

**United Nations Office for Project Services
(UNOPS)**

**Blueing the Caspian Sea
(P181526)**

Draft

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

18 December 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The United Nations Office for Project Services (the Recipient) will implement the Blueing the Caspian Sea Project, with the involvement of the Azerbaijan Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR), Kazakhstan Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) and Turkmenistan Ministry of Environmental Protection (MEP), as set out in the Financing Agreement (the 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 ESCP is a part of the Agreement. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the 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, their respective timeframes; institutional, staffing, training, monitoring and reporting arrangements; and grievance management. The ESCP also sets out the environmental and social (E&S) documents that shall be prepared or updated, consulted, disclosed and implemented under the Project, consistent with the ESSs, in form and substance acceptable to the Bank. Said E&S documents may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Bank. As provided for under the referred Agreement, the Recipient shall ensure that there are sufficient funds available to cover the costs of implementing the ESCP.
4. As agreed by the Bank and the Recipient, this ESCP will be revised from time to time, if necessary, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes or unforeseen circumstances or in response to Project performance. In such circumstances, the Bank and the Recipient agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Bank and the Recipient's Representative specified in the Agreement. The Recipient shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
5. The subsection on "Indicators for Implementation Readiness" below identifies the actions and measures to be monitored to assess Project readiness to begin implementation in accordance with this ESCP. Nevertheless, all actions and measures in this ESCP shall be implemented as set out in the "Timeframe" column below irrespective of whether they are listed in the referred subsection.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND CAPACITY SUPPORT			
A	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE		
	<p>a. 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> <p>b. Prepare and sign^[OBJ] Country Implementation Agreements (CIAs), with the MENR of Azerbaijan, MENR of Kazakhstan and MEP of Turkmenistan to determine roles and responsibilities of UNOPS and Project Focus Countries¹.</p>	<p>a. 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.</p> <p>b. Prepare CIA template by the Project's effective Date for WB approval; sign CIAs before any activity starts in each of the Project Focus Countries; implement CIAs throughout the Project life</p>	<p>a. UNOPS</p> <p>b. UNOPS</p>
B	CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN/MEASURES		
	<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 measures • GRM (Grievance Redress Mechanism) including for SEA/SH • Incident and accident reporting 	<p>Adopt as part of the ESMF, under 1.2 above, deliver before commencement of relevant activities under the Project, and implement throughout project implementation</p>	UNOPS
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
C	REGULAR REPORTING		
	<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 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>	<p>Submit semi-annual reports to the Bank throughout Project implementation, commencing after the Effective Date. Submit each report to the World Bank no later than 30 days after the end of each reporting period.</p>	UNOPS

¹ Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan are referred as Project Focus Countries.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
D	CONTRACTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS Require contractors 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.	Upon request, submit Contractors' and Implementing Partners' reports to the Bank within 14 days following the Bank's request.	UNOPS
E	INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS 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. For SEA/SH incidents, the notification and any follow-up reporting shall be shared with the Bank's corporate Grievance Redress Service (GRS). For any other incidents or accidents, the notification and any follow-up reporting shall be shared with the Bank's task team. 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. c) At the Bank's request, share the Contractor incident or accident notification and report, redacted to remove Personal Data.	a) Notify the Bank no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident. 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. c) Upon request, share Contractor's notifications and reports with the Bank within 7 days following the Bank's request, unless otherwise agreed to with the Bank.	UNOPS

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS		
<p>1.1 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENTS AND/OR PLANS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Implement an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs. b) Implement a Process Framework defining stakeholder engagements around the Protected Areas to be established. c) Prepare and implement/cause government partners to implement site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) if applicable, as set out in the ESMF. The activities described in the exclusion list set out in the ESMF shall be ineligible to receive financing under the Project d) Support the preparation of site-specific Marine Protected Area (MPA) management plans as set out in the ESMF, to support government-led decision-making prior to the establishment of MPAs and implementation of the plans by the relevant national authorities in the established MPAs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Implement the ESMF throughout Project implementation. b) Implement the Process Framework throughout Project implementation. c) Prepare the ESMPs before launching the bidding process for the respective activity that requires the adoption of such ESMP. Once adopted, implement the respective ESMP throughout Project implementation d) MPA management plans prepared prior to establishment of each MPA which the government partners, upon approval, will implement throughout the project implementation upon approval 	UNOPS
1.2 MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Thereafter ensure that the Contractors 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 with the Bank, redacted to remove Personal Data and confidential business information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) As part of the preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts. Supervise Contractors and Implementing Partners throughout Project implementation. 	UNOPS

