fair treatment, nondiscrimination and equal opportunity of project workers; (ii) to protect project workers, including vulnerable workers such as women, persons with disabilities; children (of working age, in accordance

with this ESS) and migrant workers, contracted workers, community workers and primary supply workers, as appropriate; (iii) to prevent the use of all forms of forced labor and child labor; to support the principles of freedom of association and collective bargaining of project workers in a manner consistent with national law; and (iv) to provide project workers with accessible means to raise workplace concerns. (*ESS2 par. 1*)

In general, ***for Subcomponents 1.1 and 3.1***, the Borrower will develop and implement written labor management procedures applicable to the project. These procedures will set out the way in which project workers will be managed, in accordance with the requirements of national law and this ESS. The procedures will address the way in which this ESS will apply to different categories of project workers including direct workers, and the way in which the Borrower will require third parties to manage their workers in accordance with (ESS2's) paragraphs 31–33 (*ESS2 par.9*).

- ***ESS 3 – Resource Efficiency, Pollution Prevention and Management***

ESS3 recognizes that economic activity and urbanization often generate pollution to air, water, and land, and consume finite resources that may threaten people, ecosystem services and the environment at the local, regional, and global levels. The current and projected atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases (GHG) threatens the welfare of current and future generations. At the same time, more efficient and effective resource use, pollution prevention and GHG emission avoidance, and mitigation technologies and practices have become more accessible and achievable. This ESS sets out the requirements to address resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management throughout the project life cycle consistent with GIIP. (*ESS3 par. 1*). The applicability of this ESS is established during the environmental and social assessment described in ESS1 (*ESS3 par. 2*). The objectives of ESS3 are: (i) to promote the sustainable use of resources, including energy, water and raw materials; (ii) to avoid or minimize adverse impacts on human health and the environment by avoiding or minimizing pollution from project activities; (iii) To avoid or minimize project-related emissions of short and long-lived climate pollutants; (iv) To avoid or minimize generation of hazardous and non-hazardous waste; and (v) to minimize and manage the risks and impacts associated with pesticide use.

The important requirements are as follows:

- **Resource Efficiency** - The Borrower will implement technically and financially feasible measures for improving efficient consumption of energy, water and raw materials, as well as other resources Such measures will integrate the principles of cleaner production into product design and production processes to conserve raw materials, energy and water, as well as other resources. Where benchmarking data are available, the Borrower will make a comparison to establish the relative level of efficiency (*ESS3 par. 5*). This covers:
  A. Energy use - efficient use of energy
  B. Water use - When the project is a potentially significant user of water or will have potentially significant impacts on water quality,
  C. Raw material use - When the project is a potentially significant user of raw materials
- **Pollution prevention and management** - The Borrower will avoid the release of pollutants or, when avoidance is not feasible, minimize and control the concentration and mass flow of their release using the performance levels and measures specified in national law or the EHSGs, whichever is most stringent This applies to the release of pollutants to air, water and land due to routine, non-routine, and accidental circumstances, and with the potential for local, regional, and transboundary impacts (*ESS3 par. 11*). This covers:
  A. Management of air pollution – Borrower will characterize and estimate sources of air pollution related to the project whenever technically and financially feasible.
  B. Management of hazardous and nonhazardous wastes - Borrower will avoid, if not, minimize the generation of waste, and reuse, recycle and recover waste in a manner that is safe for human health and the environment

C. Management of chemicals and hazardous materials - Borrower will minimize and control the release and use of hazardous materials
D. Management of pesticides - Borrower will assess the nature and degree of associated risks, taking into account the proposed use and the intended users.

- ***ESS 4 – Community Health and Safety 237.***

ESS4 recognizes that project activities, equipment, and infrastructure can increase community exposure to risks and impacts. In addition, communities that are already subjected to impacts from climate change may also experience an acceleration or intensification of impacts due to project activities *(ESS4 par. 3).* The applicability of this ESS is established during the environmental and social assessment described in ESS1 *(ESS4 par. 3).* The objectives of ESS4 are: (i) to anticipate and avoid adverse impacts on the health and safety of project-affected communities during the project life cycle from both routine and nonroutine circumstances; (ii) to promote quality and safety, and considerations relating to climate change, in the design and construction of infrastructure, including dams; (iii) to avoid or minimize community exposure to project-related traffic and road safety risks, diseases and hazardous materials; (iv) to have in place effective measures to address emergency events; and (v) to ensure that the safeguarding of personnel and property is carried out in a manner that avoids or minimizes risks to the project-affected communities.

The important requirements are as follows:

A. **Community health and safety –** Borrower will evaluate the risks and impacts of the project on the health and safety of the affected communities during the project life cycle (*ESS4 par.5*). This covers:
   - **Infrastructure and equipment design and safety** - Borrower will design, construct, operate, and decommission the structural elements of the project in accordance with national legal requirements, the EHSGs and other GIIP, taking into consideration safety risks to third parties and affected communities
   - ***Traffic and road safety*** - Borrower will identify, evaluate and monitor the potential traffic and road safety risks to workers, affected communities and road users throughout the project life cycle and, where appropriate, will develop measures and plans to address them.
   - ***Ecosystem services*** - The project's direct impacts on ecosystem services may result in adverse health and safety risks to and impacts on affected communities. With respect to this ESS, ecosystem services are limited to provisioning and regulating services as defined in ESS1.
   - ***Community exposure to health issues*** - Borrower will avoid or minimize the potential for community exposure to water-borne, water-based, water-related, and vector-borne diseases, and communicable and non-communicable diseases that could result from project activities, taking into consideration differentiated exposure to and higher sensitivity of vulnerable groups.
   - ***Management and safety of hazardous materials*** - will avoid or minimize the potential for community exposure to hazardous materials and substances that may be released by the project.
   - ***Emergency preparedness and response*** - Borrower will identify and implement measures to address emergency events, which are unanticipated incidents, arising from both natural and man-made hazards, typically in the form of fire, explosions, leaks or spills, which may occur for a variety of different reasons, including failure to implement operating procedures that are designed to prevent their occurrence, extreme weather or lack of early warning.

B. **Security personnel -** When the Borrower retains direct or contracted workers to provide security to safeguard its personnel and property, it will assess risks posed by these security arrangements to those within and outside the project site

- ***ESS 5 – Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use, and Involuntary Resettlement***

ESS5 recognizes that project-related land acquisition and restrictions on land use can have adverse impacts on communities and persons and sets forth requirements for their avoidance

and mitigation. This ESS is covered in Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), that expounds the policies and procedures to ensure that project affected persons (PAPs) are adequately consulted regarding the project activities and receive compensation or assistance that will at least restore their living status to pre-displacement levels. The objectives of ESS5 are: (i) to avoid involuntary resettlement or, when unavoidable, minimize involuntary resettlement by exploring project design alternatives; (ii) to avoid forced eviction; (iii) to mitigate unavoidable adverse social and economic impacts from land acquisition or restrictions on land use by: (a) providing timely compensation for loss of assets at replacement cost and (b) assisting displaced persons in their efforts to improve, or at least restore, their livelihoods and living standards, in real terms, to pre-displacement levels or to levels prevailing prior to the beginning of project implementation, whichever is higher; (iv) To improve living conditions of poor or vulnerable persons who are physically displaced, through provision of adequate housing, access to services and facilities, and security of tenure; (v) to conceive and execute resettlement activities as sustainable development programs, providing sufficient investment resources to enable displaced persons to benefit directly from the project, as the nature of the project may warrant; and (vii) to ensure that resettlement activities are planned and implemented with appropriate disclosure of information, meaningful consultation, and the informed participation of those affected.

The RPF**,** as per ESS5, shall assess potential expected risks and impacts, identify detailed steps to develop appropriate mitigation measures, including mitigation and compensation for the impact caused under the project including:

- Temporary or permanent involuntary land acquisition;
- Loss of, or impact on, assets or access;
- Loss of standing crops, trees income source or livelihoods, regardless of whether the PAPs will be resettled, or not;
- Restricted access to natural resources, public places and services;
- Legal framework, eligibility criteria of displaced population, valuation methodology, compensation provision, entitlement matrix, implementation process, consultation procedures;
- Due diligence procedures in case of project interventions linked to other development activities supported by the government and other funding agencies;
- Grievance redress mechanisms, entitlement payment procedures, and monitoring and evaluation procedures for land acquisition and resettlement under this project.

- ***ESS 6 – Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources***

ESS6 recognizes that protecting and conserving biodiversity and sustainably managing living natural resources are fundamental to sustainable development. Biodiversity is defined as the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems. Biodiversity often underpins ecosystem services valued by humans. Impacts on biodiversity can therefore often adversely affect the delivery of ecosystem services *(ESS6 par. 1).* This ESS is applied: (i) during the environmental and social assessment described in ESS1 (ESS6 par. 5); (ii) to all projects that potentially affect biodiversity or habitats, either positively or negatively, directly or indirectly, or that depend upon biodiversity for their success; and (iii) to projects that involve primary production and/or harvesting of living natural resources. The objectives of ESS6 are: (i) to protect and conserve biodiversity and habitats; (ii) to apply the mitigation hierarchy and the precautionary approach in the design and implementation of projects that could have an impact on biodiversity; (iii) to promote the sustainable management of living natural resources; (iv) to support livelihoods of local communities, including Indigenous Peoples, and inclusive economic development, through the adoption of practices that integrate conservation needs and development priorities.

The main requirements are as follows:

- The environmental and social assessment as set out in ESS1 will consider direct, indirect and cumulative project-related impacts on habitats and the biodiversity they support (*ESS6 par. 8*).
- The Borrower will avoid adverse impacts on biodiversity and habitats. When avoidance of adverse impacts is not possible, the Borrower will implement measures to minimize adverse impacts and restore biodiversity in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy provided in ESS1 and with the requirements of this ESS (*ESS6 par. 9*). Specifically, this covers: *(i) Assessment of risks and impacts; (ii) Conservation of biodiversity and habitats (modified, natural and critical habitats); (iv) Legally protected and internationally recognized areas of high biodiversity value; (v) Invasive alien species; and (vi) Sustainable management of living natural resources*
- Primary - Where a Borrower is purchasing natural resource commodities, including food, timber and fiber, that are known to originate from areas where there is a risk of significant conversion or significant degradation of natural or critical habitats, the Borrower's environmental and social assessment will include an evaluation of the systems and verification practices used by the primary suppliers (*ESS6 par. 38*).

- ***ESS 7 – Indigenous Peoples, Sub-Saharan African Historically Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities***

  This standard is not relevant as no Indigenous People are known to reside in Azerbaijan.

- ***ESS 8 – Cultural Heritage***

  ESS8 recognizes that cultural heritage provides continuity in tangible and intangible forms between the past, present and future and formulates requirements aimed at reducing or avoiding negative impacts on tangible and intangible cultural heritage. The objectives of ESS8 are: (i) to protect cultural heritage from the adverse impacts of project activities and support its preservation; (ii) to address cultural heritage as an integral aspect of sustainable development; (iii) to promote meaningful consultation with stakeholders regarding cultural heritage; and (iv) to promote the equitable sharing of benefits from the use of cultural heritage.

  The requirements are as follows:

  General

  - Consider direct, indirect and cumulative project-specific risks and impacts on cultural heritage *(ESS8 par. 8*);
  - avoid impacts on cultural heritage When avoidance of impacts is not possible, the Borrower will identify and implement measures to address impacts on cultural heritage in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy *(ESS8 par. 9);*
  - Implement globally recognized practices for field-based study, documentation and protection of cultural heritage in connection with the project, including by contractors and other third parties *(ESS8 par. 10*);

  Stakeholder consultation and identification of cultural heritage (ESS8 par. 13-14)

  - Identify, (in accordance with ESS10), stakeholders that are relevant for the cultural heritage and carry out meaningful consultations maintaining confidentiality *(ESS8 par. 15*) and stakeholder' access *(ESS8 par. 16*).

  Provisions for specific types of cultural heritage (ESS8 par. 18-18)

  - This covers: *(i) Archaeological sites and material; (ii) Built heritage; (iii) Natural features with cultural significance; and (iv) Movable cultural heritage*

  Commercial use of cultural heritage (ESS8 par. 29-30)

  - Pertains to cultural heritage of project affected parties (including individuals and communities) for commercial purposes.

  Under this ESS, in case of discovery of significant archaeological or cultural artifacts, "Chance Find Procedures" shall be used for Subcomponent site-specific ESMP, particularly for subcomponent 1.1 (Sample is shown in Annex 2).

- ***ESS 9 – Financial Intermediaries (FI)***

ESS9 applies to Financial Intermediaries that receive financial support from the World Bank. This standard is not relevant for the project.

- ***ESS 10 – Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure***

  This ESS recognizes the importance of open and transparent engagement between the Borrower and project stakeholders as an essential element of good international practice. Effective stakeholder engagement can improve the environmental and social sustainability of projects, enhance project acceptance, and make a significant contribution to successful project design and implementation (*ESS10 par. 1*). The objectives of ESS10 are: (i) to establish a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement that will help Borrowers identify stakeholders and build and maintain a constructive relationship with them, in particular project-affected parties; (ii) to assess the level of stakeholder interest and support for the project and to enable stakeholders' views to be taken into account in project design and environmental and social Performance; (iii) to promote and provide means for effective and inclusive engagement with project-affected parties throughout the project life cycle on issues that could potentially affect them; (iv) to ensure that appropriate project information on environmental and social risks and impacts is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible and appropriate manner and format; and (v) to provide project-affected parties with accessible and inclusive means to raise issues and grievances, and allow Borrowers to respond to and manage such grievances.

  In accordance with the requirements of this ESS, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is developed for the project. The SEP provide ways to identify potential different stakeholders, to develop an approach for reaching each of the subgroups, to create a mechanism by which Project Affected Parties (PAPs) and Other Interested Parties (OIPs) can raise concerns, provide feedback, or make complaints, and to minimize and mitigate environmental and social risks related to the proposed project. Overall, SEP serves the following purposes (ESS10 par. 8):

  (i) Stakeholder identification and analysis;
  (ii) Planning how the engagement with stakeholders will take place; (iii) disclosure of information;
  (iii) Consultation with stakeholders;
  (iv) Addressing and responding to grievances; and
  (v) Reporting to stakeholders.

In addition, reference is being made to the Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) Guidelines[15] which are regarded as technical reference documents with general and industry-specific examples of Good International Industry Practice (GIIP). With the involvement of the Bank, these EHS Guidelines are applied as required by their respective policies and standards. Accordingly, these General EHS Guidelines are designed to be used together with the relevant Industry Sector EHS Guidelines which provide guidance to users on EHS issues in specific industry sectors.

As stated in the in the introductory portion, the applicability of the EHS Guidelines should be tailored to the hazards and risks established for each project on the basis of the results of an environmental assessment in which site-specific variables, such as host country context, assimilative capacity of the environment, and other project factors, are taken into account. Therefore, it is to be understood that project workers in the WB project should exercise their own judgement in applying the WB EHSG.

2.5 Gap Analysis: WB ESF and National Legislation

In the World Bank's committed goal to ending extreme poverty and promoting shared prosperity, its Environmental and Social Framework (October 2018) presents the following:

[15] IFC. The WB Group. April 2007. General Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines. (viewed on 04Mar2021). https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/sustainability-at-ifc/publications/publications_policy_ehs-general

- **A Vision for Sustainable Development**, which sets out the Bank's aspirations regarding environmental and social sustainability;
- The World Bank Environmental and Social Policy for Investment Project Financing, which sets out the mandatory requirements that apply to the Bank; and
- **The Environmental and Social Standards**, together with their Annexes, which set out the mandatory requirements that apply to the Borrower and projects focuses on preventing and mitigating negative impacts to social and physical environment throughout the project cycle.

In its vision, the World Bank sets forward a global aspirations consisting of global engagement in issues such as climate change, disaster risk management, and gender equality, to ensuring that environmental and social considerations are reflected in all sector strategies, operational policies, and country dialogues. At the project level, these global aspirations translate into enhancing development opportunities for all, particularly the poor and vulnerable, and promoting the sustainable management of natural and living resources Therefore, within the parameters of a project, the Bank seeks to:

- Avoid or mitigate adverse impacts to people and the environment;
- Conserve or rehabilitate biodiversity and natural habitats, and promote the efficient and equitable use of natural resources and ecosystem services;
- Promote worker and community health and safety;
- Ensure that there is no prejudice or discrimination toward project-affected individuals or communities and give particular consideration to Indigenous Peoples, minority groups, and those disadvantaged or vulnerable, especially where adverse impacts may arise or development benefits are to be shared;
- Address project-level impacts on climate change and consider the impacts of climate change on the selection, siting, planning, design and implementation and decommissioning of projects; and
- Maximize stakeholder engagement through enhanced consultation, participation and accountability.

Based on WB's Environmental and Social Policy for Investment Project Financing, the projects supported by the Bank through Investment Project Financing are required to meet the Environmental and Social Standards, as described above.

As footnoted in the Policy, it replaces the Operational Policy (OP) and Bank Procedures (BP), with the exception of OP/BP4 03 'Performance Standards for Private Sector Activities', OP/BP750 'Projects on International Waterways', and OP/BP760 'Projects in Disputed Territories', which remain effective.

The ESSs detail the requirements for the World Bank and Borrowers to comply with throughout the overall project cycle starting from identification, preparation and implementation of programs and projects.

As stipulated in the Policy (par. 23) The Bank supports the use of the Borrower's ES Framework in the assessment, development and implementation of projects supported through Investment Project Financing, provided this is able to address the risks and impacts of the project, and enable the project to achieve objectives materially consistent with the ESSs. Accordingly, an analysis of the Environmental and Social Framework vis-à-vis the ESS is shown below.

Table 10: WB ESF and Azerbaijan Policies Considered in the Environmental and Social Assessment

Items with Difference	WB's ESF	Azerbaijan Policy	Measures to Address Differences
Assessment of project impacts	ESS1 is comprehensive and considers the full scope of project impacts from an environmental and social perspective, integrating all these	Azerbaijan legislation focuses on project impacts from an environmental point of view and does not consider social, gender and labor impacts,	This ESMF covers both direct, indirect and cumulative environment and social risks/impacts and proportionate mitigation measures,

Items with Difference	WB's ESF	Azerbaijan Policy	Measures to Address Differences
	aspects. In addition, the ESF has particular standards that deal with labor, gender and community health and safety, among others, as well as ensuring disadvantaged and vulnerable people/ groups are not disproportionately affected by projects' adverse impacts or disadvantaged in sharing development benefits.	among others, as well as cumulative and transboundary impacts. Also does not consider the specific needs of vulnerable people (the poor, elderly, women-headed households, people living with a disability, etc.)	taking a holistic approach to the project and looking at impacts in an integrated way, including considering the needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable persons or groups. Future ESMPs will also detail how to conduct detailed impact and risk assessment and the definition of proportionate mitigation of measures
Mitigation hierarchy	WB ESF, in particular ESS1 (but also ESS 5, 6 and 7), discusses the need to have a mitigation hierarchy when planning projects, in order to avoid, minimize or, if not possible, mitigate project impacts. Having a mitigation hierarchy allows project planners to plan their projects with potential for environment and social impacts in mind.	There is no mitigation hierarchy in Azerbaijan legislation.	This ESMF discusses a mitigation hierarchy to be followed by project planners when choosing road sections for rehabilitation and conducting detailed engineering designs.
Minimum working age	ESS 2 para 19, and footnote 13, notes that a child under the age of 18 may be employed or engaged in connection with the project if there is no hazardous work, an appropriate risk assessment is conducted prior to the work commencing, and the Borrower conducts regular monitoring of health, working conditions, hours of work.	Minimum working age in Azerbaijan is 15, No hazardous work is permitted for children under 18. Work (with parents'/guardians' permission) is allowed for ages 15-18. However, stricter enforcement is needed.	This ESMF will propose a minimum working age of 18 years due to the potential for hazardous work related to the project particularly to road rehabilitation.
Eligibility Classification	Lack of title should not be a bar to compensation and/or rehabilitation of assets located on the land. Non-titled landowners receive rehabilitation and assistance. *(ESS5 Eligibility Classification, par. 10)* Where the DP's are legal owner, or have right to the land, Borrower will offer the choice of replacement property of equal or higher value, with security of tenure, equivalent or better characteristics, and advantages of location, or cash compensation at replacement cost Compensation in kind should be considered in lieu of cash. *(ESS5 Physical displacement, par. (28))* Where the DP's own structures, the Borrower will	Compensation to title holders; tenant with legal rights; legal long-term occupants including renters. Resettlement assistance for non-title holders.	This ESMF will propose to follow ESS5 as stipulated

Items with Difference	WB's ESF	Azerbaijan Policy	Measures to Address Differences
	compensate them for the loss of assets other than land, such as dwellings and other improvements to the land, at replacement cost. *(ESS5 Physical displacement, par. 29)*		
Compensation and benefits for affected persons	Compensation for lost or damaged structures should be based on replacement value. *(ESS5 Compensation and benefits for affected persons, par. (12))*	Compensation to be determined based on market value as well as replacement value. In case both principles are applicable, the one that provides larger compensation will be applied. (Article 55.2, 58 & 59 of LALSN, 2010)	This ESMF will propose to follow national legislations
Compensation and benefits for affected persons	Depreciation is not considered in the valuation of structures. *(ESS5 Compensation and benefits for affected persons, par. 12)*	As per the Decree of the President of Azerbaijan, an additional 20% compensation amount shall be paid to cover additional costs. An additional 10% premium for voluntary sale of affected lands. (LALSN, 2010)	This ESMF will propose to follow national legislations
Planning and implementation	Resettlement Plan (RP) proportionate to the risks and impacts associated with the project will be prepared in line with the provisions of the World Bank ESS5 to address the issues identified in the environmental and social assessment. *(ESS5 Planning and implementation, par. 21)*	Under the national legislation (LALSN, 2010), in cases where the number of people to be relocated 100 metres away from their land exceeds 200, a resettlement plan is to be prepared. In other cases, only a resettlement manual will be prepared.	This ESMF will propose to follow both ESS5 and local legislation
Grievance mechanism	Complaints & grievances are resolved informally through community participation in the Grievance Redress Committees (GRC), Local governments, and NGO and/or local-level Community Based Organizations (CBOs). *(ESS5 Grievance mechanism, par. 19)*	Grievance Commission (Article 75 of LALSN, 2010) to be appointed in large scale projects in case of necessity. The Executive Agency, Land Acquisition Group, Control Agency, local Executive Power, municipalities and CSC are able to receive, consider, and solve grievances and complaints.	This ESMF will propose to harmonize both ESS5 and local legislation
Economic displacement	WB policy requires rehabilitation for income/livelihood, severe losses, and for expenses incurred by the APs during the relocation process. *(ESS5 Economic displacement, par. 33-36)*	No additional provisions for income rehabilitation, allowances for severely affected or vulnerable APs considered. Notion of 'livelihood rehabilitation' is stipulated in Azerbaijani legislation.	This ESMF will propose to follow ESS5 as stipulated
Stakeholder Engagement	Public consultation and participation are the integral part of WB's policy which is a continuous process at conception, preparation,	Public meetings are to be conducted to discuss land expropriation proposal at the preparatory stage.	A Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) has been developed following the guidelines of ESS10.

