

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS)

Blueing the Caspian Sea (P181526)

Draft

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

16 May 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The United Nations Office for Project Services (the Recipient) will implement the Blueing the Caspian Sea Project (the Project), as set out in the Grant Agreement. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the Bank), acting as the implementing entity of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund has agreed to provide the original financing for the Project, as set out in the Agreement.
2. The Recipient shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs), and this Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), in a manner acceptable to the Bank. The extent and mode of the Bank's monitoring with respect to environmental and social performance will be proportionate to the potential environmental and social risks and impacts of the Project. The ESCP is a part of the Grant Agreement. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the referred Agreement.
3. Without limitation to the foregoing, this ESCP sets out material measures and actions that the Recipient shall carry out or cause to be carried out, including, as applicable, the timeframes of the actions and measures, institutional, staffing, training, monitoring and reporting arrangements, and grievance management. The ESCP also sets out the environmental and social (E&S) instruments that shall be adopted and implemented under the Project, all of which shall be subject to prior consultation and disclosure, consistent with the ESS, and in form and substance, and in a manner acceptable to the Bank. Once adopted, said E&S instruments may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Bank.
4. As agreed by the Bank and the Recipient, this ESCP will be revised from time to time if necessary, during Project implementation, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to Project performance. In such circumstances, the Recipient and the Bank agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Bank and the Recipient. The Recipient shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTING</p> <p>As part of the Project Progress reports, prepare and submit to the Bank regular monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) performance of the Respective Part of the Project, including but not limited to the implementation of the ESCP, status of preparation and implementation of E&S instruments required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the grievance mechanism.</p>	Submit quarterly reports to the Bank throughout Project implementation, commencing after the Effective Date. Submit each report to the Association no later than 20 days after the end of each reporting period.	UNOPS
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <p>a) 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 those resulting in death or significant injury to workers or the public, acts of violence, discrimination or protest, pollution of the environment; forced or child labor; allegations of sexual exploitation or abuse (SEA), or sexual harassment (SH); or disease outbreaks.</p> <p>For SEA/SH incidents, the notification and any follow up reporting shall be shared with the Association's corporate Grievance Redress Service (GRS).</p> <p>For any other incidents or accidents, the notification and any follow-up reporting shall be shared with the Bank's task team.</p> <p>b) Provide a report to the Bank with sufficient detail regarding the scope, severity, and possible causes of the incident or accident, indicating immediate measures taken or that are planned to be taken to address it, and any information provided by any Contractor and/or Implementing Partner, as appropriate.</p>	<p>a) Notify the Bank no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident.</p> <p>b) Provide the report on SEA/SH incidents to the Bank's GRS within 10 days of the notification, and the report on any other incident or accident to the Bank's task team within 30 days of the notification. Depending on the circumstances, this timeframe may be extended with the written agreement of the Bank.</p> <p>c) Upon request, share Contractor's and Implementing Partner's notifications and reports to the Bank within 7 days following the Bank's request, unless otherwise agreed to with the Bank.</p>	UNOPS

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	<p>c) At the Bank's request, share the Contractor¹ and/or Implementing Partner² incident or accident notification and report, redacted to remove Personal Data³.</p> <p>d) At the Bank's request, share the Contractor and/or Implementing Partner incident or accident notification and report, redacted to remove Personal Data.</p>		
C	<p>CONTRACTORS' AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS' REPORTS</p> <p>Require Contractors and Implementing Partners to provide regular monitoring reports, at a minimum on a monthly basis, on ESHS performance in accordance with the metrics specified in the respective Terms of Reference and contracts, and at the Bank's request, submit such reports to the Bank, redacted to remove Personal Data.</p>	Upon request, submit Contractors' and Implementing Partners' reports to the Bank within 14 days following the Bank's request.	UNOPS
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>Establish and maintain a Project Implementation Unit (PIU) within UNOPS that is tasked with ESHS management, with qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project, including one environmental and social specialist.</p>	Establish and maintain a PIU as set out in the Agreement. Hire or appoint the environmental and social specialist no later than 3 weeks after project effective date, and thereafter maintain these positions throughout Project implementation.	UNOPS
1.2	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</p> <p>a) Adopt and implement an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs.</p> <p>b) Adopt and implement a Process Framework defining stakeholder engagements around the Protected Areas to be established.</p>	<p>a) Adopt the ESMF prior to Project Appraisal and thereafter implement the ESMF throughout Project implementation.</p>	UNOPS

¹ "Contractor" means a legal entity, or an individual other than Staff/Non-Staff Personnel, with which the Recipient has concluded a Project-related institutional contract.