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	b) Share with the Bank within 14 days of the Bank's request, unless otherwise agreed to with the Bank.	
1.3 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE		
Carry out the 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 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 1.1, and thereafter implement the LMP throughout Project implementation.	UNOPS
2.2 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT Incorporate OHS Management Measures in site-specific ESMPs, as referred under action 1.1 above.	Same timeframe as for action 1.1 above.	UNOPS
2.3 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		
3.1 WASTE MANAGEMENT Incorporate hazardous and non-hazardous waste management measures, consistent with ESS3, into site-specific ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.1 above.	Same timeframe as for action 1.1 above.	UNOPS
3.2 RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT	Same timeframe as for action 1.1 above.	UNOPS

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MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.1 above.		
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY		
4.1 TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY Incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks as part of the ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.1 above.	Same timeframe as for action 1.1 above.	UNOPS
4.2 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 action 1.1 above.	UNOPS
4.3 SEA AND SH RISKS Incorporate SEA/SH prevention and response measures as part of the ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.1 above.	Same timeframe as for action 1.1 above.	UNOPS
4.4 SECURITY MANAGEMENT Conduct Institutional Assessment (IA) of law enforcement agencies as part of MPA management plans to mitigate any risks of conflict between local communities and law enforcement agencies.	Conduct IA during the planning stage phase 1 of the project prior to the start of the enforcement actions associated with the project and implement throughout project implementation.	UNOPS
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT [The relevance of ESS5 is established during the ESA process. If resettlement documents need to be prepared (e.g., resettlement process frameworks, resettlement action plans, process frameworks) this should be reflected in the ESCP. <u>See sample actions below</u>]		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
5.1 RESETTLEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK	<p>a) Implement a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) for the Project, consistent with ESS5.</p> <p>b) Prepare and implement 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.</p>	<p>a) Implement the RPF throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>b) Prepare and implement the respective RAPs 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.</p>

ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES [The relevance of ESS6 is established during the ESA process. As with other ESSs, ESS6 may require the preparation of specific measures that may be set out in an E&S document (e.g., ESMP) already mentioned in the section under ESS1 above or as a stand-alone document or a separate measure or action. [See sample actions below](#).]

6.1 **BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS**

Include biodiversity management aspects, as per ESS6, in the respective MPA Management Plans.

Prepare as part of the PA Management Plans and maintain throughout Project implementation.

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ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES [See examples of possible actions below that can be used if determined that ESS7 is relevant, as set out in paragraph 54 of the E&S Policy and paragraphs 8-10 of ESS7.]

This Standard is not applicable

ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE [The relevance of ESS8 is established during the ESA process. As with other ESSs, ESS8 may require the preparation of specific measures that may be set out in an E&S document (e.g., ESMP) already mentioned in the section under ESS1 above or as a stand-alone document or a separate measure or action. [See sample actions below](#).]

This Standard is not applicable

ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES [This standard is only relevant for Projects involving Financial Intermediaries (FIs).]

This Standard is not applicable

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MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE		
<p>10.1 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>The SEP will be updated (as needed) and implemented throughout Project implementation.</p>	UNOPS
<p>10.2 PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</p> <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>	<p>Establish the GRM within 3 months of the Project Effective Date and implement throughout Project implementation</p>	UNOPS

INDICATORS FOR IMPLEMENTATION READINESS

The following actions are indicators for implementation readiness:

UNOPS PIU in place, with environmental and social personnel on-board

CIAs signed to commence country-level activities

Grievance Redress Mechanism available within 3 months after project effectiveness