Items with Difference	WB's ESF	Azerbaijan Policy	Measures to Address Differences
	implementation and post implementation period. *(ESS5 - annex 1. involuntary resettlement instruments: Community participation, par. 11 & 22; ESS10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure)*		

The Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Labor Management Plan (LMP) and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) provide more details regarding ESS5, ESS2 and ESS10 respectively.

3 POTENTIAL E&S RISKS / IMPACTS, AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Since the project under financing assistance of the WB consists of three components namely, Component 1 (Road Connectivity), Component 2 (Road Sector Sustainability) and Component 3 (Local Development and Logistics), the analysis on Potential E&S Risks/ Impacts, and Mitigation Measures can follow "project typologies". Subcomponent 1.1 will support road rehabilitation within the existing alignment, while Subcomponent 3.1 entails small scale envisages small scale investments into selected road-side market and agri-logistic facilities' improvement. Generally, the rayons' physical and geographical features have shared similarity, as well as in their socio-economic aspects.

In accordance with WB's ES Policy par. 37 that states: "The Bank will require the Borrower to carry out appropriate environmental and social assessment of subprojects, and prepare and implement such subprojects, as follows:

(a) *High Risk* subprojects, in accordance with the ESSs;
(b) *Substantial Risk, Moderate Risk* and *Low Risk* subprojects, in accordance with national law and any requirement of the ESSs that the Bank deems relevant to such subprojects"

Further commentaries in Footnote (No. 30): "Where subprojects are likely to have minimal or no adverse environmental or social risks and impacts, such subprojects do not require further environmental and social assessment following the initial screening". Hence, the Policy is to be applied to the project Components.

In this stretch of Yenikend to Bilasuvar road, for the project the impacts will generally be due to earthworks, removal of existing pavement, removal or relocation of objects that are within the construction strip, laying of subbase and base course layers and asphalt pavement, extension of necessary waterway crossings and installation of road furniture. Also, there may be unavoidable impacts consisting of clearing of existing vegetation and some trees. In addition, unavoidable impacts can be expected in the extraction of materials from burrow pits and quarries, since these activities will modify the landscape. Even with reinstatement for natural revegetation, some of the features will remain permanently altered; thus, considered unavoidable.

In establishing asphalt plant and cement batching plant sites for the needs of the project, emissions will be generated in producing the asphalt mix likewise bitumen spill may occur during handling and mix preparation. For the cement batching plant for concreting works such as bridges, culverts and drainage works, cement dust can contaminate the air. In addition, the preparation, mixing and loading of concrete mix into the transit mixer and subsequent washing of trucks can result into soil and water contamination.

These two facilities should be situated at appropriate distances (no less than 300m) from the residences as well as the river so as not to result to water contamination. Within the project road, since the area is rural, there are ample spaces to set up these plants. The Contractor should obtain

the necessary permits, negotiate properly with the landowners and reinstate the area after usage at the end of the project. For construction camps, there are ample spaces in the area that the Contractor can select to set them up. These aforementioned facilities should not be located within the protected areas or IBAs and should have buffer zones when adjacent to forested areas. Site selection and operation of camps and material plants shall be in line with site-specific ESMP for Yeniked-Bilasuvar road reconstruction project.

Within the stretch of the project road, the most critical portion is the vicinity of the Makhmudchala wetland which is an IBA (IBA AZ045), since this forms part of the northern periphery of the perennial waterlogged expanse of the wetland. As currently envisioned in project descriptions, the construction works shall be confined within the existing corridor with old pavement removed to be replaced by new pavement layers. Since there will be no "land take" to be undertaken, most of the impacts will be during construction period. Risk of contamination on water quality of the wetland, generation of dust and noise will be elevated during construction. Shirvan national park is located at left-hand side, 1.2km from Km 49+800 of the project road, bordered by farmlands and structures serving as buffer to the construction. Hence, the impact to this area will be minimal, if ever. The rest of the ecological sensitive areas are quite far to be affected.

3.1 Subcomponents 1.1 Impacts, Risks and Mitigation Measures

The Borrower/Client intends to undertake the road rehabilitation within the existing ROW for Subcomponent 1.1. With this major criterion, project environmental and social impacts, and risks are expected to be avoided, or minimized and the negative impacts to project affected people to be limited to the extent possible.

Considering the objectives and typical work activities for road reconstruction, the impacts can be considered as primarily manageable and temporary, and direct impacts associated with road rehabilitation are anticipated, mostly during construction, though some may be relevant during the operations phase of the project, primarily regarding road and traffic safety. The potential impacts are as follows:

Construction Phase:

- Materials Sources:
  - Environmental and Social Impacts associated with use quarry materials and borrow pits
  - Physical environmental Impacts associated with haul route is expected, especially for placement of construction materials and equipment
- Contamination due to Spills or Hazardous Materials:
  - Improper handling of hazardous materials can cause them to drop onto the ground which can result to soil contamination.
- Air quality and Climate:
  - Generation of Dust – Spots cleared of vegetation, hauled embankments, excavations are exposed and in dry season will be sources of dust in the area and become an issue to the environment and to the local population.
  - Emissions from equipment and facilities – equipment, trucks and machinery will be the sources of emissions in the area. It is important to maintain the good quality of air in the surroundings.
  - Stationary sources like asphalt and cement batching plants will generate emissions which are unusual in the area and degrade the pristine quality of air in the surroundings.
  - Open burning of waste materials – Contractor's burning of materials on site will contribute to fouling of air in the area
  - Fuel Emissions – the use of fuel will result in generation of contaminated emissions that can harm the ecosystem and result in illnesses to local population

- Exhaust emissions from the operation of construction machinery – the operation of machinery generate emissions that can harm the ecosystem and result in illnesses to local population.
- Fugitive emissions from asphalt and cement batching plants – the operation of plants generate emissions that can harm the ecosystem and result in illnesses to local population
- Dust generated from haul roads, unpaved roads, exposed soils and material stock piles – During construction some spots cleared of vegetation, hauled embankments, and excavations are exposed and in dry season will be sources of dust in the area and become an issue to the environment and to the local population.

- Solid Waste Management Impacts:
  - Specifically, on the reconstruction of project road, considerable refuse materials will be generated. If not managed properly, will contaminate depository sites of accumulated solid waste.
  - Improper management of solid waste result in contamination of the surroundings, water resources, and even biota in the vicinity.
  - Droppings of solid waste will result to spot contamination and possibly pollution of the natural surroundings.
  - Inadvertent dumping and improper disposal in unpermitted sites will result in contamination of the environment's land and water resources.
  - Absence of Solid Waste Management Plan will result in poor control of solid waste generated by the project and its ancillary facilities, resulting in local contamination and potential pollution of the work sites and its vicinities.
- Water Quality:
  - Potential contamination to water bodies near the project road
  - Pollution from highway runoff and potential spillage of hazardous substances resulting from traffic accidents will have both short term and long term, cumulative water quality impacts on the wetlands.
  - Construction activities can directly contaminate the irrigation canals, as well as adjacent wetlands during the bridge construction and consequently affect the biological species in this area.
  - Water Contamination issues at Construction Camps and Storage Areas
  - Potential impact from improper disposal for waste materials from scrapping asphalt road bed
  - Waste (liquid or solid) in Construction Camps and other ancillary facilities
  - Contamination from spoils
  - Asphalt – Waste from the operation of asphalt
  - Hazardous Waste – Improper management of hazardous waste will result in serious damage to the environment.
  - Road and bridge debris during dismantling – Improper removal, transport, stock storage and unplanned disposal will result in contamination of the natural surroundings. This impact is considered slight to moderate.
- Noise and Vibration:
  - Construction Noise and Vibration from usage of heavy equipment and trucks.
- General Contamination:
  - Droppings of materials to be brought to the site can become community and motorist hazards
  - Droppings of waste will result to spot contamination and possibly pollution of the natural surroundings.
  - Spills from haul trucks can be source of ecological, biological and socioeconomic harm in the area.
  - Dust from uncovered trucks can cause health problems to the people.
- Flora and Fauna:
  - Possible loss of flora: Unavoidable impacts to area vegetation due to construction activities.

- Possible impacts to water bodies (river, creeks, gullies, lakes, ponds, canals and ditches) that could be habitats of faunal species.
- Potential destruction and disturbance of habitats

- Disruption of Traffic:
  - Existing traffic flows will be impeded by construction works Construction phase
- Workers' Health and Safety:
  - Health and Safety of workers
    - Failure to implement measures to avoid accidents and injuries involving workers and the public
    - Risk to health and lives if Sanitary work and living conditions are not provided
    - Potential sexual exploitation and abuse/sexual harassment (SEA/SH) risks for workers or community members
    - COVID infection and transmission risks
    - Infection of sexually transmitted or other diseases by non-local workers;
    - Outbreaks of diseases such as malaria, diarrhea, etc. In the labor force;
    - Pressures on existing health systems at the local level.
- Workers' Employment Rights:
  - Non-compliance Risks:
    - Risks of not complying with labor code, paying workers inadequate rates, discrimination of women, those with disabilities or other vulnerable persons.
  - Gender Based Violence Risks:
    - Risk of occurrence of GBV related issues occurring at the work place
    - Risk of occurrence SEA/SH incidences
- Community Health and Safety:
  - Health and safety of communities/residents due to works:
    - Potential injury due works (e.g., falling in excavations, falling objects, accidents caused by project vehicles and equipment, etc.)
  - Health and safety of communities/residents due to works
    - Disruption or elimination of usual common or public access to public places or buildings
- Community Relations:
  - Risk of Project related complaints and grievances unresolved:
    - Potential complaints from Project-Affected Persons
  - Influx of non-local labor:
    - Deprivation of job opportunities to local population
    - Hostility with local residents
- Preservation of Cultural Heritage:
  - Potential Disturbance or Damage to cultural sites:
- Decommissioning Work Sites:
  - The decommissioning of work camp sites requires particular attention.
  - The ESMP shall make particular reference to prescribe good practices for the decommissioning of work sites, both the construction sites, the work camp, storage and stockpiling facilities, and the borrow pits.

Operations and Maintenance Phase

- Air Quality
  - Air quality impacts from Vehicle movements – During the operations of the road, vehicles that will pass through the road will generate exhaust emissions.
  - Emission from future traffic going to new M3 Motorway:
  - Perceives to be less due to the operation of the New M3 motorway
- Impacts to Fauna:

- Presence of travelling public create impacts
- Due to heightened interest of people for gathering and hunting flora and fauna
- Impacts to planted replacement trees and/or installed Greenery

➢ Noise

- Increase noise levels due to higher speed of vehicles in the reconstructed road

➢ Traffic Safety

- Higher Speed of vehicles along the rehabilitated road:
- Increase speed result to occurrence of road crash, injury or fatality

For this ESMF, the ES Impacts, Risks and Mitigation Measures are being forecasted which will have to be validated further in the subsequent project phases according to future available site-specific information. Most of the impacts and risks are expected during the construction of the main road corridor and would depend on the duration of the project activities, location, quantities and types of materials used, modes of construction and construction equipment, etc. Accordingly, Table 11 below is based on the Pre-Feasibility Study[16] and serves as a guide in ascertaining the ES Impacts, Risks and Mitigation Measures that will be part of the ESMP for Yeniked-Bilasuvar road reconstruction project.

[16] IRD-SAAAR. Pre-Feasibility Study to Rehabilitate the M3 Alat-Astara-State Border of Iran Highway between Yenikend and Bilasuvar (Original Alignment). June 2020.

Table 11: Potential Adverse Environment and Social Risks and Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility*** / Project Stage
	ENVIRONMENT			
	Design and pre-construction phase - **Topography and Soils**			
Materials Sources	Impacts to resources such as gravel and other quarried materials will occur mainly due to transportation of materials to the job site.	To mitigate potential impacts to and/or those resulting from the area's geologic characteristics and resources, the Project must: • Ensure that all design parameters appropriate to the seismic risk inherent in the Project Area have been fully taken into account in the design of bridges and other structures. • Adopt contract provisions specifying that only licensed facilities in compliance with all applicable regulations and industry standards will be used as the sources of quarried materials. The bid and contract documents must state that selection of the quarries requires the review and written approval of the Construction Supervision Consultant (CSC) to ensure that avoidable adverse impacts are minimized. • Adopt Contract provision requiring the Contractor to come up with material extraction plan that minimizes wastage and promote conservation of resources. • The use of materials from old pavement should be assessed and when proven to useful should be processed and reused in the pavement mixture.	ESS 1, and 3	*SAAAR and Design Consultants* / During Design Stage
	Design and pre-construction phase - **Noise and vibration**			
Noise Avoidance prior to Construction	Noise Generation – work area will be the primary sources of noise	To minimize Noise: • Guidelines should be specified in Technical Specification; • Baseline measurement for Air Quality should be done by the Contractor in approved locations by the CS Consultant; and • Contractor to prepare Noise Management Plan as part of the ESMP.	ESS 1	*SAAAR and Design Consultants* / During Design Stage
	Design and pre-construction phase - **Waste management**			
Water Quality – Avoidance of Contamination	Decisions made in the Pre-Construction Stage in regard to the sites and conditions (or lack of conditions) imposed on waste generating aspects of the Project such as construction camps, and the disposal of solid and hazardous	Sites for the disposal of large volumes waste must be determined in the Pre-construction Stage. Specific contract provisions ensure that construction camps and other potential sources of secondary impacts are properly sited and provided with drainage and wastewater facilities. The following provisions are stipulated in regard to: Construction Camp Wastewater Disposal and Site Drainage Systems. The following conditions must apply:	ESS 1, 3 and 6	*SAAAR and Design Consultants* / During Design Stage

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility*** / Project Stage
	wastes generated by the Project will have a significant effect on the impacts of the Project.	• Explanations of Proposed Site Drainage Systems. Locations likely to be subject to water quality impacts or significant runoff (construction camps, staging areas, etc.) and an explanation of the proposed site drainage system must be indicated on SSEMP. • Wastewater. Wastewater arising on the site must be collected, removed from the site via a suitable and properly designed temporary drainage system and disposed of at a location and in a manner that will cause neither pollution nor nuisance. The site plan required by SSEMPs must indicate the system proposed and the locations of related facilities in the site, including latrines, holding areas, etc. There must be no direct discharge of sanitary or wash water to surface water. Disposal of materials such as, but not limited to, lubricating oil and onto the ground or water bodies shall be prohibited. Liquid material storage containment areas must not drain directly to surface water. Liquid material storage containment areas equipped with drains must be valved, and the valve must be maintained locked in the closed position with supervisory control of the key. Lubricating and fuel oil spills must be cleaned up immediately and spill clean-up materials must be maintained at the storage area. • Drainage. The site plan must be devised to ensure that rain run-off from the construction sites is not deposited directly into any watercourse, stream, or canal and shall indicate the system proposed, including the locations of retention ponds and other facilities. There must be no direct discharge of sanitary wastewater, wash water, chemicals, spoil, waste oil or solid waste to surface water bodies. Fuel, lubricating oil and chemical spills must be contained and cleaned-up immediately. Accumulated cleaned-up material should be transported to an appropriate and approved treatment facility for toxic and hazardous waste. Spill clean-up equipment must be maintained on site. Locations of Fuelling Operations and Liquid and Toxic Material Storage Areas. The site plans must specify the locations for the storage of liquid materials and toxic materials. The following conditions to avoid adverse impacts due to improper fuel and chemical storage. • Fuelling operations shall occur only within containment areas. • All fuel and chemical storage (if any) must be sited on an impervious base within a bund and secured by fencing. The storage area must be located away from any watercourse or wetlands. The base and bund walls must be impermeable and of sufficient capacity to contain 110 percent of the volume of tanks.		

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility*** / Project Stage
		• Filling and refueling must be strictly controlled and subject to formal procedures and will take place within areas surrounded by bunds to contain spills / leaks of potentially contaminating liquids. • All valves and trigger guns must be resistant to unauthorized interference and vandalism and be turned off and securely locked when not in use. • The contents of any tank or drum must be clearly marked. Measures shall be taken to ensure that no contaminated discharges enter any drain or watercourses. • Disposal of lubricating oil and other potentially hazardous liquids onto the ground or water bodies must be prohibited. • If accidental spills occur immediate clean-up must be undertaken and all clean-up materials stored in a secure area for disposal to a site authorized to dispose of hazardous waste. • Locations Relative to Watercourses. The site plans must be devised to ensure that, insofar as possible, all temporary construction facilities must be located at least 50 meters away from a water course, stream, or canal.		
	Design and pre-construction phase - **Transportation of Construction Materials and Wastes**			
Routes for Transport	Specifying locations manner of transporting materials into the worksites – The design engineer should establish clear guidelines for transporting construction materials	To minimize impacts to communities and natural surroundings: • Local road and community regulations should be adhered to.	ESS 1, 3, 4 and 6	*SAAAR and Design Consultants* / During Design Stage
	Design and pre-construction phase - **Hydrology and water resources**			
Water Quality – surface contamination	Surface water contamination: The Contractor's work activities and facilities are the primary source of contamination. Discharges directly into the water or indirectly onto the ground that will finally find their pathways into the river will be the causes of contamination.	To eliminate threat of surface water pollution: • Prevent inappropriate siting of Contractor's facilities (Contractor's Camp, equipment yard, asphalt and concrete batching plants, quarry/borrow pits), the Technical Specifications on siting them should be prepared properly. • Prevent inappropriate siting of construction equipment washing area, to prevent discharge of generated from washing waste water to the nearby waster bodies or water channels, • Baseline measurement for Water Quality should be done by the Contractor in locations specified by the CS Consultant. • Contractor should provide layout plans for installation of or strategies for treatment for wastewater from his facilities.	ESS 1,3 and 6	*Contractor*/ During Construction

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility* / Project Stage**
Flooding – Drainage *(depressed spots)*	Drainage – Proper drainage design is important to maintain the structural integrity of the road and this would mean adaptable to worsening weather condition.	To ensure safe and functional drainage works, consideration in the design phase will be given to the issue of drainage and culverts to ensure that drainage patterns are improved from the existing conditions and that increased run-off does not occur or result in flooding of areas previously undisturbed.	ESS 1, 3 and 4	*Contractor*/ During Construction
Flooding – *(climate change not part of previous design practice)*	Insufficient assessment of climate change impacts lead to undersized waterways and drainage works and which can result to localize flooding.	Hydrologic Study to be done as part of detailed design work– detailed study on the impacts of climate change to hydrology, capacity of waterway infrastructure, flood elevations and drainage works.	ESS 1, 3 and 4	*SAAAR and Design Consultants* / During Design Stage
Service Quality – at Bridge Sites	Bridge Construction – Bridge structural design should be made to provide sufficient service life.	To ensure safe and functional works: • All new bridges must be designed for the life expectancy of 75 years. The bridge rehabilitation and strengthening works must be designed for the life expectancy of 50 years. • The design loading and design of all **structural** components must conform to the bridge design standards provided in the Employer's Special Requirements. • Finally, the bridge design and layout must be aesthetically pleasing and in harmony with the existing environment.	ESS 1, and 3	*Contractor*/ During Construction
	***Construction phase* – Materials Sources**			
Materials Sources	Impacts associated with use quarry materials and borrow pits	Prior to opening of any quarry or rock crushing facility, the Contractor will require approval from the relevant Agencies and the CSC to ensure that land owners are adequately compensated for land use and that the sites are not located in an area likely to cause significant detriment to the local environment. To ensure that this is the case Contractors should ensure that quarries and crusher plants are: • Located at least 300 meters from urban areas to prevent noise and dust impacts; • Located outside of agricultural land; and • Where possible located on government owned lands. • Quarry and borrow pit area should be reinstated prior to the completion of the project. • Initial state of the quarry area shall be documented for future reference during quarry reinstatement activities.	ESS 1, 3, 4 and 6	*Contractor* / During Construction

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility*** / Project Stage
Hauling Routes	Impacts associated with haul route is expected, especially for placement of construction materials and equipment	Prior to commencement of construction, the actual state of all haul routes (existing and planned) should be assessed and photographed. Where required, appropriately sited haul roads should be constructed and used to minimize soil compaction and loss of agricultural land. The Contractor should be required to return all temporarily used haul roads/construction traffic routes to their original state. In cases where hauling roads pass through intensively used pasture land, protective animal fences need to be set up along such roads to prevent collisions with local livestock.	ESS 1, 3, 4 and 5	*Contractor* / During Construction
Handling of Hazardous Materials	Contamination due to Spills or Hazardous Materials – Improper handling of hazardous materials can cause them to drop onto the ground which can result to soil contamination.	The Contractor shall ensure that: • All fuel and chemical storage (if any) shall be sited on an impervious base within bund and secured by fencing. The storage area shall be located away from any watercourse or wetlands. The base and bund walls shall be impermeable and of sufficient capacity to contain 110 percent of the volume of tanks. • The construction camp maintenance yard shall be constructed on impervious Layer with adequate drainage to collect spills; there shall be no vehicle maintenance activities on open ground. • Filling and refueling shall be strictly controlled and subject to formal procedures. Drip pans shall be placed under all filling and fueling areas. Waste oils shall be stored and disposed of by a licensed contractor. • All valves and trigger guns shall be resistant to unauthorized interference and vandalism and be turned off and securely locked when not in use. • The contents of any tank or drum shall be clearly marked. Measures shall be taken to ensure that no contaminated discharges enter any soils. • No bitumen drums or containers, full or used, shall be stored on open ground. They shall only be stored on impervious Layer. • Areas using bitumen shall be constructed on impervious Layer to prevent seepage of oils into the soils	ESS 1, 3 and 4	*Contractor* / During Construction
	Construction phase- **Air quality and Climate**			
Air Quality - Dust	Generation of Dust – Spots cleared of vegetation, hauled embankments, excavations are exposed and in dry season will be sources of dust in	To suppress dust there shall be watering of unpaved haulage and transport routes regularly as needed.	ESS 1, 3 and 4	*Contractor* / During Construction and Maintenance