² "Implementing Partner" means a legal entity, other than a government entity, with which the Recipient has concluded a partnership agreement related to Project implementation.

³ "Personal Data" means any information relating to a Data Subject, meaning a natural person who can be identified, directly or indirectly, in particular by reference to an identifier such as a name, an identification number, location data, an online identifier or to one or more factors specific to the physical, physiological, genetic, mental, economic, cultural, or social identity of that natural person.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	c) Cause government partners to prepare and implement site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) if applicable, as set out in the ESMF. The subprojects activities described in the exclusion list set out in the ESMF shall be ineligible to receive financing under the Project.	b) Adopt the Process Framework prior to Project Appraisal and thereafter implement the Process Framework throughout Project implementation. c) Adopt the ESMPs before launching the bidding process for the respective subproject activity that requires the adoption of such ESMP. Once adopted, implement the respective ESMP throughout Project implementation	
1.3	MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS AND IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS a) Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the relevant E&S instruments, the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), and code of conduct, into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contractual arrangements with Contractors and Implementing Partners. Thereafter ensure that the Contractors and Implementing Partners comply and cause subcontractors to comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts. b) At the Bank's request, share Project contracts/agreements with Contractors and Implementing Partners with the Bank, redacted to remove Personal Data and confidential business information.	a) As part of the preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts. Supervise Contractors and Implementing Partners throughout Project implementation. b) Share with the Bank within 14 days of the Bank's request, unless otherwise agreed to with the Bank.	UNOPS
1.4	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE Carry out the consultancies, studies, capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project, in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Bank, that are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter prepare and finalize the outputs of such activities in compliance with the terms of reference.	Throughout Project implementation.	UNOPS
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	Prepare and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) as part of the ESMF for the Project.	Prepare the LMP as part of the ESMF, under 1.2, and thereafter implement the LMP throughout Project implementation.	UNOPS
2.2	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS Establish and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.	Establish grievance mechanism prior to engaging Project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.	UNOPS
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.2	RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the ESMP to be prepared under action 1.2 above.	Incorporate as part of the ESMP, as under 1.2, and thereafter implement throughout Project implementation.	UNOPS
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities, and include mitigation measures in the ESMPs to be prepared in accordance with the ESMF.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs, as under 1.2.	UNOPS
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT This ESS is currently not applicable			
5.1	RESETTLEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK a) Prepare and implement a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) for the Project, consistent with ESS5. b) Prepare and implement a Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) or Livelihood Restoration Plans (LRP) for each activity under the Project which requires land acquisition, involuntary resettlement, having impact on livelihood of the people within the project area, as per the procedures/ guidance set out in the RPF and consistent with ESS5.	a) Prepare the RPF prior to commencement of activities and thereafter implement throughout Project implementation.	UNOPS

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
		b) Prepare and implement the respective RP or LRP prior to carrying out the relevant works, including ensuring that before taking possession of the land and related assets, full compensation has been provided, and as applicable displaced people have been resettled and moving allowances have been provided.	
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT PLANS Include biodiversity management aspects, as per ESS6, in the respective Protected Area Management Plans.	Prepare as part of the PA Management Plans under 1.2 and maintained throughout Project implementation. Prepare prior to commencement of site-specific activities and implement throughout subproject implementation	UNOPS
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES This standard is not applicable			
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE – this standard is not applicable			
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES [This standard is not applicable]			
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION Prepare and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Project, consistent with ESS10, which shall include measures to, inter alia, provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation.	Prepare the SEP prior to Appraisal. The SEP will be updated (as needed) and implemented throughout Project implementation.	UNOPS
10.2	PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM		UNOPS

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	<p>Establish, publicize, maintain, and operate an accessible grievance mechanism, to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the Project, promptly and effectively, in a transparent manner that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible to all Project-affected parties, at no cost and without retribution, including concerns and grievances filed anonymously, in a manner consistent with ESS10.</p> <p>The grievance mechanism shall be equipped to receive, register, and facilitate the resolution of SEA/SH complaints, including through the referral of survivors to relevant gender-based violence service providers, all in a safe, confidential, and survivor-centered manner.</p>	Establish the grievance mechanism within 30 days from Project effectiveness and thereafter maintain and operate the mechanism throughout Project implementation.	
Capacity Support			
CS1	<p>CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN/MEASURES</p> <p>Prepare and implement the following capacity building measures, training for PIU staff and project workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stakeholder mapping and engagement • community health and safety • GRM (Grievance Redress Mechanism) • incident and accident reporting 	Adopt as part of the ESMF, under 1.2 above, deliver before commencement of relevant activities under the Project, and implement throughout project implementation	UNOPS