

**The Republic of Azerbaijan
State Agency of Azerbaijan for Automobile
Roads
Regional Connectivity and Development
Project (P174379)**

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

April, 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Azerbaijan will implement the Regional Connectivity and Development Project (the Project), with the involvement of the State Agency of Azerbaijan for Automobile Roads (hereinafter SAAAR). The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (hereinafter the Bank) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Republic of Azerbaijan will implement material measures and actions so that the Project is implemented in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) along with the national regulations related to environmental and social norms. This Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) sets out material measures and actions, any specific documents or plans, as well as the timing for each of these.
3. The Republic of Azerbaijan will also comply with the provisions of any other E&S documents required under the ESF and referred to in this ESCP, such as Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Environmental and Social Management Plan, Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEP), and the timelines specified in those E&S documents.
4. The Republic of Azerbaijan is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the agency referenced in 1. above.
5. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP will be monitored and reported to the Bank by the Republic of Azerbaijan as required by the ESCP and the conditions of the legal agreement, and the Bank will monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout implementation of the Project.
6. As agreed by the Bank and the Republic of Azerbaijan, this ESCP may be revised from time to time during Project implementation, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to assessment of Project performance conducted under the ESCP itself. In such circumstances, the Republic of Azerbaijan, through SAAAR, will agree to the changes with the Bank and will update the ESCP to reflect such changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP will be documented through the exchange of letters signed between the Bank and the SAAAR. The SAAAR will promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
7. Where Project changes, unforeseen circumstances, or Project performance result in changes to the risks and impacts during Project implementation, the Republic of Azerbaijan shall provide additional funds, if needed, to implement actions and measures to address such risks and impacts, which may include environmental, health, safety impacts, and labor influx.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTING</p> <p>Prepare and submit to the Bank regular monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) performance of the Project, including but not limited to the implementation of the ESCP, status of preparation and implementation of E&S documents required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, Contractor’s ESHS implementation, ESHS incidents, functioning of the grievance mechanism(s).</p>	<p><i>Six-monthly throughout Project implementation</i></p>	SAAAR
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <p>Promptly notify the Bank of any incident or accident related to the Project which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public or workers including large scale of accidental spills of polluting and hazardous materials; occupational health and safety serious injuries; and road accidents.</p> <p>Provide sufficient detail regarding the incident or accident, indicating immediate measures taken or that are planned to be taken to address it, and any information provided by any contractor and supervising entity, as appropriate. Subsequently, as per the Bank’s request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to prevent its recurrence.</p>	<p><i>Notify the Bank within 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident</i></p> <p><i>Subsequent report would be provided within a timeframe acceptable to the Bank, at the Bank’s request</i></p>	SAAAR
C	<p>CONTRACTORS MONTHLY REPORTS</p> <p>Contractors will provide monitoring reports including on environmental and social performance to SAAAR. SAAAR will ensure that contracts for civil works and supervision will including this reporting obligation for the contractors. SAAAR will provide monitoring reports to the Bank upon request.</p>	<p><i>On a monthly basis during the lifetime of contractors’ contracts</i></p>	SAAAR

ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS

1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>Establish an organizational structure (project implementation team) with qualified staff to support management of E&S risks including at least one Specialist in charge of Environmental, Labor, Health, and Safety issues, and one Specialist in charge of Social and Stakeholder Engagement issues, to be responsible for ensuring full compliance with the ESSs, ESCP and relevant instruments.</p>	<p><i>Established prior to Project Effectiveness</i></p> <p><i>Thereafter maintained throughout Project implementation</i></p>	SAAAR
1.2	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Adopt and implement, in a manner acceptable to the Bank, the project Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) which specifies rules and procedures for assessing environmental and social aspects of the project, including activities under Component 1 and under TA, advisory services and training, and for the development of site-specific ESMP Checklists for minor physical works under Component 3. Update, adopt and implement, in a manner acceptable to the Bank, the ESMP for the rehabilitation of Salyan-Bilasuvar secondary road.</p>	<p><i>Implement the mitigation measures contained in the ESMF and ESMP throughout Project implementation</i></p>	SAAAR
1.3	<p>MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS</p> <p>Update, adopt, re-disclose and implement the ESMP for Salyan-Bilasuvar road.</p> <p>Screen activities proposed under Component 3 in accordance with the project ESMF, and thereafter, draft, adopt, disclose and implement the site-specific ESMP Checklists, as required, in a manner acceptable for the Bank.</p>	<p><i>Salyan – Bilasuvar ESMP - updated based on the detailed design prior to finalization of respective bidding package; implemented throughout the project implementation</i></p> <p><i>Site-specific ESMP Checklists prepared and disclosed before the start of respective tenders, in the course of the Project implementation</i></p>	SAAAR

1.4	<p>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</p> <p>Incorporate the relevant E&S documents and plans, and the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents with contractors.</p> <p>Thereafter, ensure that contractors comply with the ESMPs requirements/ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p>	<p><i>Prior to the finalization of bidding documents</i></p> <p><i>Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation</i></p>	SAAAR
1.5	<p>MANAGEMENT OF TECHNICAL ADVISORY CONTRACTS</p> <p>Incorporate the relevant aspects of ESS's, including the relevant aspects of the ESMF, Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) and this ESCP, into the terms of reference of technical advisory contracts. Thereafter ensure that the approaches and outputs of the consultants comply with the terms of reference.</p>	<p><i>Prior to the preparation of procurement documents.</i></p> <p><i>Supervise consultants throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	SAAAR
1.6	<p>PERMITS, CONSENTS AND AUTHORIZATIONS</p> <p>Obtain or assist in obtaining, as appropriate, the permits, consents and authorizations that are applicable to the Project from relevant national authorities.</p>	<p><i>Throughout Project implementation</i></p>	SAAAR
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <p>Implement and update the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) in a manner consistent with World Bank ESS2 and national legislation of Azerbaijan.</p>	<p><i>Implement LMP throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	SAAAR

2.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</p> <p>Establish, maintain, and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) and consistent with ESS2. Ensure that employers of contracted workers have in place a functioning grievance mechanism for their employees.</p>	<p><i>No later than 30 days after the Effective Date, establish, and maintain it throughout Project Implementation</i></p> <p><i>For contracted workers – ensure grievance mechanism is available and functional prior to commencement of works by the respective contractor</i></p>	SAAAR
2.3	<p>OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OHS) MEASURES</p> <p>Adopt, implement and update the occupational, health and safety plan in a manner acceptable to WB and in compliance with the national legislation of Azerbaijan. The risk management measures will be identified based on a thorough assessment of the site-specific hazards.</p>	<p><i>Adopt and implement the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) requirements throughout Project Implementation</i></p>	SAAAR
2.4	<p>PROJECT WORKERS TRAINING</p> <p>Require contractor to deliver training of contracted workers to raise awareness about their rights and obligations consistent with project LMP.</p>	<p><i>At least once in the duration of the contract</i></p>	SAAAR
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	<p>WASTE MANAGEMENT</p> <p>Adopt, implement and update the waste management measures specified in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), and Salyan-Bilasuvur ESMP as stated in 1.3 above.</p>	<p><i>Throughout Project Implementation</i></p>	SAAAR

ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY

4.1	<p>TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY</p> <p>Adopt and implement measures and actions to assess and manage traffic and road safety risks as required in the Salyan-Bilasuvar road ESMP and site-specific ESMP Checklists envisaged under actions 1.2 and 1.3 above.</p>	<p><i>Inclusion of traffic and road safety requirements into bidding documents - prior to tendering of works</i></p> <p><i>Enforcement – throughout Project implementation</i></p>	SAAAR
	<p>Cause Contractor(s) to develop to the satisfaction of Supervision Engineer (where one is contracted) and SAAAR, and adhere to the method statement for traffic management.</p>	<p><i>Develop plan - Prior to commencement of works</i></p> <p><i>Adhere to the Plan throughout Project implementation</i></p>	SAAAR
4.2	<p>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</p> <p>Ensure that Contractor(s) of major infrastructure sub-projects develop and implement Community Health and Safety Plan to manage specific risks and impacts to the communities arising from Project activities, including those related to Project workers and labor influx.</p>	<p><i>Develop measures – prior to start of works</i></p> <p><i>Implement measures - throughout Project implementation</i></p>	SAAAR
	<p>Ensure the Contractor(s) raises awareness of employees on risks related to and measures for mitigation of impacts on local communities.</p>	<p><i>Throughout Project implementation</i></p>	SAAAR

4.3	<p>GBV AND SEA RISKS</p> <p>Include in site-specific ESMFs actions to prevent and mitigate risks of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) in line with ESMF and enforce their implementation. This includes but is not limited to development and adherence to Code of Conduct for all employees, GBV-sensitized grievance mechanism, awareness raising of all employees and community members on GBV risks and mitigation measures.</p>	<p><i>Prior to commencement of works</i></p> <p><i>implemented throughout Project implementation</i></p>	SAAAR
4.4	<p>SECURITY PERSONNEL</p> <p>Ensure that any security personnel contracted under the project is screened on history of prior abuse and adequately trained on use of force to prevent any risks to workers or communities.</p>	<p><i>Prior to engaging of security personnel</i></p> <p><i>Implement - throughout Project life</i></p>	SAAAR
4.5	<p>TRAINING FOR THE COMMUNITY</p> <p>For sub-projects involving substantial infrastructure (e.g. rehabilitation of secondary road) hold awareness-raising sessions in each Project-affected community on the risks related to community health and safety, and inform them of the rights and obligations of the Contractor as well as the avenue for grievance and redress.</p>	<p><i>Prior to commencement of works</i></p>	SAAAR
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	<p>RESETTLEMENT PLANS</p> <p>Where applicable, prepare, adopt, and implement resettlement plans (RAPs) in accordance with ESS 5 and consistent with the requirements of the Project Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF). Ensure that RAPs are approved by the Bank and fully implemented before carrying out the associated activities, in a manner acceptable to the Bank.</p>	<p><i>Prepare and implement RAP prior to commencing respective Project activities</i></p>	SAAAR

5.2	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM Ensure that any grievances related to land acquisition, land use restrictions, impacts on private assets and livelihoods, or resettlement are included and processed via the project GRM.	<i>Throughout Project implementation</i>	SAAAR
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT Adopt, implement and update the biodiversity management measures specified in the ESMF and Salyan-Bilasuvar road ESMP. Incorporate ESMPs' provisions into respective design documentation, bidding documents and construction contracts.	<i>Throughout Project Implementation</i>	SAAAR
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
This standard is not relevant to the project.			
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	CHANCE FINDS Implement the chance finds procedure described in the ESMF and included in the Salyan-Bilasuvar ESMP and all site specific ESMP Checklists, involving earthmoving activities.	<i>Throughout Project implementation</i>	SAAAR
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
This standard is not relevant to the project.			

ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION Implement and update the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) throughout Project implementation.	<i>Implement and update the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) throughout Project Implementation</i>	SAAAR
10.2	PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM Adopt, implement and maintain the Grievance Mechanism throughout Project implementation.	<i>Implement and maintain the Grievance Mechanism throughout Project Implementation</i>	SAAAR
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
CS1	As part of project launch activities, conduct ESF training for staff of SAAAR	<i>Prior to Project Disbursement</i>	SAAAR
CS2	Training for Project workers on occupational health and safety including on emergency prevention and preparedness and response arrangements to emergency situations, community health and safety including SEA/SH.	<i>Prior to commencing works</i>	SAAAR