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility*** / Project Stage
	the area and become an issue to the environment and to the local population.			
Air Quality - Emissions	Emissions from equipment and facilities – equipment, trucks and machinery will be the sources of emissions in the area. It is important to maintain the good quality of air in the surroundings.	To minimize emission: All machinery and vehicles must be in good technical conditions.	ESS 1, 3 and 4	*Contractor* / During Construction and Maintenance
Air Quality – Stationary Sources	Air quality impacts from stationary sources – Stationary sources like asphalt and cement batching plants will generate emissions which are unusual in the area and degrade the pristine quality of air in the surroundings.	Initial Air Quality measurements shall be undertaken before commencement of construction works in the areas agreed with the Supervision Engineer Locations for quarry sites, borrow pits, asphalt and concrete batching plants must be approved by the Engineer and relevant agencies during the Preconstruction phase. Efforts should be made to ensure that these facilities are as near to the Project road as practical to avoid unnecessary trips and potential dust issues from vehicle movements during construction works. In addition, no quarry, borrow pit or asphalt plant shall be located within 300 meters of any urban area, protected area or sensitive receptor.	ESS 1, 3 and 4	*Contractor* / During Construction and Maintenance
Waste Management	Open burning of waste materials – Contractor's burning of materials on site will contribute to fouling of air in the area	The Contractor shall ensure no burning of debris or other materials will occur on the Site without permission of the Engineer.	ESS 1, 3 and 4	*Contractor* / During Construction
Air Quality – Fuel Emissions	Fuel Emissions – the use of fuel will result in generation of contaminated emissions that can harm the ecosystem and result in illnesses to local population	Contractor shall ensure that no furnaces, boilers or other similar plant or equipment using any fuel that may produce air pollutants will be installed without prior written consent of the Engineer.	ESS 1, 3 and 4	*Contractor* / During Construction
Air Quality – Exhaust Emissions	Exhaust emissions from the operation of construction machinery – the operation of machinery generate emissions that can harm the ecosystem and result in illnesses to local population.	The Contractor shall ensure construction equipment shall be maintained to a good standard and fitted with pollution control devices. The equipment (including the pollution control devices) will be checked at regular intervals by the Engineer to ensure they are maintained in working order and the inspection result will be recorded by the Contractor & Engineer as part of environmental monitoring. In addition, the Contractor shall: • Discourage of the idling of engines;	ESS 1, 3 and 4	*Contractor* / During Construction and Maintenance

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility*** / Project Stage
		• Prohibit of the use of equipment and machinery that causes excessive pollution (i.e., visible smoke) at project work sites; • Ensure material stockpiles being located in sheltered areas and be covered with tarpaulins or other such suitable covering to prevent material becoming airborne.		
Air Quality – Fugitive Emissions	Fugitive emissions from asphalt and cement batching plants – the operation of plants generate emissions that can harm the ecosystem and result in illnesses to local population	The Contractor shall ensure that conveyor belts at ancillary facilities (e.g., quarries) shall be fitted with wind-boards, and conveyor transfer points and hopper discharge areas shall be enclosed to minimize dust emission. All conveyors carrying materials that have the potential to create dust shall be totally enclosed and fitted with belt cleaners.	ESS 1, 3 and 4	*Contractor* / During Construction and Maintenance
Air Quality – Dust at Haul Roads	Dust generated from haul roads, unpaved roads, exposed soils and material stock piles – During construction some spots cleared of vegetation, hauled embankments, and excavations are exposed and in dry season will be sources of dust in the area and become an issue to the environment and to the local population.	The Contractor shall ensure that the following dust suppression measures shall be instituted: • All trucks used for transporting materials to and from the site will be covered with canvas tarpaulins, or other acceptable type cover (which shall be properly secured) to prevent debris and/or materials from falling from or being blown off the vehicle(s); • Areas of reclamation shall be completed, including final compaction, as quickly as possible consistent with good practice to limit the creation of wind-blown dust. • Hard surfaces will be required in areas with regular movements of vehicles; and • Effective use of water sprays will be implemented (e.g., all roads within the construction areas of the Site shall be sprayed at least twice each day, and more if necessary, to control dust to the satisfaction of the Engineer).	ESS 1, 3 and 4	*Contractor* / During Construction and Maintenance
	Construction Phase – Solid Waste Management			
General Environmental quality	For the work sites and facilities, improper management of solid waste result in contamination of the surroundings, water resources, and even biota in the vicinity. During transport of solid waste materials to disposal sites, droppings of solid waste will result to spot contamination	Foremost of all, the Contractor should establish a solid waste management plan to be implemented in all work facilities and sties. This shall be adhered to by every workers for the project. Proper SWM will include minimization of waste, sorting, reusing/recycling and proper disposal in accordance to regulations. Interaction with the local executive power on the use of local disposal facilities should be established. During transport, garbage hauling trucks should be sufficiently covered to avoid droppings along the route to the disposal sites.	ESS1, 3 and 6	*Contractor* / During Construction and Maintenance

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility*** / Project Stage
	and possibly pollution of the natural surroundings. When disposing solid waste, inadvertent dumping and improper disposal in unpermitted sites will result in contamination of the environment's land and water resources. During the entire construction period, absence of Solid Waste Management Plan will result in poor control of solid waste generated by the project and its ancillary facilities, resulting in local contamination and potential pollution of the work sites and its vicinities.	Proper disposal protocol should be followed in accordance with local regulations.		
	Construction Phase - Water Quality			
Water quality – Natural Water Quality	The project alignment in some locations runs close and crosses river and irrigation channels at which bridges, and box culverts will be reconstructed. Most important water source is Kura river, also one of most important ecological features in the study area are the wetlands. Within the studied corridor Mahmudchala wetlands (designated as Ramsar sites due to their important bird populations) extend from the Shorsulu to Bilasuvar. Potential impacts to surface water will be mainly during the bridge construction works. Pollution from highway runoff and potential spillage of hazardous substances resulting	No construction of bridge substructures (foundations) should be allowed during the spawning period. Crane barges and other vessels involved in bridge construction can also impair water quality and endanger the local fish by leaking oil. Officers of these construction vessels should exercise the utmost care in avoiding collisions and other accidents that could lead to water pollution. Restoration works are to envisaged: backfilling during the construction of supporting structures; cleaning of the river bed and the flood plain from cluttering of the objects, extracting and hauling piles of scaffolding and temporary supports; dismantling of temporary facilities on the construction site and land reclamation, including borrow area and access roads; erosion control measures. Special care needs to be taken when working in the wetlands due to the national importance of wintering and breeding birds and the regional importance of the plant communities. Moreover, wetlands are among the most threatened ecosystems in the world because they have traditionally been regarded as wastelands and invariably offered opportunities for alternative use, especially agriculture. Increasingly, however, wetlands have come to be regarded as valuable resources, providing many goods and services critical to environmentally	ESS1 and 6	*Contractor* / During Construction and Maintenance

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility*** / Project Stage
	from traffic accidents will have both short term and long term, cumulative impacts on the wetlands. Construction activities can directly contaminate the Kura River, as well as adjacent wetlands during the bridge construction and consequently affect the biological species in this area.	sustainable development; they are also of crucial importance to conserving the world's biodiversity. If the mitigation is implemented adequately then it is anticipated that the impacts will be reduced to either negligible or low adverse. Water quality monitoring shall be undertaken before starting of any bridge construction works and at least once during the construction.		
	Drainage – The site should be well maintained, and this includes establishing good drainage at work camps. This is important to maintain livable condition and sanitary place for workers.	During the construction phase the Contractor is required to construct, maintain, remove and reinstate as necessary temporary drainage works and take all other precautions necessary for the avoidance of damage by flooding and silt washed down from the Works. The Contractor shall ensure provision/or performance of the following: • Contractor should provide additional measures to catch debris from falling into the river; • As much as possible construction should be undertaken during the dry season to minimize the threat to water contamination; • Excavation methodologies should be done to minimize stockpiling near flowing water; • Temporary rock protection should be provided to prevent soil materials to be washed away. • Monthly monitoring of water quality should be done to determine the status of water quality. Monitoring parameters will be BOD, COD, Turbidity, Oil and Grease, Petroleum components at Kura River. • When casting structural elements on site, spillage into the water should be prevented by installing proper measures to catch any spill; • Structural elements should be casted far from the river to prevent concrete mix from getting into the water.	ESS 1, 3 and 4	*Contractor*/ During Construction

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility* / Project Stage**
Water Quality – Camps and Facilities	Water Contamination issues at Construction Camps and Storage Areas - Waste water that will be generated at work camps due to a lot of people staying whether short-term or long term will contaminate the immediate surroundings which can harm both the man and ecosystem if no treatment is provided prior to discharge.	The Contractor shall ensure the following conditions are met: • Wastewater arising on the site shall be collected, removed from the site via a suitable and properly designed temporary drainage system and disposed of at a location and in a manner that will cause neither pollution nor nuisance. • There shall be no direct discharge of sanitary or wash water to surface water. Disposal of materials such as, but not limited to, lubricating oil and onto the ground or water bodies shall be prohibited. • Prevent washing of construction equipment in the place other than designated washing area within the Camp, and which should be at considerable distance from any water body. • Washing water shall be collected from concrete platform via drains leading to sedimentation basin, where sediments will be allowed to settle and the water clarified. Once the water is clarified, it shall be reused for washing. Sediments shall be collected and can be used for other construction purposes.	ESS 1, 3 and 4	*Contractor*/ During Construction
Water Quality – Mitigation of Contamination	Impacts related to wastewater and solid waste disposal could occur in the Construction Stage due to a failure to properly plan or implement the safe guards required by the ESMP or because of unanticipated circumstances or accidents. Potential impact from improper disposal for waste materials from scrapping asphalt road bed Waste in Construction Camps and other ancillary facilities – Waste generated when managed improperly will contaminate the surroundings. This impact is considered slight to moderate.	Mitigation action of potential impacts related to wastewater and solid waste disposal during construction requires strict application of all conditions to the review of the ESMP by the CSC prior to approval and strict supervision during the course of the work. Unannounced site inspections must be undertaken as a routine part of supervision activities. ESMP for waste management with all details for disposing these wastes should to be prepared by the contractors and has to be approved by supervision consultant The Contractor will be required to coordinate all construction camp activities with neighboring land uses. The Contractor shall also be responsible to maintain and clean-up campsites and respect the rights of local landowners. If located outside the ROW, written agreements with local landowners for temporary use of the property will be required and sites must be restored to a level acceptable to the owner within predetermined time period.	ESS 1, 3 and 4	*Contractor*/ During Construction

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility*** / Project Stage
Water Quality– Mitigation of Silt Contamination	Spoil – Since the worksite is near river, unplanned dumping of spoil may lead to contamination of the river. This impact is considered slight to moderate.	Under no circumstances shall the Contractor dump excess materials on private lands without permission of the owner and approval from the Engineer. In addition, excess spoil shall not be dumped or pushed into rivers at any location.	ESS 1, 3 and 4	*Contractor*/ During Construction
Water Quality – Mitigation of Substance Contamination	Inert Solid & Liquid waste – Improper management of such waste will result in contamination of the soil and water resources in the area. This impact is considered slight.	The contractor shall be responsible for the following: • Provide refuse containers at each worksite; • Maintain all construction sites in a cleaner, tidy and safe condition and provide and maintain appropriate facilities as temporary storage of all wastes before transportation and final disposal; • Train and instruct all personnel in waste management practices and procedures as a component of the environmental induction process; and collect and transport non-hazardous wastes to all approved disposal sites. The sites for waste disposal shall be agreed with the local municipal authorities and MENR. A specialized company may be contracted, if available to ensure collection of domestic and general waste from camps and temporary storage areas and transportation to landfills approved and licensed by the MENR.	ESS 1, 3 and 4	*Contractor*/ During Construction
Water Quality – Mitigation of Asphalt Contamination	Asphalt – Waste from the operation of asphalt plant can cause serious damage to the environment. This impact is considered slight to moderate.	Waste from the operation of asphalt should be managed properly. Reinstatement of the site will be necessary after the project.	ESS 1, 3 and 4	*Contractor*/ During Construction
Water Quality – Mitigation of Hazardous Materials Contamination	Contamination of Surface water and Groundwater resources	Hazardous chemicals and liquids (even solids) should be inside roofed and sufficiently sealed, bunded and containment works (shelters or sheds or buildings). Containers should be those recommended by manufacturers and appropriate to safely contain materials that are corrosive, reactive or with low flash points. Any spills on the ground should be removed immediately and stored in appropriate containers and to be disposed in approved facilities (e.g., toxic and hazardous facility in Sumqayit, which was constructed under the WB Urgent Environmental Investment Project[17]) Spill Prevention Plan should be drafted and established by the Contractor prior to commencement of works	ESS 1, 3 and 4	*Contractor*/ During Construction

[17] World Bank (2005) Urgent Environmental Investment Project: Environmental Protection – Priority Directions and Actions, Baku, 2005.

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility*** / Project Stage
	Hazardous Waste – Improper management of hazardous waste will result in serious damage to the environment.	Management, handling & storage protocols for hazardous waste will be outlined in the Contractors Waste Management Plan. Disposal locations of hazardous wastes should be agreed with the Concerned Agencies [mainly MENR, with Ministry of Health(for processing), and Ministry of Emergency Situations]. The Contractor shall collect hydrocarbon wastes, including lube oils, for safe transport off-site for reuse, recycling, treatment or disposal at the temporary storage sites and further at the locations approved by mentioned Concerned Agencies or pass it to the licensed operator having environmental permit on operation of the hazardous wastes. Following the WBG General EHS Guidelines, an Environmental Response Plan (ERP) should be developed by the Contractor when handling hazardous material.		
Water Quality Water Quality – Mitigation of Debris Contamination	Road and bridge debris during dismantling – Improper removal, transport, stock storage and unplanned disposal will result to contamination to the natural surroundings. This impact is considered slight to moderate.	Method Statements for removal, transport and stockpile storage should be provided by the contractor with assurance that no contamination will result from these activities. Permit from relevant agencies for temporary stockpile and storage, as well as final disposal should be secured. The sites should be inspected regularly to determine if contamination is occurring outside storage or disposal sites.	ESS 1, 3 and 4	*Contractor*/ During Construction
	Construction phase – Erosion			
Geohazards – Soil Conservation	The increase in rainfall due to climate change will increase the erosion of cut areas and de-vegetated sites, destabilized fill embankments and weaken underlying structures. For the project road the potential geo-hazards consist of river bank and road edge erosion.	The Contractor will be responsible for ensuing: • Material that is less susceptible to erosion will be selected for placement around bridges and culverts. • Re-vegetation of exposed areas including; (i) selection of fast growing and grazing resistant species of local flora; (ii) immediate re-vegetation of all slopes and embankments if not covered with gabion baskets; (iii) placement of fiber mats to encourage vegetation growth, although due to the arid conditions in most of the road, this may only feasible where there is regular rainfall or other natural water supply.	ESS 1, 3 and 6	*Contractor*/ During Construction
	Construction phase – Noise and Vibration			
Noise / Vibration	Construction Noise and Vibration - Heavy equipment and trucks cause most of the	The Contractor shall ensure provision of the following: Vibration:	ESS 1, 3 and 4	*Contractor* / During

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility*** / Project Stage
during construction	noise in the construction sites, especially when they are out of proper maintenance.	• The bidding documents for civil works will require that the Contractor submit to the Engineer for review and approval a written Construction Vibration Management Plan (CVMP) detailing the procedures for vibration monitoring and control. The CVMP plan will include the requirement for trial construction sections to determine the likely magnitude of vibrations at defined distances from a vibration source. These programs would be reviewed and approved by the Engineer to ensure compliance with contractual specifications, including the ESMP. The maximum permissible vibration limit set at 0.25 inch/s must not be exceeded within the defined contour (7.5m from the road edge) where houses may be at potential risk of damages; • Where the results of the vibration monitoring, or from a trial construction section, show that the specified construction vibration limit is reached at a particular location, the Contractor would be directed by the Engineer to suspend the construction activities that generate the excessive vibration at such location, and with the approval of the Engineer take mitigative actions necessary to keep the construction vibration within the specified limit; • Such actions may include, alternative construction methods such as: (i) decrease of vibration emission from the particular equipment item; (ii) substitution of the particular equipment item at such location by other equipment capable of variable vibration control; (iii) use of smaller equipment; (iv) compaction without vibration rollers; (v) decreasing the thickness of material layers below the maximum thickness permissible under the specification; (vi) building wave barriers (trench or ditch) where appropriate; (vii) change the pavement type for example from flexible to rigid pavement, (viii) any other method of Contractor's choice that may be used while ensuring compliance with the specification for the material that is being compacted; • Once work in a particular section of the road has been scheduled, nearby residents and property owners should be notified about the specific times and dates that vibration generating activity will occur; • Use of low volume charges will reduce the potential for vibration induced damage to structures; and in the event of damage proven to be due to the contractor's activities, owners of structures will be fully compensated; • Monthly Instrumental Vibration monitoring. Noise:		Construction and Maintenance

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility*** / Project Stage
		• Source Controls, i.e., requirements that all exhaust systems will be maintained in good working order; properly designed engine enclosures and intake silencers will be employed; and regular equipment maintenance will be undertaken; • Site Controls, i.e., requirements that stationary equipment will be placed as far from sensitive land uses as practical; selected to minimize objectionable noise impacts; and provided with shielding mechanisms where possible; • Work near Sensitive Receptors shall be limited to short term activities; • Time and Activity Constraints, i.e., operations will be scheduled to coincide with periods when people would least likely be affected; work hours and work days will be limited to less noise-sensitive times. Hours-of-work will be approved by the Engineer having due regard for possible noise disturbance to the local residents or other activities. • Construction activities will be strictly prohibited between 10 PM and 6 AM near the residential areas. When operating close to sensitive areas such as residential, nursery, or medical facilities, the Contractor's hours of working shall be limited to 7 AM to 6 PM; • Community Awareness, i.e., public notification of construction operations will incorporate noise considerations; methods to handle complaints will be specified. Sensitive receptors will be avoided as possible (i.e., aggregate crushers, operators, etc.). Disposal sites and haul routes will be coordinated with local officials; • Temporary noise barriers will be utilized for those areas where sensitive receptors are significantly affected during construction. Temporary barriers are typically constructed from plywood and should be at a minimum 2.50 m high to screen acoustic line-of-sight between the receiver and the noise source. Solid plywood site hoarding can often be effective as a temporary noise barrier; Construction noise barriers should be implemented if effective and practicable. This would be decided on a case-by-case basis; • Monthly Instrumental Noise Monitoring		
	Construction phase **– General Contamination**			
General Contamination – Mitigation from	The transport of construction materials and waste may result in the following:	The Contractor shall ensure provision/ performance of the following: • Liquids transported to or from the sites should be placed in sealed containment;	ESS 1, 3, 4 and 6	Contractor/ During Construction

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility*** / Project Stage
Droppings and Spills	- Droppings of materials to be brought to the site can become community and motorist hazards - Droppings of waste will result to spot contamination and possibly pollution of the natural surroundings. - Spills from haul trucks can be source of ecological, biological and socioeconomic harm in the area. - Dust from uncovered trucks can cause health problems to the people.	• Soil, gravel and stone should be covered with tarp or any material that can effectively prevent the dropping; • Drivers should abide by safe driving practices, especially through communities; • Driver and Contractor's personnel should ensure that materials are being safely loaded, hauled and unloaded. • Emergency spillage and clean-up procedure should be drafted by the Contractor and approved by the Engineer		
	Construction phase **- Flora and Fauna**			
Floral Impacts	Preliminary assessments did not indicate the presence of unique plants habitat within the area of influence *(where the project will have direct impacts due to actual activities and indirect impacts due to placement and usage of ancillary facilities)*. Most plants are ubiquitous native species, which are highly tolerant of grazing, compaction, and other physical disturbances. In the design it is important to avoid affecting trees, vegetation, fauna species and their natural habitats when possible.	Mitigation will require action to ensure that losses are kept to a minimum. Bid/contract documents will specify roadside plantings and replacements as part of the road design and contain enforceable provisions in contract specifications to minimize plant loss. Designs shall ensure that there will not be any impact to wildlife through adequate survey of the area. To minimize any loss of plantations alongside the road, it is recommended that the regional branch of the State Topography and Lands Committee is contacted. This organization should have records of all plantations and their exact location. Based on this information, the potential impact of the road upgrading works in the relevant sections can be assessed and ways by which the impact may be minimized will be identified. Owing to the fact that significant portions of the land immediately adjacent to the road are under the ownership of the State Forest Fund, any potential vegetation losses may require approval from that department. Where the loss of such plantations cannot be avoided, their replacement should be envisaged in the design and budget. The use of wood cut from live trees whether from roadside plantations or other sources by the workforce for fuel-wood or construction purposes should be prohibited.	ESS 1, 3 and 6	Contractor/ During Construction

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility*** / Project Stage
Floral habitats	Unavoidable impacts to area vegetation will occur due to construction activities. Possible loss of flora The existing water bodies (river, creeks, gullies, lakes, ponds, canals and ditches) along the project road should be given special consideration as they could be habitats of faunal species. During reconstruction, wildlife may be affected through direct physical impact on their natural or secondary terrestrial and aquatic habitats, e.g., during site clearance, construction of structures on watercourses and through noise and disturbance from moving machinery and workforce	The Contractor shall ensure the following conditions are met: • The vegetation of undisturbed portions of the alignment consists mainly of low diverse semi-arid vegetation. There are no known reports of threatened or endangered plant species or habitats, in particular within the studied section. • The alignment does not pass through any protected areas. There are no known populations of threatened fauna species in the immediate vicinity of the road. Impacts on ecology and wildlife due to road improvements will not be significant. • All works will be carried out in a manner such that damage or disruption to vegetation are minimized. • Trees and bushes will be demarcated and cordoned off. • Cutting down will not be take place without the prior approval of the relevant Local Authorities. • Plantations will be conducted after technical works have been completed. • Planting time will be restricted to spring (March) and/or autumn (September till October). • Plantings shall be within the existing Right of Way (ROW) at the locations where tree losses occur; • Trees to be planted will have the following parameters: 1,5 – 2 m height, age 5 – 6 years; • No ancient trees will be cut down or impacted by the construction or operation; • Trees and shrubs will only be felled or removed if they impinge directly on the permanent works or necessary temporary works; • Trees and bushes outside the construction width but within the road reserve will be generally preserved from damages; • Trees immediately adjacent to the required construction corridor will be lopped; • Habitat destruction will be minimized during construction; • Final forming and re-vegetation will be completed after regeneration of stabilizing ground cover. • In case of any unexpected need for tree cutting, Contractor should prepare Tree Cutting and Planting Plan including followings: Each tree removed by the Contractor should be replaced by the same species (1:3) or other at suitable locations, all as designated by the relevant authorities (number of trees for replacement should be agreed with	ESS 1, 3 and 6	Contractor/ During Construction

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility*** / Project Stage
		authorities). Tree translocation should be explored and done whenever feasible. Dead saplings should be replaced as soon as possible. No trees should be cut in the area without written permission from the Engineer. • Work crews should be alerted that faunal species should not be killed and be allowed to escape during work execution. At best, disturbance should be in such a way as to provide enough escape corridor to allow for animals to move on their own. Should animals be unintentionally be trapped in the work area/s, workers should find ways to enable these animals to escape unharmed.		
	Construction phase – Impacts on Mahmudchala Wetland			
Biodiversity – Habitats Conservation	Construction activities at the vicinity of the Mahmudchala wetlands (designated as Ramsar sites due to their important bird populations) can disturb species in the area and affect habitats.	The Contractor will be responsible for ensuing: • Special care (e.g., minimizing noise generation, avoidance of nesting areas, avoidance of water contamination, etc.) needs to be taken when working in the wetlands due to the national importance of wintering and breeding birds and the regional importance of the plant communities. • Water quality monitoring to be undertaken before starting of bridge and road construction works and periodically during the construction.	ESS 1, 3 and 6	*Contractor*/ During Construction
	***Construction phase* - Disruption of Traffic**			
Disruptions of Traffic	During construction stage, the existing traffic flows will be impeded by construction works on the road pavement, widening operations, and construction or reconstruction of drainage structures. In addition, vehicles involved in construction will increase traffic flows. These will result in congestion, delays and increase in noise and exhaust emissions. In built up areas, the pedestrian traffic will need to be given special attention to ensure safety of road user.	Contractor shall prepare Traffic Management Plan to avoid or mitigate all possible negative. But in general, following mitigation measures will need to be adopted: • providing advance information to the public about planned reconstruction works, • planning reconstruction activities to minimize disruption and maintaining at least one open lane where there is no viable alternative route; • signing of temporary traffic diversions in close coordination with local authorities; • use of flagmen and temporary traffic lights to control traffic flows at constricted sites, including safe crossing for pedestrians and • limiting, to the extent practicable, the movement of large trucks to off-peak traffic times.	ESS 1, 2 and 4	*Contractor* / During Construction
	***Construction phase* - Decommissioning Work Sites**			

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility* / Project Stage**
Site Reinstatement	The decommissioning of work camp sites requires particular attention. The ESMP shall make particular reference to prescribe good practices for the decommissioning of work sites, both the construction sites, the work camp, storage and stockpiling facilities, and the borrow pits.	• To achieve proper decommissioning of all work sites, the Contractors will be obliged to present their activities and solutions on the proper execution of such tasks as outlined in the ESMP • The decommissioning of work camp sites requires particular attention. Tidy clearing of all sanitary and waste management facilities, grade the soil to natural ground levels, re-establishment of natural vegetation and waterways are the focal points as these are often a source of environmental pollution and a public eyesore. Options need to be explored which would allow the use of workers dormitories, fuel station, workshops, drainage facilities etc. for other purposes as suggested by local leaders. Good landscaping is required to re-install former work camp sites into places where the local communities would meet the desired landscape aesthetics.	ESS 1, 2 and 4	*Contractor* / During Construction
	Operations and Maintenance Phase – Air Quality			
Air Quality – air emissions from traffic	Air quality impacts from Vehicle movements – During the operations of the road, vehicles that will pass through the road will generate exhaust emissions.	Potential impacts due to the use of the new bridges and rehabilitated rural roads are the purview of SAAAR.	ESS 1, and 4	*SAAAR*/ During Operations
Water Quality – Mitigation of General Contamination	Impacts related to wastewater and solid waste disposal could extend into the Post-Construction/Operational Stage due to improper discharges from site facilities or because of unanticipated circumstances or accidents	To mitigate potential impacts related to wastewater and solid waste disposal extending into the Post-Construction/Operational Stage, contracts stipulate that one year into the operating period a final inspection is required and Contractor's final payment is released only after a fully compliant audit is recorded. Any impacts related to wastewater and solid waste disposal are part of the final inspection process and final payments will not be made until outstanding issues are resolved.	ESS 1 and 4	*SAAAR*/ During Operations
Flora and Fauna Impact	No significant adverse impacts to flora and fauna are expected in the Post-Construction / Operational Stage of the Project.	Motorist should be notified by road signs of possible presence of fauna species and prohibit harming them. Recording of accidents (species, locations) is recommended for further improvement of condition and for implementation of additional mitigation measures.	ESS 1, 4 and 6	*SAAAR*/ During Operations
	Social			
Work Conditions	*Health and Safety of workers*	• Provide adequate housing for all workers at the construction camps and establish clean canteen/ eating and cooking areas.	ESS 1, 2 and 4	*Contractor* / During Construction

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility*** / Project Stage
	– Risk to health and lives if Sanitary work and living conditions are not provided	• Portable lavatories (or at least pit latrines in remote areas), male and female, shall be installed and open defecation shall be prohibited and prevented by cleaning lavatories daily and by keeping lavatory facilities clean at all times. • Provide separate hygienic sanitation facilities/ toilets and bathing areas with sufficient water supply for male and female workers. • Toilet facilities for women should be accessible from place of work. • Establish a workers' grievance mechanism		
	Safety of Workers – Potential sexual exploitation and abuse/sexual harassment (SEA/SH) risks for workers or community members	• Provide sensitivity seminar to all workers regarding SEA/SH • Ensure that SEA/SH complaints are handled appropriately. • Provide sufficient information (leaflets, booklets, etc.) regarding SEA/SH	ESS 1, 2, 4 and 10	*Contractor* / During Construction
	Health and Safety of workers – COVID transmission risks	• Contractors should ensure that all workers are hired locally to the extent possible. • Contractors should provide training to all workers on signs and symptoms of COVID-19, how it is spread, how to protect themselves (including regular handwashing and social distancing) and what to do if they or other people have symptoms, as well as policies and procedures listed here. Training of workers should be conducted regularly, providing workers with a clear understanding of how they are expected to behave and carry out their work duties. Training should address issues of discrimination or prejudice if a worker becomes ill and provide an understanding of the trajectory of the virus, where workers return to work. Training should cover all issues that would normally be required on the work site, including use of safety procedures, use of construction PPE, occupational health and safety issues, and code of conduct, taking into account that work practices may have been adjusted. • A summary of basic guidelines and COVID-19 symptoms should be displayed at all civil works sites, with images and text in Myanmar/ethnic languages. • Workers who are sick or showing possible symptoms should not be allowed on work site, should be isolated and referred to local medical facilities immediately.	ESS 1, 2 and 4	*Contractor* / During Construction

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility*** / Project Stage
		• Contractors should review worker accommodation arrangements to see if they are adequate and designed to reduce contact with the community. • Contractors should review work arrangements, tasks and hours to allow social distancing. • Contractors should provide workers with appropriate forms of personal protective equipment, and with designated bins to dispose of such equipment. • Contractors should ensure handwashing facilities supplied with soap, disposable paper towels and closed waste bins exist at key places at the work site; where there is a toilet, canteen or food distribution, or provision of drinking water; in worker accommodation; at waste stations; and in common spaces. Where handwashing facilities do not exist or are not adequate, arrangements should be made to set them up. Alcohol based sanitizer (if available, 60-95% alcohol) can also be used. • School heads and contractors should together implement a communication strategy with the community in relation to COVID-19 issues on the site. • Workers will be allowed remove themselves from a work situation which they have a reasonable justification to believe presents an imminent and serious danger to their life or health (with no reprisal for reporting or removing themselves).		
Occupational Health Safety	*Occupational Health and safety of due to works* – Potential injury due works (e.g., falling in excavations, falling objects, accidents caused by project vehicles and equipment, etc.) – Potential injury due to operations of equipment	• Health and Safety Training and Toolbox Talks to workers prior to construction • Sufficient safety signages should be installed in conspicuous spots • Provision of information materials (leaflets, booklets, etc.) regarding safety • Regular provision of safety seminars to workers • Ensure provision of safety measures (safety lines, watchmen or flagmen, etc.) at critical construction sites • Safety of operators and workers during usage of equipment	ESS 1, 2 and 4	*Contractor* / During Construction
Health and Safety of Workers	*Main risks during the construction stage may arise from:* – Failure to implement measures to avoid	• Appoint a qualified Environmental Health and Safety Officer (EHSO). • Conduct health and safety trainings (i.e., construction related injuries, facility and equipment safety, health and safety measures, prevention of HIV/AIDS, and common diseases. Protection against COVID-19 virus.	ESS 2 and 4	*Contractor* (to implement measures) and *SAAAR* (for LMP) / During

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility*** / Project Stage
	accidents and injuries involving workers – Infection of sexually transmitted or other diseases by non-local workers; – Outbreaks of diseases such as malaria, diarrhea, etc. In the labor force; – Inadequate sanitation in worker's camp (discussed in section on Worker's Camp); Pressures on existing health systems at the local level.	• Provide sufficient fire protection implements at the work areas and at construction and workers camps. • Provide first aid kits for workers. In addition, the contractor shall prepare emergency procedures detailing arrangements with community health center(s) or nearest hospital(s) to accommodate emergency cases from the work location. • Provide workers with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment and enforce use. • Install sign boards, lighting system at the construction sites, and facilities. • Strictly impose speed limits on construction vehicles. • Educate drivers on safe driving practices. • Barriers (i.e., temporary fence) shall be installed at construction areas for workers' and public's protection. • Ensure that contractors have valid insurance that can appropriately cover compensations and medical expenses in the event of injuries of workers, including third parties (e.g., residents in the communities). • Provide sufficient lighting at night as well as warning signs at construction sites. • *(Indicative Cost: Part of Contractor's Scope/Budget)*		Design Stage, Construction and potentially during Maintenance
Labor rights, gender and non-discrimination	*Non-compliance Risks:* Risks of not complying with labor code, paying workers inadequate rates, discrimination of women, those with disabilities or other vulnerable persons.	• SAAAR will cause the Contractor to establish LMP for RCDP which should be adhered by all contractors/ sub-contractors • Ensure compliance to Azerbaijan Labor Code • Ensure protection of rights of workers • Establish an internal workers' grievance mechanism • *(Indicative Cost: Part of Contractor's Scope/Budget)*	ESS 2	*Contractor* (to implement measures) and *SAAAR* (for LMP) / During Design Stage, Construction and potentially during Maintenance
	Gender Based Violence Risks: – Risk of occurrence of GBV related issues occurring at the work place – Risk of occurrence SEA/SH incidences	• The Contractor must arrange for trainings on GBV/IEC campaign to be provided by a recognized agency or NGO (e.g., "Woman Association for Rational Development" or any recognized and credible women organization in Azerbaijan). • The cost of the campaign shall be funded by the Contractor from the provisional sum provided in the bill-of-quantity. The contractor shall ensure that at least one refresher for workers is conducted each month to review materials provided.	ESS 2	*Contractor* (to implement measures) and *SAAAR* (for LMP) / During Design Stage, Construction and potentially

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility*** **/ Project Stage**
		• SAAAR, in collaboration with contractors and other stakeholders such as local government and SEA/SH service providers, will ensure that the project grievance redress mechanism (GRM) and workers' GRMs include protocols, training, and accountability mechanisms as relevant to ensure that grievances related to SEA/SH can be accepted and handled adequate with due confidentiality and ethical standards. • Internal GRM functions will be strengthened to ensure timely, impartial, independent and fair investigations for SEA and SH that should be safe, gender-sensitive, and appropriate to the context; and thus, maintaining neutrality and confidentiality before and during deliberation of matters. • *(Indicative Cost: Part of Contractor's Scope/Budget)*		during Maintenance
Community Safety	*Health and safety of communities/residents due to works* – Potential injury due works (e.g., falling in excavations, falling objects, accidents caused by project vehicles and equipment, etc.)	• General public should be forewarned prior to construction • Sufficient safety signages should be installed in conspicuous spots • Provision of information materials (leaflets, booklets, etc.) regarding safety distributed to communities • Ensure provision of safety measures (safety lines, watchmen or flagmen, etc.) at critical construction sites	ESS 1, 2 and 4	*Contractor* / During Construction
	Health and safety of communities/residents due to works – Disruption or elimination of usual common or public access to public places or buildings	• General public should be forewarned prior to construction • Sufficient safety signages should be installed in conspicuous spots showing alternate access routes • Provision of information materials (leaflets, booklets, etc.) regarding safety • Ensure provision of safety alternate access to the public prior to site construction.	ESS 1, 2 and 4	*Contractor* / During Construction
Community Grievance	*Risk of Project related complaints and grievances unresolved:* – Potential complaints from Project-Affected Persons	• General public should be sufficiently informed prior to construction about the project including the process of GRM for their relevant concerns • Contractor will cooperate with SAAAR-PIU in the establishment of GRM and comply with all the requirements in resolving grievances • *(Indicative Cost: Part of Contractor's Scope/Budget)*	ESS 1, 2 and 10	*Contractor* / During Construction/ *SAAAR* / During Construction for the GRM
Job competitions	*Influx of non-local labor:* – Deprivation of job opportunities to local population – Hostility with local residents	• Minimize labor influx as much as possible promoting local recruitment • Provide preference to local labor if workers met qualifications or necessary skills • Employ local labor whenever possible	ESS 1, 2 and 4	*Contractor* / During Construction

Aspect	Description of Impacts	Potential Mitigation Measure	Reference to WB ESS	***Responsibility*** **/ Project Stage**
Cultural Heritage	*Potential Disturbance or Damage to cultural sites:* – Disturbance to services or damage to structures	• SAAAR will cause the Contractor to undertake screening to assess whether tangible or intangible cultural heritage is impacted. • If cultural heritage is impacted, SAAAR will cause the Contractor to prepare Cultural Heritage Management Plans to ensure impacts and mitigation measures are properly identified and assessed. • If there is a Chance Find of cultural heritage artifacts, all civil works will be suspended and SAAAR will notify Institute of Archaeology and Ethnography of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism	ESS 8	*Contractor* (to implement measures) and *SAAAR* (for Heritage Mgmt. Plan) / During Design Stage, Construction and potentially during Maintenance
	***Construction phase* - Decommissioning Work Sites**			
Site Reinstatement	The decommissioning of work camp sites requires particular attention. The ESMP shall make particular reference to prescribe good practices for the decommissioning of work sites, both the construction sites, the work camp, storage and stockpiling facilities, and the borrow pits.	• To achieve proper decommissioning of all work sites, the Contractors will be obliged to present their activities and solutions on the proper execution of such tasks as outlined in the ESMP. • The decommissioning of work camp sites requires particular attention. Tidy clearing of all sanitary and waste management facilities, grade the soil to natural ground levels, re-establishment of natural vegetation and waterways are the focal points as these are often a source of environmental pollution and a public eyesore. Options need to be explored which would allow the use of workers dormitories, fuel station, workshops, drainage facilities etc. for other purposes as suggested by local leaders. Good landscaping is required to re-install former work camp sites into places where the local communities would meet the desired landscape aesthetics.	ESS 1, 2 and 4	*Contractor* / During Construction

More detailed assessments shall be done during the preparation of the ESMP for Yeniked-Bilasuvar road reconstruction project and to ensure consistency with RPF, LMP and SEP.

3.2 Subcomponent 3.1 Impacts, Risks and Mitigation Measures

Subcomponent 3.1 of the project will support the planning and development of road side markets and logistics facilities located along the Yenikend – Bilasuvar road. The support will also envisage investments into the improvement of selected road-side markets and logistic facilities to be identified and prioritized by local communities in the course of the project implementation. Such undertaking may entail certain environmental and social impacts and risks related to the implementation of physical works to be ranging from installation of equipment to small scale refurbishment, depending on specific needs, and might include generation of small amount of waste and noise, and require implementation of occupational health and safety and community safety measures. It is envisaged that due the small scale nature of these interventions, the associated impacts and risks will be small to negligible and rated as “Low”.

Accordingly, as per WB ESF and ES Policy the Borrower is to carry out appropriate environmental and social assessment of subprojects, and prepare and implement such subprojects, in accordance with national law and any requirement of the ESSs that the Bank deems relevant to such subprojects”. As elaborated in Footnote (No. 30): “Where subprojects are likely to have ***minimal or no adverse environmental or social risks and impacts***, such subprojects **do not require further environmental and social assessment** following the initial screening”.

Subject to site and project verification during the Detailed Design Phase, the SAAAR (with support of its Consultants) will prepare an ESMP Checklist based on the template provided in Annex 1, for the project interventions and activities under Subcomponent 3.1. The screening process should ensure that the location and nature of activities under Subcomponent 3.1 will not cause any adverse effect ecologically and biologically valuable sites, cultural heritage objects, will not trigger resettlement and land acquisition, and will not have any adverse impacts on neighboring communities. It is anticipated that the provision of economic infrastructure will result in net positive impacts to the socio-economic well-being of the target beneficiaries.

In support of Subcomponent 3.1, Advisory and Training Initiatives will be provided as Subcomponent 3.2. In this activity, there can be risk that Vulnerable Groups (e.g., women-headed households, landless households, people who speak a different language, illiterate, people with disability, etc.) may be excluded. Differentiated measures to allow the effective inclusion of those identified as disadvantaged or vulnerable should be provided. Dedicated approaches and an increased level of resources may be needed for reaching out to such differently affected groups so that they can included in the advisory and training activities. Prior consultation with these groups may be necessary to tailor the manner of conducting the activities with them. The project should devise ways to provide to reach out to this groups in practical and effective ways. The Advisory and Training Initiatives will duly incorporate and be line with the requirements of relevant ESSs, WBG Environmental Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs) and Good International Industrial Practices (GIIP).

3.3 HIV/AIDS Prevention and Gender Based Violence

For this project, the interaction of non-local project workers with local communities may result to some undesirable issues which need to be addressed proactively by the Borrower/Client. Accordingly, two important topics that needs to be highlighted for World Bank funded projects pertains to HIV/AIDS Prevention and Gender Based Violence (GBV). Recognizing underlying issues in advance will enable the project stakeholders to be well prepared to deal with the relevant impacts and risks.

Part of the preparation will entail provision of briefings regarding these two issues to bring in the necessary understanding and provision of technical support needed to develop plans for addressing HIV/AIDS and GBV throughout the lifetime project cycle. In addition, the plan implementation should be also be evaluated for effectiveness through regular monitoring and reporting.

3.3.1 HIV-AIDS Prevention

In terms of HIV/AIDS aspects, available studies indicate that Azerbaijan belongs to the group of low-prevalence countries, with an estimated prevalence rate[18] less than 0.1–0.2 percent. Though this HIV prevalence in Azerbaijan has been considered low, studies also indicated that there had been a high potential for the rapid spread as influenced by socio-economic and socio-cultural factors, including: the challenges of a transitional economy, forced and labour migration, growth of drug use, as well as some socio-cultural norms of behavior, family, religion, and gender issues. The importance of this issue has been accepted with the establishments of the National AIDS Center and enacting a law on AIDS – "*Law No. 1001-IIIQ of 11 May 2010 to Fight against the Disease Caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)*".

On the part of the World Bank, the issues on HIV/AIDS had been mainstreamed by institutionalizing by the inclusion of explicit provisions for HIV/AIDS Prevention in the standard bidding documents for civil works projects. These has been the guidance on the implementation of projects being financed by the World Bank. In the new WB ESF, ESS4 provides appropriate guidance in accordance with health, safety, and security risks and impacts on project-affected communities, on account of increase community exposure introduced by the project. With regards to HIV/AIDS, considered as communicable disease, ESS 4 par. 15 states that the Borrower will avoid or minimize the potential for community exposure to communicable and non-communicable diseases that could result from project activities, taking into consideration differentiated exposure to and higher sensitivity of vulnerable groups. Further in ESS4 par. 16, the Borrower is required to "take measures to avoid or minimize transmission of communicable diseases that may be associated with the influx of temporary or permanent project labor".

Accordingly, the following are hereby recommended during construction stage:

- The Contractor shall produce and conduct an HIV-AIDS Information, Education and Consultation/Communication (IEC) campaign undertaken by a recognized service provider, with the cost covered in the provisional sum provided in the bill-of-quantity.
- The Contractor shall undertake measures as specified in the Contract, including the LMP, to reduce the risk of the transfer of the HIV virus between and among the Contractor's personnel and the local community, to promote early diagnosis and to assist affected individuals. The Contractor shall not discriminate against people found to have HIV/AIDS as part of the undertaking.
- The IEC campaign shall be conducted during the mobilization of the Contractor in accordance ESS4, targeting groups identified concerning the risks, dangers and impact, and appropriate avoidance behavior with respect to Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) and HIV/AIDS in particular.
- Prior to actual performance of any works, the contractor (and service provider as relevant) shall submit to the SAAAR/PIU for approval an action plan that will indicate:
  - The types and frequency of education activities to be done;
  - The target groups (as a minimum to all the Contractor's employees, all Sub-Contractors and Consultants' employees, and all truck drivers and crew making deliveries to the project site for construction activities, as well as immediate local communities);
  - Whether condoms shall be provided;
  - Whether STI and HIV/AIDS screening, testing, diagnosis, counselling and referral to a dedicated national STI and HIV/AIDS program, (unless otherwise agreed) of all Site staff and labour shall be provided;
  - Budget.

[18] Prevalence rate, is the proportion of persons in a population who have a particular disease or attribute at a specified point in time or over a specified period of time.

3.3.2 Gender-Based Violence

The World Bank's vision consisting of "(i) **ending extreme poverty** and **(ii) promoting shared prosperity in all its partner countries**", is also underpinned, among others, by "ensuring social inclusion" and emphasized by "strong concerns for equity". This forms the basis of providing measures against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) whether at the workplace or can be indirectly experienced by household of those part of the project. It would be important that the GBV risks be adequately reflected in all environment and social instruments (i.e., site-specific ESMP and Contractor's ESMP (CESMP)[19]), which shall include the GBV mapping in these instruments.

Accordingly, for the project, it must be considered that project workers must cooperate with relevant entities to bring programs that would help in women empowerment and in addressing the needs of abused women. Women empowerment programs may be done through media, education, advertisements, and in funding programs that would help and support the needs of abused women. Ideas of educational attainment of women beyond eighteen years of age must spread to the rural areas through the transportation of teachers that would educate children and people, in general, as well as non-government units that would assist abused women and the project.

Among the considerations to be brought forward in this respect consist of the following:

- In bidding documents and contracts, the Contractor will be required to implement the Labor Management Plan and Codes of Conduct and Action Plan to Prevent Gender Based Violence.
- The Contractor must arrange for trainings on GBV/IEC campaign to be provided by a recognized agency or NGO (e.g., "Woman Association for Rational Development" or any recognized and credible women organization in Azerbaijan).
- The cost of the campaign shall be funded by the Contractor from the provisional sum provided in the bill-of-quantity. The contractor shall ensure that at least one refresher for workers is conducted each month to review materials provided.
- SAAAR, in collaboration with contractors and other stakeholders such as local government and SEA/SH service providers, will ensure that the project grievance redress mechanism (GRM) and workers' GRMs include protocols, training, and accountability mechanisms as relevant to ensure that grievances related to SEA/SH can be accepted and handled adequate with due confidentiality and ethical standards.

[19] The CESMP shall be prepared by the Contractor consistent with the SSESMP

4 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

4.1 Proposed Activities

As mentioned in the previous sections of this ESMF, the project will implement Subcomponents 1.1, and 3.1 within Salyan and Bilasuvar Rayons. Subcomponent 1.1 has been specified in the ToR which is the reconstruction of around 70 kms of corridor road between Yenikend and Bilasuvar along the existing alignment. Sub component 3.1 will also be established after a socio-economic study that will provide ancillary agri-logistics infrastructure and support to selected villages within the Rayons of Salyan and Bilasuvar.

This ESMF provides guidance for SAAAR and other relevant entities on how to manage potential impacts and risks of the project pertaining to sets of environmental and social procedures and measures for project implementation. It also outlines the process for developing ESMP Checklists as appropriate for investment activities under Subcomponent 3.1.

4.2 Screening, Approval and Scoping

Based on the Pre-Feasibility Study conducted for the proposed rehabilitation of the Yenikend-Bilasuvar secondary road under Sub-component 1.1, the anticipated impacts are assessed as non-significant, reversable and manageable if proper mitigation is in place. Therefore, the environmental and social risks associated with this activity have been rated as Moderate, and shall be handled within the scope of the site-specific ESMP, which has been developed by SAAAR based on the Feasibility Study.

In the case of Subcomponent 3.1, where the interventions will be limited to improvement of selected road-side markets and ancillary agri-logistics infrastructure and advisory and training initiatives to selected villages, the scale of the activities is expected to be small, having minimal to negligible environmental and social impacts and will occur primarily during the implementation of physical works, including installation of equipment and possibly minor refurbishment. Accordingly, the environmental and social risks of these activities are rated as Low, requiring the development of ESMP Checklists for those cases where minor refurbishment is involved. Once the activities requiring minor refurbishment are identified whose will be subject to screening, to ensure the environmental and social risks of those activities are rated Low. The template for the ESMP Checklist for minor refurbishment works is enclosed as Annex 1. The Template for the Environmental and Social Screening is provided in Annex 3.

4.3 Preparation and Implementation of Site-Specific Environment and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for the rehabilitation of the Yenikend-Bilasuvar Secondary Road and ESMP Checklists for Small-scale Interventions

The preliminary ESMP has been developed based on the Pre-Feasibility Study, and it will be further revised as appropriate once the advanced draft of the detailed design is available during the project implementation. The ESMP for the Yenikend–Bilasuvar road rehabilitation will be finalized before the finalization of respective civil works bidding documents, and will be included into the bid package and subsequently will become an integral part of the Civil Works Contract Documents.

For Subcomponents 1.1, following the pertinent ESSs, the ESMP is to be formed in close linkage with other documents, such as RPF, LMP, and SEP. The SAAAR will also ensure that a grievance mechanism is in place during the entire process to address any concern or suggestion for improvement coming from the stakeholders at local level.

Under Sub-component 3.1, the low risk activities will not require environmental and social assessment; in cases where small scale refurbishment is involved, SAAAR will require from beneficiary communities a preparation and disclosure of ESMP Checklists, based on the template provided in Annex 1.

4.3.1 ESMP Content and Outline

As stated in ESS1 - Annex 1. Environmental and Social Assessment par. 14, “An ESMP consists of the set of mitigation, monitoring, and institutional measures to be taken during implementation and operation of a project to eliminate adverse environmental and social risks and impacts, offset them, or reduce them to acceptable levels. The ESMP also includes the measures and actions needed to implement these measures. Par.15 generally outlines the requirements for ESMP. The ESMP should ensure adequate coordination with other relevant documents, such as RPF and LMP and the SEP and shall include:

a) A social and environmental baseline assessment with available information concerning the general population distribution, concentrations of low-income communities if applicable, areas of significant ROW encroachment, sensitive and/or critical natural habitats, major rivers and waterways, recorded cultural heritage sites, and any other potentially sensitive areas, based on recent census, official data and information garnered from civil society organizations as well as detailed site visits;
b) Identification of all physical, environmental and social risks or impacts along the road;
c) Identification of mitigation measures for all impacts identified, including on GBV and road safety;
d) Specification of environment and social instrument in which the mitigation measures will be included (i.e., RPF, LMP, construction specifications, bidding documents, SEP, etc.);
e) Arrangements for the implementation of mitigation and monitoring measures specified in the ESMP, as well as the monitoring plan. This will include statements reflecting the technical expertise which is available and will be additionally installed within the implementing agency
f) Assessment of the E&S capacity of the implementing agency (SAAAR), and of the capacity building needs;
g) Timing for implementation of the mitigation measure (before construction, during construction, during planning, etc.);
h) Budget estimate for the implementation of mitigation and monitoring measure.

The ESMP should also identify specific community participation mechanisms, guided by the project’s SEP, to address environment and social issues, as well as a detailed Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) to deal with stakeholder’s complaints or concerns.

4.3.2 Responsibilities for Preparation and Bidding Documents

SAAAR will have overall responsibility for the preparation and implementation of site-specific ESMP and ESMP Checklists, and any other document required (RPF, LMP, SEP, for example). The ESMP, RPF, SEP and LMP are reviewed and cleared by the World Bank, consulted on and publicly disclosed in local language (and English) and included as part of bidding documents for civil works contractors. ESMP Checklists will be subject to post-review by the Bank on a selective basis and will also be part of the contracts and technical specifications as appropriate under Subcomponent 3.1. Contractor(s) will bear responsibility for the implementation of the mitigation measures during construction/refurbishment while supervising engineer will be responsible for the day-to-day environmental and social monitoring.

The ESMP is to be prepared by SAAAR and its consultant (updated in accordance with the detailed design); the ESMP Checklists will be developed by consultants which will be delivering advisory and training services under Subcomponent 3.2, and verified and endorsed by the PIU Environmental and Social Specialists. Both ESMP and ESMP Checklists will be incorporated by the PIU into the respective bidding packages, technical specifications and contracts as appropriate.

4.3.3 Responsibilities for Supervision and Monitoring on ESMP Implementation

For the project with the three streams of activities, SAAAR will have overall responsibility for supervising contractors (and their subcontractors) in the implementation of the civil works for identified project roads in Subcomponent 1.1 and ancillary agri-logistics infrastructure under Subcomponent 3.1. ESMPs will be part of the Contract Documents and will be among the requirements for the project. In this task, SAAAR will be assisted by DDIS, who will be responsible for training the SAAAR Environmental and Social Officer (ESO) and providing needing assistance pertaining to ESMP implementation and compliance by the Contractor.

4.3.4 Capacity Assessment and Needs

The State Agency of Azerbaijan Automobile Roads (SAAAR) has been dealing with a number of international finance institutions (e.g., ADB, WB, EBRD, etc.) requiring to comply with Environmental and Social Safeguards. Years of experience with these institutions and through appointed project consultants have familiarized SAAAR with the intricacies of the requirements. With the application of the previous WB's Safeguards Policies and Operational Procedures through a number of similar road construction or rehabilitation projects a compliance system within the SAAAR has evolved with the personnel getting familiar with the guidelines and requirements. Based on past performance, SAAAR has demonstrated a satisfactory commitment to complying with Environmental and Social Safeguard of the WB as well as of other funding agencies. Under the past projects, GRM's were utilized properly with people being properly informed of their rights and the project workers made aware of their obligations to provide resolutions to problems. It would seem that one of the keys to effectiveness is the provision of information to everyone concerned.

However, the WB ESF ESSs are fairly new for Borrowers forming the basis of compliance. A good knowledge of these requirements needs to be established with the SAAAR staff in order to maintain a good level of management and monitoring. This will be achieved through targeted ESF training sessions to be provided by the World Bank E&S specialists to the PIU at the early stage of the project implementation. Additionally, SAAAR will need support throughout the implementation of the project from DDIS E&S specialized staff or individual consultants to introduce the ESF ESSs into the routine practice of SAAAR.

At this stage, it is envisioned that training to be delivered within the scope of the project will need to be holistic and cover all aspects of the project, including (but may be expanded):

a) ESSs relevant to the project;
b) Implementing the ESMP, LMP, and SEP;
c) Monitoring E&S compliance, including reporting;
d) Gender-Based Violence, including how to conduct awareness raising on this topic;
e) Violence Against Children, including how to conduct awareness raising on this topic;
f) HIV/AIDS awareness, including how to conduct awareness raising on this topic;
g) Occupational Health & Safety, including how to monitor and enforce this aspect (including COVID-19 safety measures);
h) Labor Management Procedures, including how to monitor and enforce this aspect;
i) Grievance Redress, including how to oversee and implement the GRM;
j) Road Safety, including how to conduct awareness raising on this topic;
k) Climate Change, including measures to improve resiliency of infrastructure; and
l) Biodiversity Conservation, including ensuring propagation of species and habitat preservation

.

At the Rayon level, personnel at the Road Maintenance Units or the Local Executive Powers may need to be familiar with new WB ESF policies for coordination of any local issues that may arise particularly on Community Safety, Affected Parties' Grievances, Labor Related Issues, Livelihood Restorations, Property Impacts, to name a few. At this juncture the DDIS or individual Consultant will

also need to conduct training to some of the relevant personnel to ensure better compliance and prompt response and resolution to project related issues.

4.4 Institutional Arrangements

For this stage of project preparation for the project, and consistent with the usual local requirements in Azerbaijan and within the WB ESF, a number or institutional arrangements and responsibilities are envisaged. With more details provided in the Resettlement Framework, and Stakeholder Engagement Plan, the ESMP for Yenikend-Bilasuvar road rehabilitation features further defined arrangements relevant to specific activities.

4.4.1 The State Agency of Azerbaijan Automobile Roads (SAAAR)

SAAAR will have overall responsibility for the project Subcomponents being funded by the World Bank. This consists of preparation, implementation, and financing of related activities related to social measures such as livelihood restoration, establishing project SEP, and overseeing the LMP. In addition, SAAAR will be responsible for any interagency coordination with relevant government offices. SAAAR will exercise its functions through the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), which in turn will be responsible for project execution and overseeing day-to-day project activities at rayon/subproject levels. SAAAR-PIU will assign a full-time Safeguards Specialist who will coordinate activities relevant to the RPF and other SAAAR on safeguards related matters. Consistent with the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), the SAAAR-PIU shall establish an organizational structure (project implementation team) with qualified staff to support management of E&S risks including at least one Environmental and Social Specialist, one Labor, Health, and Safety Specialist, and one Community Liaison Officer responsible for ensuring full compliance with the ESSs, ESCP and relevant instruments.

4.4.2 Detail Design Implementation and Supervision (DDIS) Consultant

The DDIS consultant for the project will be responsible for the tasks and scope of detailed design, construction supervision, implementation monitoring, as well as project performance monitoring and evaluation to be described in more detailed in a Consultancy Terms of Reference. An Environment and a Social consultant/s shall be a member of the DDIS team with the following tasks and responsibility:

1) Supporting the SAAAR E&S Specialists to fulfil their respective responsibilities, including by conducting capacity building training, helping with work plans, monitoring reports, conducting site visits, etc.;
2) Spearhead in the drafting of required environment and social documents such as the site-specific ESMP Checklists, RPs and updating of the ESMF, ESMP, LMPs and SEPs, as needed and ensure that the Contractor formulates its own corresponding documents as per the respective ESMP and civil works contract;
3) Working collaboratively with MENR as needed;
4) Ensuring minimum disruption/damage to the environment and local communities by approval of contractors' work statement/methodology on implementation of the ESMP, including monitoring the impact of construction works on the environment and local communities and assisting the SAAAR to provide monthly progress reports;
5) Incorporate into the project design the environmental protection and mitigation measures identified in the ESMP for the design/pre- construction stage;
6) Assist the SAAAR to ensure that all environmental and social requirements and mitigation measures from the ESMP are incorporated in the civil works bidding documents and contracts;
7) Assist SAAAR in establishing the Grievance Redress Mechanism as described in the SEP and summarized in this ESMF;
8) Implement all mitigation and monitoring measures for various project phases specified as DDIS' tasks in the ESMP based on guidance in this ESMF;

9) Undertake environmental and social management capacity building activities for the SAAAR/PIU as required;
10) Undertake regular monitoring of the contractor's environmental and social performance as scheduled in the ESMP;
11) Supervise Contractor's compliance with the site-specific ESMP and ESMP Checklists and organize site visits to all project sites as needed;
12) Prepare Environmental and Social Monitoring Reports including Project Progress reports for each ongoing subcomponent;
13) Participate in regular supervision missions and respond to WB and SAAAR requirements.

4.4.3 Civil Works Contractor

The Civil Works contractors will be selected based on procurement guidelines of the WB and Government of Azerbaijan. Depending on the parceling of lots, these Contractors may be international or local contractors depending on the construction lot budgets as has been normally applied in previous projects. Subcomponent 1.1 may be tendered as international competitive bidding while subcomponent 3.1 may be tender as national competitive bidding. Subcomponent 1.1 ESMP and Subcomponent 3.1 ESMP Checklists shall be complied with by the winning contractors. The contractors for each subcomponent will be expected to be responsible for implementing respective measures recommended in the ESMP/ESMP Checklists to mitigate environment and social impacts. The contractor may also have responsibilities linked to other documents such as the RPs, LMPs and SEP. Accordingly, the contractors will:

a) Designate a full-time Environment, Social, Health and Safety Officer/s the contracted works;
b) Prepare and submit a subcomponent and site-specific ESMP for review by the DDIS Consultant for approval by the SAAAR and the WB and other project documents if required (RP, LMPs, SEP, etc.); other specific plans may be required which will all be annexes to the ESMPs;
c) Provide sufficient funding and human resources for implementation of the ESMP, especially for parametric monitoring;
d) Ensure proper and timely implementation of required pre-construction and construction mitigation measures in the ESMP;
e) Implement additional environmental and/or social mitigation measures as necessary, including having in place two grievance redress systems (one for workers and one for the general public) and complying with other measures in the LMP and SEP.

4.4.4 Ministry of Finance

As the line agency in charge of regulating the financial sector in Azerbaijan Republic, the Minister of Finance (MOF) shall be Borrower's Representative. From the financing received both from the WB and Government of Azerbaijan, the MOF shall cause the SAAAR to disburse funds allocated to its account for the project. In line with RPs, the MOF also will allocate the calculated compensation to the account of SAAAR and will transfer the compensation to affected peoples' accounts. For this activity, an additional report will be submitted to the WB for the execution of the compensation payment.

4.4.5 Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan

The primary institution in Azerbaijan with respect to the environment is the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR). A Presidential Decree in 2001 transformed the former State Committee for Ecology and Natural Resources Utilization (SCENRU) into the MENR. Thereon, along with its inherent mandate from SCENRU, the MENR assumed over the functions of several other state bodies such as the departments of Hydrometeorology, Geology, Forestry, and Fishery. The functions and activities of the MENR are sub-divided into the following main sectoral areas:

- Environmental policy development
- Environmental protection
- Water monitoring and management
- Protection of marine (Caspian Sea) bio-resources
- Forest management

- Bio-resources and protected areas management

Under MENR is the Department of Environmental Policy and Environmental Protection (DEPEP), which oversees the State Ecological Expertise (SEE) Department. The SEE is responsible for the review and approval of environmental impact assessment (EIA) reports submitted by project proponents.

During construction of any project, the applicant/developer (in this case SAAAR) should ensure adherence to conditions attached to the approval and be responsible for monitoring the developments of the projects along with the regular and timely reporting to MENR. The monitoring programme of the proponent/developer should be designed to give clear indications prior to conditions being breached. Practical corrective measures should be undertaken by the proponent/developer in order to avoid breach of any conditions stipulated in the approval.

The MENR is authorized to issue warning to proponent/developer should it observe that conditions are being breached. In the event that conditions are breached, the proponent/developer is obliged to stop whatever activity which is causing the breach. In such cases, the MENR may reconsider the approval, possibly with the participation of the Environmental Review Expert Group, and the conditions of approval may be reviewed.

5 CONSULTATION AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

In conformity with the ESS10: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure and prevailing laws and regulations Azerbaijan pertaining to Stakeholder Engagements, public notification and consultations for the subcomponent 1.1 and 3.1 of the project are to be done by the SAAAR. This will be undertaken through official notices to the residents in Salyan and Bilasuvar, and potential stakeholders. The outputs and outcomes of any public consultations shall be considered in the project preparation stage of the project.

In accordance with the project Stakeholder Engagement Plan, SAAAR will conduct consultation activities and stakeholder engagement. The SEP provides ways to identify potential different stakeholders, including disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, to develop an approach for reaching each of the subgroups, to create a mechanism by which Project Affected Parties (PA-Ps) and Other Interested Parties (OIPs) can raise concerns, provide feedback, or make complaints, and to minimize and mitigate environmental and social risks related to the proposed project. The overall objective of this Stakeholder Engagement Plan is to establish an organized program for stakeholder engagement, including public information disclosure and consultation, throughout the entire project cycle following the objectives outlined in *ESS10 par. 3* as follows:

- To establish a systematic approach to stakeholder engagement that will help Borrowers identify stakeholders and build and maintain a constructive relationship with them, in particular project-affected parties;
- To assess the level of stakeholder interest and support for the project and to enable stakeholders' views to be taken into account in project design and environmental and social performance;
- To promote and provide means for effective and inclusive engagement with project-affected parties throughout the project life cycle on issues that could potentially affect them;
- To ensure that appropriate project information on environmental and social risks and impacts is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible and appropriate manner and format stakeholder engagement and Information Disclosure; and
- To provide project-affected parties with accessible and inclusive means to raise issues and grievances, and allow Borrowers to respond to and manage such grievance.

In general, there are two kinds of stakeholders, affected and interested stakeholders – Project-Affected Parties and Other Interested Parties. The **Project-Affected Parties (P-APs)** are those that are affected or likely to be affected by the project and because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable. This group are likely to be adversely affected by the project impacts and/or more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of a project's benefits *(ESS10 pars. 5&11).* The **Other Interested Parties (OIPs)** are those who may have an interest in the project and would have different concerns and priorities about project impacts, mitigation mechanisms and benefits, and who may require different, or separate, forms of engagement (ESS10 pars. 5&11). Both of these stakeholders were detailed in the SEP.

For Subcomponent 1.1, the Yenikend-Bilasuvar road, these stakeholders can be identified as those who will experience impacts due to the reconstruction of the main corridor. It will be the responsibility of SAAAR and the DDIS to update the SEP. More detail and analysis of project stakeholders, and suggested methods and timing for engagement, is provided in the SEP. For Subcomponent 3.1, the stakeholders are local producers (e.g., *farmers owning land, tenant farmers, hired farm labors, long-distance travelers, local processors of farm produce, packagers for farm produce, near road traders, local residents of the road project, etc.*), service providers (*e.g., traders and buyers of produce, truckers and haulers of produce, market vendors, sellers of farm produce, owners of processing facilities for farm produce, private hotels for tourists, markets (both formal and informal traders*), other services, etc.) and businesses with links to farms (*residents and community members, markets (both formal and informal traders), hotels and restaurants, other services, etc.*).

5.1 Consultations during Project Preparation

As part of the Environmental and Social Safeguards requirements for the processing of the ESF documents, Public Consultations (PC) were conducted within the Rayons of Salyan and Bilasuvar on February 18 and 19, 2021 with representatives of stakeholders from these respective Rayons. Initially, digital copies of Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) Documents have been posted on the official websites of SAAAR and Salyan and Bilasuvar Executive Power Offices on February 7, 16 & 18, 2021 respectively (see Appendix 1 for relevant weblinks). Due to the restrictions on public meetings related to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, it was decided to hold a limited number of meetings with stakeholders. One meeting was held with stakeholders living in Bilasuvar region over the "Zoom" application, and three (3) group meetings were held with stakeholders living in Salyan Rayon. The Minutes of the Public Consultations are found in the Annex 4.

5.2 Consultations during Project Implementation

ESS10 par. 2 states: "Stakeholder engagement is an inclusive process conducted throughout the project life cycle. Where properly designed and implemented, it supports the development of strong, constructive and responsive relationships that are important for successful management of a project's environmental and social risks". Henceforth, it is expected that consultations and information disclosure will be an ongoing process for the project as detailed in the SEP. There will be ongoing local consultations with affected people, project workers, local authorities and vulnerable people, among others. Consultations will focus on the environmental and social impacts of the project, potential land acquisition impacts, livelihood restoration plans, and trainings on Gender-Based Violence, Worker's Code of Conduct, labor rights and available job opportunities, among others. Specific details, including details of stakeholders, methods of consultations and timings, are provided in the SEP.

For Subcomponent 1.1, the SEP should be updated by the DDIS once detailed designs becomes available. For Subcomponent 3.1, the drafting can be done after the small infrastructure projects are defined and updating can be done during the final designs. Future updated SEP, along with the other ESF documents will be consulted on and publicly disclosed.

Due to the COVID pandemic conditions, stakeholder engagement activities should be conducted with extreme caution with the organizers cognizant of the safety measures such as adequate safety preparations prior to meetings, reminders of frequent sanitation of hands, physical distancing, reminders of PPE's, being aware of infection updates, sufficient precautionary measures in meeting rooms, etc.

5.3 Reporting Back to Stakeholders

Reporting to stakeholder groups and evaluating the stakeholder process is considered vital to ensure that SAAAR-PIU can respond to identified issues and change the schedule and nature of engagement activities to make them more effective. It is desirable that all issues must be resolved at all levels and professionally. For a clear and understandable review, everything should be used as informational and in the form of presentation. All interested parties should be informed of all stages and the solution of all problems.

SC Safeguard Specialist will report back to P-APs and other stakeholder groups, primarily through public meetings in project affected areas and/or Villages. Minutes of meetings will be shared during subsequent public meetings. Feedback received through the GRM will be responded to in writing and verbally, to the extent possible. SMS' and phone calls will be used to respond to stakeholders whose telephone numbers are available. Key Project updates will be posted on project website. Social media

(primarily through the Project website (or social media platform) for P-APs and other stakeholders) will also be used as necessary.

Through consultations, the stakeholders will be informed and feedbacks can be obtained. SAAAR, with the support of DDIS, will ensure that any project related meetings with the stakeholders will be recorded and any comments form part of the project documents when applicable. Any insights or ideas, or in particular, grievances from stakeholders will be logged accordingly and followed through.

The project information will be disclosed to the public mainly through the following:

- **Public/community meetings -** Prior to other project related activities, at the time of disclosure of relevant project documentations, SAAAR will arrange for a project briefing meeting on a national level, involving the stakeholder agencies. As the need arises, the briefing meeting can be done once at the start and another can be arranged if the need arises or if there will be major change in the project. These meetings will be unrestricted but may prioritize on those vulnerable groups and in which the general public can raise concerns and provide comments. Depending on the level of interest on the project, especially on Subcomponent 3.1, separate meeting for women and important sectors for a more focused discussion. These meetings can be scheduled on a semiannual basis.
- **Communication materials -** project information will be disclosed to the public via a variety of means of conveying project information and updates via printed materials consisting of brochures, flyers, posters, etc. The communication materials will be produced by the SAAAR-PIU and to be made available at the Executer Power office in Salyan and Bilasuvar. A "Public Relations Kit" will be designed specifically and be made available both in print and online form. SAAAR/PIU will also update its website (*http://www.aayda.gov.az/az*) regularly (at least on a quarterly basis) with key project updates and reports on the project's performance both in Azerbaijani and English. The website can also be utilized to provide information regarding the grievance mechanism for the project.
- **Mass/social media communication -** A social safeguard specialist (from SAAAR-PIU staff or an external consultant) will be engaged on during the project implementation of the project in order to maintain close communication with stakeholders, including P-APs, community leaders. The social safeguard specialist, as the main Focal Point Person (FPP), will also be tasked for posting relevant information on the dedicated project website, social media channels (Facebook, etc.) and on information boards throughout the project's lifecycle. In addition, if necessary, the project may arrange for production of video materials (for video-sharing platform, e.g., YouTube) or documentary broadcast on TV/cable TV and which will entail description of the project, advance announcement of the forthcoming public events or commencement of specific Project activities.
- **Information Desks -** During the initiation of the project, an "Information Desks" in each Rayon (Salyan & Bilasuvar) will be arranged with Executive Powers to provide local residents with information on stakeholder engagement activities, project interventions, contact details of the Focal Point Person, etc. The FPP will set up these information desks in Rayon offices where they can meet and share information about the project with PAPs and other stakeholders. The project brochures and fliers on various project related social and environmental issues will be made available at these information desks.
- **Stakeholders/ Beneficiaries /PAP Opinion/ Perception Surveys -** At the beginning the project will finance the design and a pilot of a Stakeholders/ Beneficiaries /PAP Opinion/ Perception Surveys regarding the project to cover a good sample of the stakeholders of the project. Qualitative and quantitative metrics of the project will be taken and will serve as baseline information on the Stakeholders. A social safeguard consultant may be employed by the SAAAR-PIU for this purpose. This can be cross-validated at some point in time during the implementation and prior to handing over of the project to SAAAR-PIU.

6 GRIEVANCE REDRESS

As per ESS10 C – Grievance Mechanism, the Borrower is expected to respond to concerns and grievances of project-affected parties related to the environmental and social performance of the project in a timely manner (*ESS10 par. 26*). The major considerations are as follows:

(a) The grievance mechanism is expected to address concerns 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. The mechanism, process or procedure will not prevent access to judicial or administrative remedies The Borrower will inform the project-affected parties about the grievance process in the course of its community engagement activities, and will make publicly available a record documenting the responses to all grievances received; and

(b) Handling of grievances will be done in a culturally appropriate manner and be discreet, objective, sensitive and responsive to the needs and concerns of the project-affected parties. The mechanism will also allow for anonymous complaints to be raised and addressed

The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) for the project is described in detail in the SEP with the uptake channels such as received verbally (personal appearance, or phone/SMS), on-paper (documentary in local community box or traditional mail), or electronically (e-mail, website, WhatsApp, etc.).

6.1 Grievance Redress Mechanisms

The project Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) in the SEP is similar to what will be applied in the project RPF, and in some instances both GRM's can work in parallel to resolve issues. Personnel and experts can be assigned to any or both GRM's for practically and even consistency. The Steps to be followed to address grievance within the SEP framework as per ESS10 requirements:

Step 1 Grievance Redress Commission (GRC): The GRC will act as the mediator between aggrieved parties and will make efforts to resolve conflicts through mutual consent.

Step 2 SAAAR-PIU: Recommendations of GRC are sent to the SAAAR-PIU. The SAAAR-PIU is responsible for addressing the grievances of the P-APs and if necessary, will forward these grievances to appropriate agencies/ offices for taking action. P-APs will be able to contact the SAAAR-PIU through phone, email, direct meetings and letters. The contact details of SAAAR-PIU (Point of Contact) will be distributed to the P-APs and posted on the main locations in the communities before the commencement of the project implementation. In addition, in case of unresolved issues with the P-AP, the SAAAR-PIU may resort to "mediation" as an option (*ESS10 Annex 1 par 3*)

Step 3 (Court of law): The court of law will be the last resort before the P-AP. The Project-Affected Parties can **appeal** to court should they disagree with the decision of SAAAR-PIU.

In conformance to *ESS10 Annex 1 par 2 (a)*, the GRM will be accessible to the full range of project stakeholders, including project-affected parties, community members, civil society, media, and other interested parties. Stakeholders can use the GRM to submit complaints, feedback, queries, suggestions, or even compliments related to the overall management and implementation of the project. The GRM is intended to address issues and complaints from external stakeholders in an efficient, timely, and cost-effective manner. A separate mechanism will be used for worker grievances. The SAAAR-PIU will be responsible for managing the stakeholder GRM following the roles and responsibilities outlined in the previous section.

6.2 Recording Grievances

As part of *ESS10 Annex 1 par 2* requirement for maintenance of "Grievance Logs and Data Base", the SAAAR-PIU will maintain a grievance log as part of the SEP implementation, which will contain, at the minimum, the following information:

- Individual reference number;
- Name of the person submitting the complaint, question, or other feedback, address and/or contact information (unless the complaint has been submitted anonymously);
- Details of the complaint, feedback, or question/her location and details of his / her complaint;
- Date of the complaint;
- Name of person assigned to deal with the complaint (acknowledge to the complainant, investigate, propose resolutions, etc.);
- Details of proposed resolution, including person(s) who will be responsible for authorizing and implementing any corrective actions that are part of the proposed resolution;
- Date when proposed resolution was communicated to the complainant (unless anonymous);
- Date when the complainant acknowledged, in writing if possible, being informed of the proposed resolution;
- Details of whether the complainant was satisfied with the resolution, and whether the complaint can be closed out; and
- Date when the resolution is implemented (if any)

7 MONITORING AND REPORTING

The environmental monitoring will be done to ensure proper response and mitigation with the identified project risks and impacts, which may arise during the construction phase of the project subcomponents. Prior to the construction, the SAAAR-PIU Environmental and Social Specialists with the assistance of the DDIS will do the following:

- Develop an environmental auditing protocol for the construction period as well as a detailed monitoring and reporting plan;
- Provide guidance and formulate a report outline that will be used by the contractor as a guide in the preparation of periodic environmental and social progress reports; and
- Undertake regular and periodic monitoring of contractor's implementation of the mitigation measures during the construction stage, consistent with the monitoring program, and submit to SAAAR-PIU quarterly monitoring reports. Special separate reports should be prepared in the event a significant environment related incident will arise.

The SAAAR-PIU will periodically provide the WB a summary of the monitoring results. In addition, environmental management activities should form part of the Internal Monitoring System. The purpose of such system is to track progress of as well as changes in civil work activities as well as monitor effects and impact of the project on the Project-Affected Parties and Other Interested Parties. The SAAAR will be responsible for the establishment of the monitoring system with the assistance of the DDIS and the Civil Works Contractor, whose scope will be specified in the terms of reference for the work contract.

Any related occupational health and safety (OHS), community or other incidents that may occur at the Project sites must be immediately reported to the WB without postponing that till a regular progress report is due. Towards this end, SAAAR must include the requirement to promptly report on incidents into the contracts signed with the contractors of works and work supervision consultants. Once a notice on an incident arrives to the SAAAR, it must be instantly communicated to the World Bank in writing with the inclusion of sufficient detail known at the moment of reporting. Following the occurrence of an incident SAAAR will undertake a root cause analysis to assess the causes for the incident and prepare a corrective action plan including remedial actions to be put in place to prevent further occurrence of such accidents as well as to mitigate and compensate for any consequences arising from the accident that has occurred.

7.1 Internal Monitoring

During the project implementation, the SAAAR will conduct monthly internal monitoring activities on the ESMPs for the three streams of activities to determine the effectiveness of the mitigation measures against the identified environmental and social risks and impacts. Monitoring reports will be reviewed by the project SAAAR-PIU Director and be submitted to the World Bank for their review. SAAAR-PIU will be assisted by the DDIS in the report preparation.

During the project implementation, the SAAAR-PIU with the assistance of the DDIS shall monitor the compliance of the Contractor in accordance with the ESMPs. Quarterly reports shall be drafted to SAAAR, WB, and to relevant agencies describing the status of implementation of environmental and social mitigation measures by the Contractors. Included in the reports are additional mitigation measures that may need to be implemented, incidents of non-compliance with applicable environmental permits, complaints received from local residents, NGOs, etc. and ways and means by which, they were addressed or settled.

It is advisable that the DDIS shall employ an expatriate environment and social specialist (with civil engineering/environmental management background) to assist the SAAAR in the monitoring the progress of the construction on its environmental aspect in accordance with the ESSs. The DDIS, through its environment and social specialist, shall provide hands-on training to the SAAAR throughout various stages of the construction. The DDIS shall also assist SAAAR in preparing monitoring

reports regarding the performance of the contractors in terms of compliance with the relevant national environmental regulations, quality standards and the implementation of environmental specifications in accordance with the contract provisions. The Terms of Reference (ToR) for the environmental specialist shall be drawn-up by the DDIS for the project. During project implementation, the SAAAR will report to the World Bank-IBRD on the progress of the project based on the monitoring reports submitted by the ESS/CSC and the Contractor.

Some of the indicators that can be utilized in the internal monitoring includes:

- Number of ESMP Checklists prepared;
- Number of consultation meetings;
- Number of grievances received;
- Number of grievances resolved or unresolved;
- Durations for each of the steps in the GRM
- Number of times a certain uptake channel was used.
- Number of lessons learned in the GRM processing
- Etc.

8 BUDGET

For project with the three stream of activities, implementing ESMF will generally entail formulating of the component and site-specific ESMPs along with other social instruments as needed. The Table below presents an estimated budget and subject to approval of SAAAR.

Table 12: Estimated Budget for the ESMF Implementation

Item	Estimated Cost (to be updated in the ESMP)
International Consultants on ESF requirements:	
• Prepare site-specific ESMP for Subcomponent 1.1[20]	USD 42,500
• Prepare site-specific ESMP Checklists for Subcomponent 3.1	USD 1,000
• Updating of RPF, LMP & SEP	USD 20,000
Training for SAAAR on (but may be expanded):	
• Implementing the ESMP;	USD 50,000
• Monitoring E&S compliance, including reporting;	
• Gender-Based Violence, including how to conduct awareness raising on this topic;	
• Violence Against Children, including how to conduct awareness raising on this topic;	
• HIV/AIDS awareness, including how to conduct awareness raising on this topic;	
• Occupational Health & Safety, including how to monitor and enforce this aspect;	
• Labor Management Procedures, including how to monitor and enforce this aspect;	
• Grievance Redress, including how to oversee and implement the GRM;	
• Road Safety, including how to conduct awareness raising on this topic;	
• Climate Change, including measures to improve resiliency of infrastructure	

[20] Already covered in Consulting Services - Small Assignments Lump-Sum Payments CONTRACT NO: AHP 3, IC 8

Item	Estimated Cost (to be updated in the ESMP)
• Biodiversity Conservation, including ensuring propagation of species and habitat preservation	
Budget for SAAAR to conduct travel to Rayons to conduct monitoring, training activities, etc.	USD 30,000
Translation of E&S documents, printing and/or materials for consultations or trainings	USD 15,000
National consultation in Salyan and Bilasuvar and additional local consultations throughout the project	USD 30,000
National Consultant (TBD if needed)	USD 20,000
Construction-phase mitigation measures of ESMP	To be calculated in ESMP
Budget for land acquisition	To be calculated in RP (if applicable)
Budget to implement Grievance Redress Mechanism, including associated trainings and any additional staff that may be required	USD 20,000
Contingency (10%)	USD 22,850
Total	USD 251,350 + costs of mitigation measures in ESMP, RP and to be estimated

Annex 1: ESMP Checklist for Construction and Rehabilitation Activities

PART A: GENERAL PROJECT AND SITE INFORMATION

INSTITUTIONAL & ADMINISTRATIVE				
Country	**Azerbaijan**			
Project title				
Scope of project and activity	Small construction works for buildings rehabilitation within SD project			
Institutional arrangements (Name and contacts)	WB (Project Team Leader)	Project Management	Local Counterpart and/or Recipient	
Implementation arrangements (Name and contacts)	Safeguard Supervision	Local Counterpart Supervision	Local Inspectorate Supervision	Contactor
SITE DESCRIPTION				
Name of site				
Describe site location			Attachement 1: Site Map [ ]Y [ ]N	
Who owns the land?				
Description of geographic, physical, biological, geological, hydrographic and socio-economic context				
Locations and distance for material sourcing, especially aggregates, water, stones?				
LEGISLATION				
Identify national & local legislation & permits that apply to project activity				
PUBLIC CONSULTATION				
Identify when / where the public consultation process took place				
INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING				
Will there be any capacity building?	[ ] N or [ ]Y if Yes, Attachment 2 includes the capacity building program			

PART B: SAFEGUARDS INFORMATION

ENVIRONMENTAL /SOCIAL SCREENING			
Will the site activity include/involve any of the following??	**Activity**	**Status**	**Triggered Actions**
	A. Building rehabilitation	[**X**] Yes [ ] No	See Section **A** below
	B. New construction	[ ] Yes [**X**] No	See Section **A** below
	C. Individual wastewater treatment system	[ ] Yes [**X**] No	See Section **B** below
	D. Historic building(s) and districts	[ ] Yes [**X**] No **??**	See Section **C** below
	E. Acquisition of land[21]	[ ] Yes [**X**] No	See Section **D** below
	F. Hazardous or toxic materials[22]	[**X**] Yes [ ] No	See Section **E** below
	G. Impacts on forests and/or protected areas	[ ] Yes [**X**] No	See Section **F** below
	H. Handling / management of medical waste	[ ] Yes [**X**] No	See Section **G** below
	I. Traffic and Pedestrian Safety	[**X**] Yes [ ] No	See Section **H** below

[21] Land acquisitions includes displacement of people, change of livelihood encroachment on private property this is to land that is purchased/transferred and affects people who are living and/or squatters and/or operate a business (kiosks) on land that is being acquired.

[22] Toxic / hazardous material includes but is not limited to asbestos, toxic paints, noxious solvents, removal of lead paint, etc.

PART C: MITIGATION MEASURES

ACTIVITY	PARAMETER	MITIGATION MEASURES CHECKLIST
A. General Conditions	Notification and Worker Safety	(a) The local construction and environment inspectorates and communities have been notified of upcoming activities (b) The public has been notified of the works through appropriate notification in the media and/or at publicly accessible sites (including the site of the works) (c) All legally required permits have been acquired for construction and/or rehabilitation (d) The Contractor formally agrees that all work will be carried out in a safe and disciplined manner designed to minimize impacts on neighboring residents and environment. (e) Workers' PPE will comply with international good practice (always hardhats, as needed masks and safety glasses, harnesses and safety boots) (f) Appropriate signposting of the sites will inform workers of key rules and regulations to follow.
B. General Rehabilitation and /or Construction Activities	Air Quality	(a) During interior demolition debris-chutes shall be used above the first floor (b) Demolition debris shall be kept in controlled area and sprayed with water mist to reduce debris dust (c) During pneumatic drilling/wall destruction dust shall be suppressed by ongoing water spraying and/or installing dust screen enclosures at site (d) The surrounding environment (sidewalks, roads) shall be kept free of debris to minimize dust (e) There will be no open burning of construction / waste material at the site (f) There will be no excessive idling of construction vehicles at sites
	Noise	(a) Construction noise will be limited to restricted times agreed to in the permit (b) During operations the engine covers of generators, air compressors and other powered mechanical equipment shall be closed, and equipment placed as far away from residential areas as possible
	Water Quality	(a) The site will establish appropriate erosion and sediment control measures such as e.g., hay bales and / or silt fences to prevent sediment from moving off site and causing excessive turbidity in nearby streams and rivers.
	Waste management	(a) Waste collection and disposal pathways and sites will be identified for all major waste types expected from demolition and construction activities. (b) Mineral construction and demolition wastes will be separated from general refuse, organic, liquid and chemical wastes by on-site sorting and stored in appropriate containers. (c) Construction waste will be collected and disposed properly by licensed collectors (d) The records of waste disposal will be maintained as proof for proper management as designed. (e) Whenever feasible the contractor will reuse and recycle appropriate and viable materials (except asbestos)
C. Individual wastewater treatment system	Water Quality	(a) The approach to handling sanitary wastes and wastewater from building sites (installation or reconstruction) must be approved by the local authorities (b) Before being discharged into receiving waters, effluents from individual wastewater systems must be treated in order to meet the minimal quality criteria set out by national guidelines on effluent quality and wastewater treatment (c) Monitoring of new wastewater systems (before/after) will be carried out (d) Construction vehicles and machinery will be washed only in designated areas where runoff will not pollute natural surface water bodies.
D. Historic building(s)	Cultural Heritage	(a) If the building is a designated historic structure, very close to such a structure, or located in a designated historic district, notification shall be made and approvals/permits be obtained from local authorities and all construction activities planned and carried out in line with local and national legislation.

ACTIVITY	PARAMETER	MITIGATION MEASURES CHECKLIST
		(b) It shall be ensured that provisions are put in place so that artifacts or other possible "chance finds" encountered in excavation or construction are noted and registered, responsible officials contacted, and works activities delayed or modified to account for such finds.
E. Acquisition of land	Land Acquisition Plan/Framework	(a) If expropriation of land was not expected but is required, or if loss of access to income of legal or illegal users of land was not expected but may occur, that the Bank's Task Team Leader shall be immediately consulted. (b) The approved Land Acquisition Plan/Framework (if required by the project) will be implemented
F. Toxic Materials	Asbestos management	(a) If asbestos is located on the project site, it shall be marked clearly as hazardous material (b) When possible, the asbestos will be appropriately contained and sealed to minimize exposure (c) The asbestos prior to removal (if removal is necessary) will be treated with a wetting agent to minimize asbestos dust (d) Asbestos will be handled and disposed by skilled & experienced professionals (e) If asbestos material is be stored temporarily, the wastes should be securely enclosed inside closed containments and marked appropriately. Security measures will be taken against unauthorized removal from the site. (f) The removed asbestos will not be reused
	Toxic / hazardous waste management	(a) Temporarily storage on site of all hazardous or toxic substances will be in safe containers labeled with details of composition, properties and handling information (b) The containers of hazardous substances shall be placed in a leak-proof container to prevent spillage and leaching (c) The wastes shall be transported by specially licensed carriers and disposed in a licensed facility. (d) Paints with toxic ingredients or solvents or lead-based paints will not be used
G. Affected forests, wetlands and/or protected areas	Protection	(a) All recognized natural habitats, wetlands and protected areas in the immediate vicinity of the activity will not be damaged or exploited, all staff will be strictly prohibited from hunting, foraging, logging or other damaging activities. (b) A survey and an inventory shall be made of large trees in the vicinity of the construction activity, large trees shall be marked and cordoned off with fencing, their root system protected, and any damage to the trees avoided (c) Adjacent wetlands and streams shall be protected from construction site run-off with appropriate erosion and sediment control feature to include by not limited to hay bales and silt fences (d) There will be no unlicensed borrow pits, quarries or waste dumps in adjacent areas, especially not in protected areas.
H. Disposal of medical waste	Infrastructure for medical waste management	(a) In compliance with national regulations the contractor will ensure that newly constructed and/or rehabilitated health care facilities include sufficient infrastructure for medical waste handling and disposal; this includes and not limited to: ▪ Special facilities for segregated healthcare waste (including soiled instruments "sharps", and human tissue or fluids) from other waste disposal; and ▪ Appropriate storage facilities for medical waste are in place; and ▪ If the activity includes facility-based treatment, appropriate disposal options are in place and operational
I. Traffic and Pedestrian Safety	Direct or indirect hazards to public traffic and pedestrians by construction activities	(b) In compliance with national regulations the contractor will ensure that the construction site is properly secured and construction related traffic regulated. This includes but is not limited to ▪ Signposting, warning signs, barriers and traffic diversions: site will be clearly visible and the public warned of all potential hazards ▪ Traffic management system and staff training, especially for site access and near-site heavy traffic. Provision of safe passages and crossings for pedestrians where construction traffic interferes. ▪ Adjustment of working hours to local traffic patterns, e.g., avoiding major transport activities during rush hours or times of livestock movement ▪ Active traffic management by trained and visible staff at the site, if required for safe and convenient passage for the public. ▪ Ensuring safe and continuous access to office facilities, shops and residences during renovation activities, if the buildings stay open for the public.

PART D: MONITORING PLAN

Phase	What (Is the parameter to be monitored?)	Where (Is the parameter to be monitored?)	How (Is the parameter to be monitored?)	When (Define the frequency / or continuous?)	Why (Is the parameter being monitored?)	Cost (if not included in project budget)	Who (Is responsible for monitoring?)
During activity **preparation**	site access traffic management availability of waste disposal facilities	at the site at the site in site vicinity	check if design and project planning foresee diligent procedures	before launch of construction	safety of general public, timely detection of waste disposal bottlenecks	marginal, within budget	Contractor, Engineer
During activity **implementation**	hazardous waste inventory (asbestos) construction material quality control (e.g., paints / solvents)	on site Contractor's store / building yard	visual / analytical if in doubt visual / research in toxic materials databases	before start of rehabilitation works before approval to use materials	public and workplace health and safety	marginal, within budget; (prepare special account for analyses at PMU?)	Contractor, Engineer
During activity **supervision**	dust generation noise emissions wastewater volumes & quality waste types and volumes	on site and in immediate neighborhood, close to potential impacted residents	visual consultation of locals visual, analytical if suspicious count of waste transports off site	daily daily daily / continuous every batch	avoidance of public nuisance avoidance of negative impacts on ground/ surface waters ensuring proper waste management and disposal	marginal, within budget	Contractor, Engineer

Annex 2: Sample Chance Find Procedure

A. Objectives of the Procedure

The chance find procedure is a project-specific procedure that outlines actions required if previously unknown heritage resources, particularly archaeological resources, are encountered during project construction or operation. A Chance Find Procedure, as described in IFC Performance Standard 8, is a process that prevents chance finds from being disturbed until an assessment by a competent specialist is made and actions consistent with the requirements are implemented.

B. Scope of the chance find procedure

This procedure is applicable to all activities conducted by the personnel, including contractors, that have the potential to uncover a heritage item/site. The procedure details the actions to be taken when a previously unidentified and potential heritage item/site is found during construction activities. Procedure outlines the roles and responsibilities and the response times required from both project staff, and any relevant heritage authority.

C. Procedure

If any person discovers a physical cultural resource, such as (but not limited to) archaeological sites, historical sites, remains and objects, or a cemetery and/or individual graves during excavation or construction, the following steps shall be taken:

1. Stop all works in the vicinity of the find, until a solution is found for the preservation of these artefacts, or advice from the relevant authorities is obtained;
2. Immediately notify a foreman. The foreman will then notify the Construction Manager who will in turn must contact the SAAAR Safeguards Specialist;
3. Record details in Incident Report and take photos of the find;
4. Delineate the discovered site or area; secure the site to prevent any damage or loss of removable objects. In cases of removable antiquities or sensitive remains, a night guard shall be arranged until the responsible local authorities take over;
5. Preliminary evaluation of the findings by SAAAR Safeguards Specialist; and if necessary, government archaeologists. The SAAAR Safeguards Specialist; must make a rapid assessment of the site or find to determine its importance. Based on this assessment the appropriate strategy can be implemented. The significance and importance of the findings should be assessed according to the various criteria relevant to cultural heritage such as aesthetic, historic, scientific or research, social and economic values of the find;
6. Sites of minor significance (such as isolated or unclear features, and isolated finds) will be recorded immediately by the archaeologist, thus causing a minimum disruption to the work schedule of the Contractor. The results of all archaeological work must be reported to the Ministry/Agency, once completed.
7. In case of significant find the Agency/Ministry (Ministry of Culture, hereinafter referred to as Heritage team) will be informed immediately and in writing within 7 days from the find (ref. law on heritage protection).
8. The onsite archaeologist provides the Heritage team with photos, other information as relevant for identification and assessment of the significance of heritage items.
9. The Ministry must investigate the fact within 2 weeks from the date of notification and provide response in writing.
10. Decisions on how to handle the finding shall be taken by the responsible authorities. This could include changes in the layout (such as when finding an irremovable remain of cultural or archaeological importance) conservation, preservation, restoration and salvage;
11. Construction works could resume only after permission is granted from the responsible authorities.
12. In case no response received within the 2 weeks period mentioned above, this is considered as authorization to proceed with suspended construction works.

One of the main requirements of the procedure is record keeping. All finds must be registered. Photolog, copies of communication with decision making authorities, conclusions and recommendations/guidance, implementation reports – kept.

D. Induction/Training

All personnel, especially those working on earth movements and excavations, are to be inducted on the identification of potential heritage items/sites and the relevant actions for them with regards to this procedure during the Project induction and regular toolbox talks.

E. Additional information

Management options for archaeological site

- **Site avoidance.** If the boundaries of the site have been delineated attempt must be made to redesign the proposed development to avoid the site. (The fastest and most cost-effective management option)
- **Mitigation.** If it is not feasible to avoid the site through redesign, it will be necessary to sample it using data collection program prior to its loss. This could include surface collection and/or excavation. (The most expensive and time-consuming management option.)
- **Site Protection.** It may be possible to protect the site through the installation of barriers during the time of the development and/or possibly for a longer term. This could include the erection of high visibility fencing around the site or covering the site area with a geotextile and then capping it with fill. The exact prescription would be site- specific.

Management of replicable and non-replicable heritage

Different approaches for the finds apply to replicable and non-replicable heritage.

Replicable heritage

Where tangible cultural heritage that is replicable[23] and not critical is encountered, mitigation measures will be applied.

The mitigation hierarchy is as follows:

- Avoidance;
- Minimization of adverse impacts and implementation of restoration measures, in situ;
- Restoration of the functionality of the cultural heritage, in a different location;
- Permanent removal of historical and archaeological artefacts and structures;
- Compensation of loss - where minimization of adverse impacts and restoration not feasible.

Non-replicable heritage

Most cultural heritage is best protected by in situ preservation, since removal is likely to result in irreparable damage or even destruction of the cultural heritage.

Nonreplicable cultural heritage[24] must not be removed unless all of the following conditions are met:

- There are no technically or financially feasible alternatives to removal;
- The overall benefits of the project conclusively outweigh the anticipated cultural heritage loss from removal; and

Any removal of cultural heritage must be conducted using the best available technique advised by relevant authority and supervised by archaeologist.

Human Remains Management Options

The handling of human remains believed to be archaeological in nature requires communication according to the same procedure described above.

[23] Replicable cultural heritage is defined as tangible forms of cultural heritage that can themselves be moved to another location or that can be replaced by a similar structure or natural features to which the cultural values can be transferred by appropriate measures. Archaeological or historical sites may be considered replicable where the particular areas and cultural values they represent are well represented by other sites and/or structures.

[24] Nonreplicable cultural heritage may relate to the social, economic, cultural, environmental, and climatic conditions of past peoples, their evolving ecologies, adaptive strategies, and early forms of environmental management, where the (i) cultural heritage is unique or relatively unique for the period it represents, or (ii) cultural heritage is unique or relatively unique in linking several periods in the same site. Examples of non-replicable cultural heritage may include an ancient city or temple, or a site unique in the period that it represents.

There are two possible courses of action:

- **Avoid.** The development project is redesigned to completely avoid the found remains. An assessment should be made as to whether the remains may be affected by residual or accumulative impacts associated with the development, and properly addressed by a comprehensive management plan.
- **Exhumated.** Exhumation of the remains in a manner considered appropriate by decision makers. This will involve the predetermination of a site suitable for the reburial of the remains. Certain ceremonies or procedures may need to be followed before development activities can recommence in the area of the discovery.

Annex 3: Environment & Social Screening Template

This Template is to be used by the SAAAR and DDIS to screen potential environmental and social impacts of activities to be identified under Sub-component 3.1 of the Project, to ensure rating of environmental and social risks of such activities is Low. The Template is generic and might be further adjusted to reflect the limited scale and types of the activities.

Road Section:	*Rayon/ District/ Village*
Date:	

Question	Answer			Action Required	World Bank ESS *(ex.)*	E&S Document Required *(example)*	Level of Risk[25]
Will the works require any households to move structures (include, houses, small shops, rice bins etc.) back from the road and/or to cut them?	**Yes**	**No**	**TBD**	**If yes**, need to complete Land Acquisition Screening Checklist (see RPF) and follow guidelines in the RPF	*ESS5*	*RP*	
Will the works require the removal of trees (fruit or other trees)?					*ESS1 and 5*	*RPF, ESMP*	
Are the works, located in or near a cultural/heritage area? Or located near graves, temples or other sacred sites?				Check against Ineligible/ Negative list	*ESS8*	*ESMP*	
Are the works, located near or in a protected area (or a buffer zone of a protected area)?				Check against Ineligible/ Negative list	*ESS6*	*ESMP*	
Are there endangered flora or fauna species in the area?				Check against Ineligible/ Negative list	*ESS1 and 6*	*ESMP*	
Will the works require new borrow pits or quarries to be opened up?					*ESS1*	*ESMP*	
Will the works be located near a river, stream or waterway?					*ESS1*	*ESMP*	
Will the works result in increases in, or changes to the type of, traffic using the road?					*ESS1 and 4*	*ESMP*	

[25] High, Substantial, Moderate or Low

Question	Answer			Action Required	World Bank ESS *(ex.)*	E&S Document Required *(example)*	Level of Risk[25]
Will any of the works require the use of toxic chemicals, herbicides, and/or explosives?					*ESS1 and 3*	*ESMP*	
Will the works increase noise levels in the community (due to vehicles, works, etc.)?					*ESS1*	*ESMP*	
Would works required setting up a worker's camp? Otherwise, where are workers expected to live?					*ESS4*	*ESMP*	
Are works likely to cause significant negative impacts to air and/or water quality?					*ESS3*	*ESMP*	
Would any public facilities, such as schools, hospitals or mosques be negatively affected by construction?					*ESS 4*	*ESMP*	
Is an influx of workers, from outside the community, expected? Would workers be local or foreigners? Would workers be expected to use health services of the community? Would they create pressures on existing community services (water, electricity, health, recreation, others?)					*ESS 2 and 4*	*ESMP*	
Is there a risk that children could be hired for project works?					*ESS 2*	*ESMP*	
Is there a risk that HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases may increase as a result of project works?					*ESS 4*	*ESMP*	
Is there a risk that GBV and/or VAC may increase as a result of project works?					*ESS 4*	*ESMP, Gender Action Plan*	
Is there a risk that traffic accidents and death may increase as a result of the project?					*ESS 4*	*ESMP, Road Safety Plan*	
Is there a risk that women and other vulnerable groups may not benefit and/or be more adversely impacted by the project?					*ESS 4, 5, 7*	*ESMP, SEP and RPF*	
Is there a risk that women may be under-paid when compared to men when working on the project construction?					*ESS 2*	*ESMP*	
What is the likely number of construction workers needed?					*ESS 1, 2, 4*	*ESMP*	
Is there a possibility of employment in project works for the local community? Of these, how many jobs would be expected for women?					*ESS 2*	*ESMP*	
Will skilled workers be available in local areas? Will international workers be needed?					*ESS 2*	*ESMP*	

Question	Answer			Action Required	World Bank ESS *(ex.)*	E&S Document Required *(example)*	Level of Risk[25]
Other information that may be relevant about the road section:							

Annex 4. Public Consultation Minutes

Regional Connectivity and Development Project
Rehabilitation Project of Selected Sections of Salyan-Bilasuvar Road
Public Consultations on
Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) Documents

(Conducted on February 18 and 19, 2021 with representatives of stakeholders from Salyan and Bilasuvar Rayons)

Background:
As part of the Environmental and Social Safeguards requirements for the processing of the ESF documents, Public Consultations (PC) were conducted within the Rayons of Salyan and Bilasuvar.

The Objectives and Purposes of the Public Consultations:

- Providing information on the Project scope (general details, objectives, components, etc.);
- Presenting RCDP Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) Documents (***ESMF, RPF, SEP, LMP and PreESMP specific for the Yenikend-Bilasuvar Road Section***) that describe potential socio-environmental impacts of the Project activities and corresponding mitigations;
- For responding questions related to the above-mentioned documentations; and
- Receiving comments and feedback to be incorporated into the final versions of environmental and social framework (ESF) documents.

Methodology:
Digital copies of Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) Documents have been posted on the official websites of SAAAR and Salyan and Bilasuvar Executive Power Offices on February 7, 16 & 18, 2021 respectively (see Appendix 1 for relevant weblinks). In addition, SAAAR official website also contains supplementary note indicating that any interested party may use the organization's official contact details (phoneline, email and postal addresses) for sending further feedback and suggestions.

Due to the restrictions on public meetings related to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, it was decided to hold a limited number of meetings with stakeholders. One meeting was held with stakeholders living in Bilasuvar region over the "Zoom" application, and three (3) group meetings were held with stakeholders living in Salyan Rayon.

The RCDP Public Consultations were organized with the assistance of the Local Executive Powers of the Rayons, who informed to their local citizens regarding the event, as part of the outreach activities. In addition to the Project information presented during the PC's, contact details of the PIU were provided for any future grievances, suggestions and communications. The Grievance Mechanism shall also be shared in the aforementioned websites for guidance of the stakeholders and the general public prior to the commencement of the actual work.

Location: Salyan Rayon, Yenikend village[26]

Date and time: February 19, 2021, 10:00 AM

Participants: 14 people (representatives of interested parties from Yenikend, Hasanli and Chukhanli villages)

- Executive Power local representative;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Village residents; and
- A representative of the service organization.

Minutes of the meeting

Elnur Abbaszade (representative of PIU2) informed that with financial support provided by the World Bank, the Government of Azerbaijan is in the process of preparation of the Regional Connectivity and Development Project aimed at rehabilitation of selected sections of Salyan-Bilasuvar road.

The drafts of Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) Documents describing potential socio-environmental impacts and the corresponding relevant mitigation activities have been produced as a part of the Project and in accordance with the World Bank Environmental and Social Standards, as well as relevant legislative acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan. These documents are being disclosed to the public for questions and comments. E. Abbaszade gave a PowerPoint presentation describing general information on the Project, potential socio-economic impacts and mitigation activities. It was also been mentioned that the full electronic versions of documents are available on the official websites SAAAR and Salyan Executive Power Office.

The meeting continued with a question-and-answer session.

Questions	Responses (PIU)
P.Jafarov (Yenikend village excom) – We were looking forward to this project. After the construction of the new road, the existing road was put aside, and left out of attention. My question is related to the dust that will be generated during the construction of the road. What specific actions are planned to prevent this?	**E.Abbaszade** – As it was mentioned during the presentation water regularly will be sprayed along the routes, as well as all unpaved access roads to stop dust emission.
Z.Vahidov (Head of Chukhanli municipality) – In order to prevent the entry of strangers and domestic animals into the construction site mounting lights and barriers are necessary.	**E.Abbaszade** - Security barriers will be widely applied during construction. In addition, public awareness campaigns will be organized to draw their attention to security issues.
T.Rahmanov (Hasanli village excom) – Sometimes we observe that during the construction process the top layer of existing	**E.Abbaszade** - Firstly, I would like to inform you that according to the prepared ESF documents, areas for large-scale waste

[26] Given the current pandemic situation, representatives of various communities were invited to a meeting located nearby.

Questions	Responses (PIU)
asphalt roads is removed and thrown to the side of the road. This is a serious threat to the soil.	disposal will be identified at the pre-construction stage. A waste management plan with all details for waste disposal will be prepared by the contractors and approved by the construction technical supervision consultant. The Contractor will not dump any constructional materials on individual land plots without the permission of the landowner and the consent of the Engineer.
P.Gozalov (teacher) – Will the Grievance Redress Mechanism be approached as a tool to share our feedback and suggestion with you?	**E.Abbaszade** – During the preparation phase of the project, as well as during the active construction period the regular interactions can be established and maintained to express your feedback and suggestions to us.
A.Huseynov (school principal) – As I understood from the presentation the project envisages the development of roadside markets and, indirectly, the creation of new jobs. This is a very important direction. These markets are a very good opportunity for the people of our village to earn money by selling their products.	**E.Abbaszade** - You are absolutely right. The third component of the project envisages the development of such markets. However, before starting on these activities, there is a need for serious research. A decision will be made upon the results of relevant investigations, including consultations with the local population.
M.Abasov (Member of Hasanli municipality) – Is the land acquisition expected as part of the construction?	**E.Abbaszade** – No new areas are expected to be acquired as the rehabilitation of this road is planned to be carried out along the existing road axis. Nevertheless, in accordance with international standards, a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) has been developed, which regulates the mentioned issue.

Azərbaycan Avtomobil Yolları Dövlət Agentliyi
Regional Yollar və İnkişaf Layihəsi
Salyan-Biləsuvar yolunun seçilmiş hissələrinin bərpası
Sosial və ətraf mühitə təsirlər barədə sənədlərin ictimai müzakirəsi

Salyan R-nu, Yenikənd k. — yaşayış məntəqəsi (rayon, kənd)

19.02.21 10:00 — tarix və vaxt

İştirakçıların siyahısı

S.s.	Adı və soyadı	İş yeri və tutduğu vəzifə	İmza	Əlaqə nömrəsi
1.	Mirzəzəli Cəfərzadə	Yenikənd İ.Ə.İ nümayəndəsi	[signature]	050-221-14-78
2.	Abasov Həsəbə	Yenikənd kənd bələdiyyə sədri	[signature]	050-350-45-30
3.	Rəhimov Tofiq	Həsənli İ.Ə.N-dəsi	[signature]	050-632-33-77
4.	Çobanov Taiq	Qərdili Məkt. direk	[signature]	050-646-60-71
5.	Abasov Arzaslan	Həsənli Bələdiyyəsi	[signature]	050-479-44-13
6.	Səlimov Bəymənmməd	Müəllim	[signature]	055-749-49-20
7.	Göyzəlov Bəhruz	Müəllim	[signature]	050 361-14-84
8.	Əzizov Aziz	Məktəb Direktoru	[signature]	050-632-21-96
9.	Hüseynov Akif	Direktor müavini	[signature]	050-327-37-38
10.	Dünmaliyev Sədrəddin	Su agenti	[signature]	050-574-87-38
11.	Vahidov Zaur	Çoxəndi bələdiyyə sədri	[signature]	050-325-53-75
12.	Səfərov Müşfiq	Yenikənd i.ə.d. müavin	[signature]	050-380-60-89
13.	Nəcəfov Şahin	Mühasib	[signature]	050-362-03-07
14.	Bəxtiyar Zamut	Kitabxanaçı	[signature]	070 340-57-56
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Yenikend village, Salyan Rayon, February 19, 2021

Yenikend village, Salyan Rayon, February 19, 2021

Location: Arbatan village, Salyan Rayon

Date and time: February 19, 2021, 11:30 AM

Participants: 11 people (representatives of interested parties from Arbatan, Marishli, Seyidsadigli and Sarvan villages)

- Executive Power local Representatives;
- Municipality members;
- Local people.

Minutes of the meeting

Elnur Abbaszade (representative of PIU2) informed that with financial support provided by the World Bank, the Government of Azerbaijan is in the process of preparation of the Regional Connectivity and Development Project aimed at rehabilitation of selected sections of Salyan-Bilasuvar road.

The drafts of Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) Documents describing potential socio-environmental impacts and the corresponding relevant mitigation activities have been produced as a part of the Project and in accordance with the World Bank Environmental and Social Standards, as well as relevant legislative acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan. These documents are being disclosed to the public for questions and comments. E. Abbaszade gave a PowerPoint presentation describing general information on the Project, potential socio-economic impacts and mitigation activities. It was also been mentioned that the full electronic versions of documents are available on the official websites SAAAR and Salyan Executive Power Office.

The meeting continued with a question-and-answer session.

Questions	Responses (PIU)
F.Gafarov (Arbatan village excom) – Using internal roads during the construction may create a threat for our village residents. What measures are planned in this regard?	**E.Abbaszade** – A Transport Management Plan will be produced to prevent the mentioned negative situations. In addition, some measures will be taken such as informing the local population about the planned work in advance, placing flagmen and mounting temporary traffic lights in perilous areas, establishing pedestrian crossings and reducing the movement of large trucks, especially during rush hours.
A.Huseynov (Head of Marishli municipality) – Construction materials or waste spilled from trucks during construction are a source of danger on the roads. Please impose strict control on this issue.	**E.Abbaszade** - Trucks carrying soil, gravel, and stones will be covered with a tent or any material that can effectively prevent spillage. Drivers and contractors bear responsibility for loading materials and transporting them safely, especially when passing through residential areas.

Questions	Responses (PIU)
I.Mammadov (Resident of Sarvan village) – Will local people be employed or people from other areas be invited here to get a job in construction?	**E.Abbaszade -** Job competitions will be organized to attract employees. Of course, local labor will be preferred, if they have the necessary qualifications and skills.
A.Farajov (Head of Arbatan municipality) – Are there any other works planned to be done for our village within the project?	**E.Abbaszade -** The third component of the project involves the implementation of certain social and economic activities. This includes providing support for the planning and development of the roadside market and logistics facilities. On the other hand, it is also planned to develop a curriculum and then provide special training and consulting services for small agricultural producers and agro-logistics operating in the project area. Trainings will be open to everyone in the communities living in the project area.

Azərbaycan Avtomobil Yolları Dövlət Agentliyi
Regional Yollar və İnkişaf Layihəsi
Salyan-Biləsuvar yolunun seçilmiş hissələrinin bərpası
Sosial və ətraf mühitə təsirlər barədə sənədlərin ictimai müzakirəsi

Salyan R-nu, Arbatan k. — yaşayış məntəqəsi (rayon, kənd)

19.02.21 11:30 — tarix və vaxt

İştirakçıların siyahısı

S.s.	Adı və soyadı	İş yeri və tutduğu vəzifə	İmza	Əlaqə nömrəsi
1.	Qafarov Firuzə	Arbatan ƏHX	[signature]	0514130012
2.	Feracov Aslan	Arbatan Bələdiyyə sədri	[signature]	051-753-15-00
3.	Hüseynov Alihüseyn	Marışlı Bələdiyyəsi Sədri	[signature]	050-457-05-67
4.	Usubov Vüqar	Marışlı ərazi nümayəndəsi	[signature]	050-391-22-89
5.	Səfərov Arif	Arbatan T.Ə.H. müavini	[signature]	059-390-84-0.
6.	Məmmədov İntiqam	Sərvan 13812	[signature]	0503635799
7.	Səfərov Elmir	Sərvan 13812	[signature]	0507803536
8.	Nəbizadə Fərid	Sərvan 13812	[signature]	0513265064
9.	Əsədov Camal	Sərvan 13812	[signature]	0513497301
10.	Səmədov Araz	Sərvan 13812	[signature]	0515534808
11.	Mehdiyev Elmid	Sərvan 13812	[signature]	0514262987
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Arbatan village, Salyan Rayon, February 19, 2021

Arbatan village, Salyan Rayon, February 19, 2021

Arbatan village, Salyan Rayon, February 19, 2021

Marishli village, Salyan Rayon, February 19, 2021

Location: Salyan Rayon, Sarvan village

Date and time: Feb 19, 2021, at 01:30 pm

Participants: 10 people (representatives of interested parties from Shorsulu, Sarvan and Gizilaghadj villages)

- Executive Power local Representatives;
- Members of Municipalities;
- Local people.

Minutes of the meeting

Elnur Abbaszade (representative of PIU2) informed that with financial support provided by the World Bank, the Government of Azerbaijan is in the process of preparation of the Regional Connectivity and Development Project aimed at rehabilitation of selected sections of Salyan-Bilasuvar road.

The drafts of Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) Documents describing potential socio-environmental impacts and the corresponding relevant mitigation activities have been produced as a part of the Project and in accordance with the World Bank Environmental and Social Standards, as well as relevant legislative acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan. These documents are being disclosed to the public for questions and comments. E. Abbaszade gave a PowerPoint presentation describing general information on the Project, potential socio-economic impacts and mitigation activities. It was also been mentioned that the full electronic versions of documents are available on the official websites SAAAR and Salyan Executive Power Office.

The meeting continued with a question-and-answer session.

Questions	Responses (PIU)
G.Hasanov (Gizilaghaj village excom) – There are several secondary school buildings along the road. How will the safety of the population, especially schoolchildren, be ensured during construction?	**E.Abbaszade** – A Traffic Management Plan will be developed to regulate increasing traffic in the area. In addition, some measures will be implemented too. For example, additional advocacy work may be carried out in schools so that children can be introduced to safety rules during construction. On the other hand, additional measures may be undertaken in areas some areas, such as placing flag persons and mounting temporary traffic lights, establishing pedestrian crossings, and reducing the movement time of large trucks, especially during rush hours. In addition, safety signs will be installed in prominent places.
S.Javadov (Shorsulu village excom) – I think there will not be such a serious problem. I urge you to minimize the impact on the soil and the environment as much as	**E.Abbaszade** - Efforts will be made to ensure that all activities carried out under the project do not have a negative socio-environmental impact. As you can see from the

Questions	Responses (PIU)
possible, simply because our area is an agricultural zone.	presentation, preventive measures will be proposed to be taken for all types of impacts.
F.Mammadov (Head of Shorsulu municipality) – We have some suggestions on the technical aspects of the project. How can we present them?	**E.Abbaszade** - the World Bank's 10th Environmental and Social Standard (ESS) includes stakeholder engagement and disclosure. Public hearings should also be held in accordance with the requirements of the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and the Law on Public Participation. At the same time, the existence of an open and transparent relationship between the stakeholders in the project is considered an essential element of international practice. Effective stakeholder participation can improve the environmental and social sustainability of projects and make a significant contribution to the more successful design and implementation of the project. For this purpose, additional consultations will be held with you during the preparation of the project. In addition, a continuous information exchange mechanism will be established and operated throughout the project between the stakeholders involved in the project.
B.Sadigov (Member of Gizilaghadj municipality) – Land plots of some villagers are situated in close vicinity of the road. We would like to minimize the impact on those lands during construction.	**E.Abbaszade** - As you saw in the presentation, a number of preventive measures have been taken to minimize the environmental impact of the construction work. During the construction period, contractors will not be allowed to dump excess materials on individual plots of land without the permission of the landowner. All temporarily affected areas should be rehabilitated at the end of the project.
I.Hasanov (teacher) – İf there is a plan to rehabilitate the affected areas as you mentioned earlier, is it possible that the vegetation, for example, cut trees, will be replaced with new ones?	**E.Abbaszade** - If there will be an inevitable impact on trees, then mature trees will be removed for replanting or three new trees will be planted instead of every single cut tree.

Questions	Responses (PIU)

Azərbaycan Avtomobil Yolları Dövlət Agentliyi
Regional Yollar və İnkişaf Layihəsi
Salyan-Biləsuvar yolunun seçilmiş hissələrinin bərpası
Sosial və ətraf mühitə təsirlər barədə sənədlərin ictimai müzakirəsi

Salyan R-nu, Sarvan k. — yaşayış məntəqəsi (rayon, kənd)
19.02.2021 13:30 — tarix və vaxt

İştirakçıların siyahısı

S.s.	Adı və soyadı	İş yeri və tutduğu vəzifə	İmza	Əlaqə nömrəsi
1.	Məmmədov Famil	Sərsulu kəndi Bələdiyyə sədri		050-055 393-33-23
2.	Həlciyev Bünyad	Qızılağac kəndi Bələdiyyə sədri		051-421-41-00
3.	Cavadov Şahmar	Sərsulu kəndi Nizami adına ...		0503336787
4.	Həsənov Cənbər Qəzənfər oğlu	Qızılağac kənd 1.2.8.21. N-5		0503743941
5.	İsmayılov Təbriz Rasit	Sarvan kənd ... məktəbi		0506407004
6.	Bayramov Rasit Hidayət	Sarvan kənd ... müəllimi		0505030960
7.	Sadıqov Bəhram Məmmədrza	Qızılağac bələdiyyəsi mühasib		050-552-17-37
8.	Həsənov İmamverdi M.	Müəllim		05058249-12
9.	Dadaşov Şamxal ...	müəllim		0503404571
10.	Həziyeva Camilə Təlbit	Kargüzar		0505030960
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In addition to the group meetings listed above two more individual meetings were held with Mr.Etibar Huseynov, Deputy head of Salyan Executive Power Office and Mr. Sarvaddin Jafarov, head of Salyan Municipality.

Sarvan village, Salyan Rayon, February 19, 2021

Sarvan village, Salyan Rayon, February 19, 2021

Sarvan village, Salyan Rayon, February 19, 2021

Sarvan village, Salyan Rayon, February 19, 2021

Location: Administrative office of SAAAR (a distance meeting over the Zoom application)

Date and time: February 18, 2021, 3:00 PM

Participants: 23 people (representatives of interested parties from Khirmandali, Beydili and Ashaghi Jurali villages of Bilasuvar Rayon)

- Executive Power local Representatives;
- Municipality members
- Local people.

Minutes of the meeting

Elnur Abbaszade (representative of PIU2,) informed that with financial support provided by the World Bank, the Government of Azerbaijan is in the process of preparation of the Regional Connectivity and Development Project aimed at rehabilitation of selected sections of Salyan-Bilasuvar road.

The drafts of Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) Documents describing potential socio-environmental impacts and the corresponding relevant mitigation activities have been produced as a part of the Project and in accordance with the World Bank Environmental and Social Standards, as well as relevant legislative acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan. These documents are being disclosed to the public for questions and comments. E. Abbaszade gave a PowerPoint presentation describing general information on the Project, potential socio-economic impacts and mitigation activities. It was also been mentioned that the full electronic versions of documents are available on the official websites SAAAR and Salyan Executive Power Office.

The meeting continued with a question-and-answer session.

Questions	Responses (PIU)
A.Imanov (resident of Khirmandali village) – We are facing certain challenges while our domestic animals cross the newly built road. I hope there will be no such ban on this road. It is important to have special temporary crossings for this purpose during the construction of the road.	**E.Abbaszade** – In accordance with the initial technical documentation, I can say that this road will have the 2nd category and there will be no restrictions on the crossing of domestic animals through designated locations. Temporary safety barriers and road signs to be installed during construction will help to organize movements.
A.Jafarov (Baydili village excom) – As a result of the project, the mobility of people living in the area will increase. For this reason, we are ready to support the project within our authorities. My concern is about the use of local labor. Please, increase the involvement of the rural population in construction as much as possible.	**E.Abbaszade** – Preference will be given to local labor if they have the necessary qualifications and skills.
I.Azizov (Head of Khirmandali municipality) – The existing road is situated at a very close distance to our village. Noise during	**E.Abbaszade** - Some measures will be taken to reduce noise and not cause inconvenience to residents. For example, restricting working hours during certain hours of

Questions	Responses (PIU)
construction will disturb the villagers. Therefore, I ask you to monitor this case.	the day or not allowing noise to exceed a certain norm. In addition, if necessary, the local population will be notified in advance about activities that could cause a loud noise.
G.Baghirov (Ashaghi Jurali excom) – Where will construction waste be transported?	**E.Abbaszade** - An area for large-scale waste collection will be identified prior to construction. Garbage bins will be provided for each work area and waste and non-hazardous waste will be collected at designated disposal sites. Waste disposal sites will be agreed with local municipalities and relevant authorities.

Elnur Abbaszade, PIU2

Galib Baghirov, Ashaghi Jurali Executive Power local Representative, Bilasuvar Rayon

Azad Imanov, resident of Khirmandali village, Bilasuvar Rayon

Rahib Hajiyev, Khirmandali village Executive Power local Representative, Bilasuvar Rayon

Ilqar Karimov, Head of Beydili municipality, Bilasuvar Rayon

Adil Jafarov, Beydlil village Executive Power local Representative, Bilasuvar Rayon

Salamat Rahimov, resident of Ashaghi Jurali village, Bilasuvar Rayon

Gabil Baghirov, resident of Ashaghi Jurali village, Bilasuvar Rayon

Azərbaycan Avtomobil Yolları Dövlət Agentliyi
Regional Yollar və İnkişaf Layihəsi
Salyan-Biləsuvar yolunun seçilmiş hissələrinin bərpası
Sosial və ətraf mühitə təsirlər barədə sənədlərin ictimai müzakirəsi

Biləsuvar rayonu, Aşağı Cürəli kəndi
yaşayış məntəqəsi (rayon, kənd)

18 fevral 2021-ci il saat 15:00
tarix və vaxt

İştirakçıların siyahısı

S.s.	Adı və soyadı	İş yeri və tutduğu vəzifə	İmza	Əlaqə nömrəsi
1.	Bağırov Qabil Nadir	Aşağı Cürəli kənd icra nümayəndəsi		050 344 98 84
2.	Sirusov Elnur Hidayət	icra nümayəndəsinin müavini		051 308 78 01
3.	Bağırov Qabil Qədir	kənd sakini		050 578 76 16
4.	Rəhimov Səlahəddin Müzəffər	kənd sakini		050 743 85 85
5.	Rzayev Əlyar Hüsü	kənd sakini		050 614 91 37
6.	Hüseynov Əbdüləli Adışirin	kənd sakini		051 854 88 47
7.	Həziyev Elşən Adil	kənd sakini		050 370 04 81
8.	Rzazadə Təsəl Müzəffər	kənd sakini		051 768 43 46
9.	Məmmədov Mələk Siyasət	kənd sakini		070 215 12 84
10.	Əliyev Tapdıq Qədir	kənd sakini		050 580 53 95
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Azərbaycan Avtomobil Yolları Dövlət Agentliyi
Regional Yollar və İnkişaf Layihəsi
Salyan-Biləsuvar yolunun seçilmiş hissələrinin bərpası
Sosial və ətraf mühitə təsirlər barədə sənədlərin ictimai müzakirəsi

Biləsuvar rayonu, Xırmandalı kəndi — yaşayış məntəqəsi (rayon, kənd)
18 fevral 2021-ci il saat 15:00 — tarix və vaxt

İştirakçıların siyahısı

S.s.	Adı və soyadı	İş yeri və tutduğu vəzifə	İmza	Əlaqə nömrəsi
1.	İmanov Nazad	Mülkiyyətçi		070-900-94-39
2.	Muradov Səlim	Mülkiyyətçi		051-845-39-85
3.	Əzizov İlqar.	Bələdiyyə Sədri		070-677-18-84
4.	Bəşayeva Tofiq	KİV-də Müvəkkil		070-258-45-38
5.	Məmmədov Elxan	Mülkiyyətçi		051-772-11-46
6.	Abdullayev Balaçələ	Mülkiyyətçi		051-592-48-49
7.	Abdullayev Bəyoğlan.	Mülkiyyətçi		050-583-25-09
8.	Məmmədov Tehran	Mülkiyyətçi		050-578-44-64
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Azərbaycan Avtomobil Yolları Dövlət Agentliyi
Regional Yollar və İnkişaf Layihəsi
Salyan-Biləsuvar yolunun seçilmiş hissələrinin bərpası
Sosial və ətraf mühitə təsirlər barədə sənədlərin ictimai müzakirəsi

Biləsuvar rayonu, Bəydili kəndi — yaşayış məntəqəsi (rayon, kənd)
18 fevral 2021-ci il saat 15:00 — tarix və vaxt

İştirakçıların siyahısı

S.s.	Adı və soyadı	İş yeri və tutduğu vəzifə	İmza	Əlaqə nömrəsi
1.	Cəfərov Adil Vakil	İcra hakimiyyəti başçısı		0708917132
2.	Kərimov Ilqar Soltan	Bələdiyyə sədri		0509735057
3.	Rəşidov Kamil Kəramət	Bələdiyyə mühasibi		051 356 0155
4.	Mirzəyev Aqil Kamil	Bələdiyyə operatoru		051 417 1235
5.	Bağırov Rauf Qurbanalı	İN-yə yaxınlıq		055 816 5050
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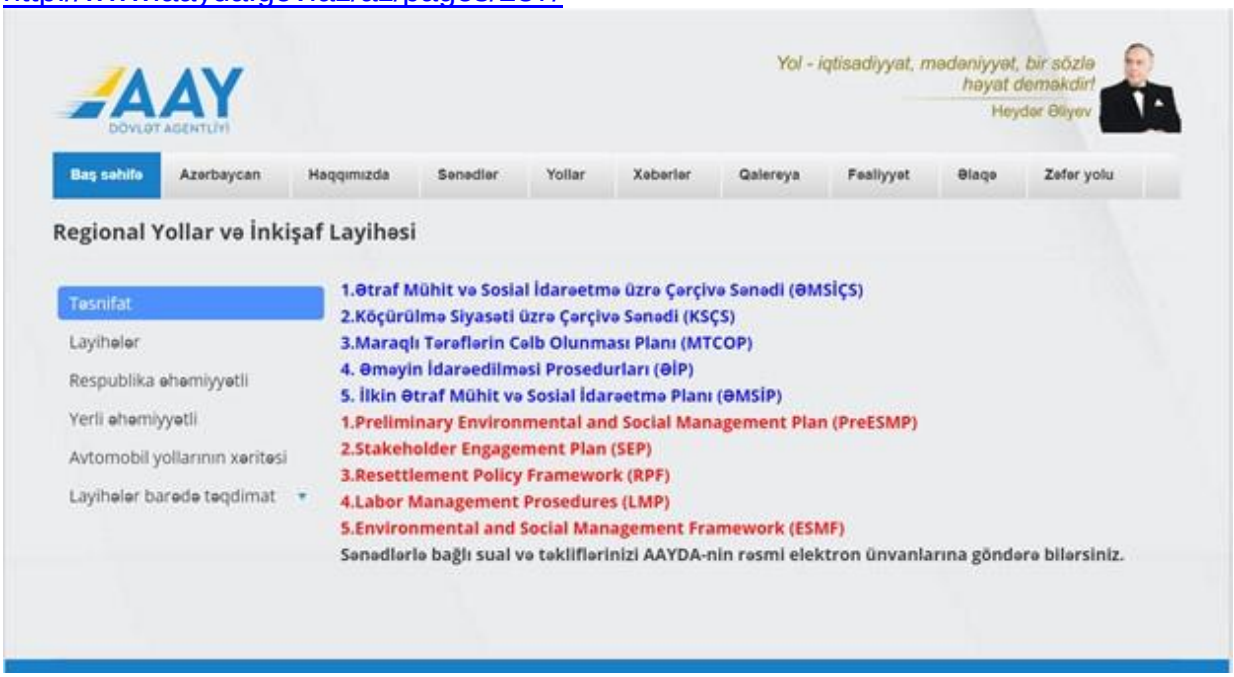
Biləsuvar r/n Bəydili kənd İcra hakimiyyəti başçısı nümayəndəsi: A.V. Cəfərov

In addition to the group meetings listed above an individual consultation was held with Mr. Rovshan Badalov, a representative of the architectural department of the Executive Power Office of Bilasuvar Rayon.

Appendix #1.

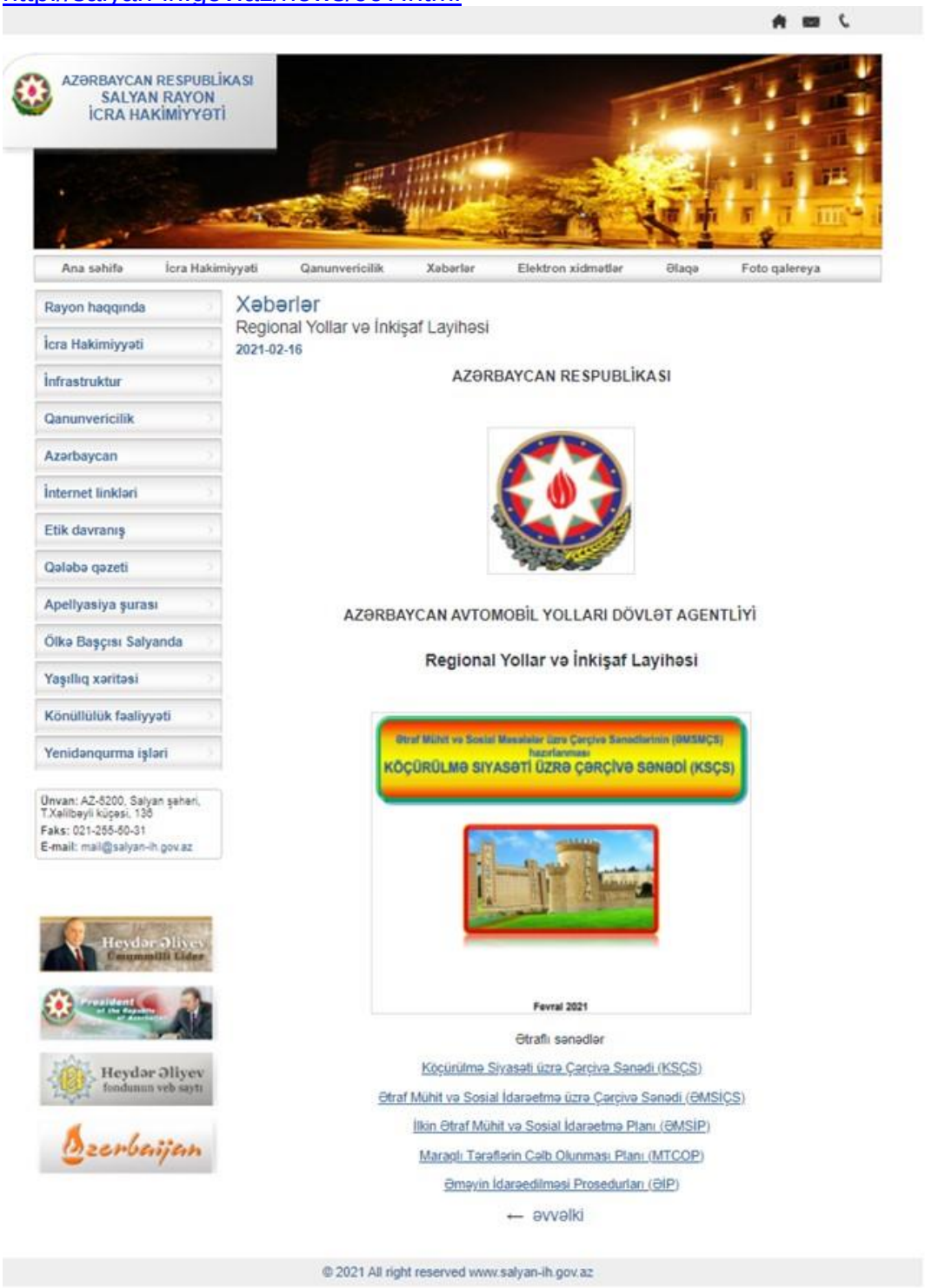
ESF Documents issued on the official website of SAAAR on February 7, 2021

http://www.aayda.gov.az/az/pages/287/



ESF Documents issued on the official website of the Executive Power Office of Salyan Rayon on February 16, 2021

http://salyan-ih.gov.az/news/997.html



ESF Documents issued on the official website of the Executive Power Office of Bilasuvar Rayon on February 16, 2021

http://www.bilesuvar-ih.gov.az/news/940.html