



**Independent State of Papua New Guinea  
Department of Provincial and Local  
Government Affairs**

**Rural Service Delivery Project Phase 2  
(P508616)**

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

**Appraisal**

**24 June 2025**

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Independent State of Papua New Guinea (the Borrower) will implement the Rural Service Delivery Project Phase 2 (the Project), with the involvement of the Department of Provincial and Local-level Government Affairs (DPLGA), as set out in the Financing Agreement (the Agreement). The International Development Association (the Association) has agreed to provide financing for the Project, as set out in the Agreement.
2. The Borrower 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 Association. 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 Borrower 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 Association. Said E&S documents may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Association. As provided for under the referred Agreement, the Borrower shall ensure that there are sufficient funds available to cover the costs of implementing the ESCP.
4. As agreed by the Association and the Borrower, 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 Association and the Borrower agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Borrower's Representative specified in the Agreement or director of the Department of Provincial and Local-level Government Affairs. The Borrower 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	<p><b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</b></p> <p>a. Establish and maintain a Project Management Unit (PMU) at the national level with qualified staff and resources to support management of environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) risks and impacts of the Project including a PMU Environmental and Social (E&amp;S) Specialist, and a PMU Gender and GBV Specialist.</p> <p>b. The PMU shall engage additional environmental and/or social specialists and consultants to support the development of the Project, if and when required.</p> <p>c. Establish and maintain a Provincial Project Office (PPO) in each participating province with qualified staff and resources to support management of environmental, social, health and safety risks and impacts of the Project including an E&amp;S Officer.</p> <p>d. The PPO will also ensure and maintain adequate E&amp;S capacity at the Local-level Government (LLG) Administration level which will include 2 x Community Development Workers (targeting at least one female) and a Technical Facilitator.</p> <p>e. The PMU ensure that project beneficiaries engage and maintain adequate E&amp;S capacity as per E&amp;S requirements outlined in respective grant agreements which will include a designated E&amp;S committee member within each Community Driven Development Sub-committee (CDD-SC).</p>	<p>a. Establish a PMU and hire or appoint the E&amp;S Specialist and Gender and GBV Specialist within 3 months of the Effective Date and thereafter maintain the PMU and these positions throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>b. Engage/appoint additional environmental and/or social specialists/consultants as required during the implementation of the Project.</p> <p>c. Establish PPOs and hire or appoint the specified E&amp;S positions within 3 months of signing the Partnership Agreement with the Provincial Administration and thereafter maintain the PPO and these positions throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>d. Recruit and train CDWs and TF within 6 months of signing the Partnership Agreement and thereafter maintain these positions throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>e. E&amp;S committee member to be designated when the CDD-SC is formed.</p>	<p>Department of Provincial and Local Government Affairs (DPLGA)</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
B	<p><b>CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN/MEASURES</b></p> <p>The Recipient shall include the following E&amp;S topics in capacity building resources and activities for PMU, PPO, LLG staff, target communities and other relevant stakeholder involved in project implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation of the Project's E&amp;S instruments including the Environmental and Social Management Framework and associated instruments, and the Labour Management Procedure, Stakeholder Engagement Plan and respective mitigation measures.</li> <li>• Gender-based Violence and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment risks prevention measures and implementation of the project's GBV Action Plan</li> <li>• Implementation of the Project's grievance mechanism (GM), including the processes for handling sensitive complaints such as SEA/SH incidents.</li> <li>• Social and conflict risk analysis and implementation of risk mitigation measures</li> <li>• E&amp;S risks and management for each stage of the CDD cycle</li> <li>• Community participation process and social inclusion within the CDD cycle</li> <li>• Implementation of the Land Access Procedure including Voluntary Land Donation Protocol</li> <li>• Implementation of the ESMoP and/or ESMP, including OHS and labour management</li> <li>• Implementation of sub-project specific Operations and Maintenance (O&amp;M) Plan</li> <li>• Others (to be determined according to needs).</li> </ul>	During Project implementation.	DPLGA
MONITORING AND REPORTING			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
C	<p><b>REGULAR REPORTING</b></p> <p>Prepare and submit to the Association regular monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health and safety (E&amp;S) performance of the Project. The reports shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of preparation and implementation of E&amp;S documents required under the ESCP</li> <li>• Status of E&amp;S resources within the PMU, PPO and LLG Administrations participating in the project</li> <li>• Summary of stakeholder engagement activities carried out as per the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.</li> <li>• Complaints submitted to the grievance mechanism(s), the grievance log, and progress made in resolving them.</li> <li>• E&amp;S performance of each sub-project as reported through the CDD-SC reports or contractor reports (if construction contractor firms are engaged to construct sub-projects).</li> <li>• Number and status of resolution of incidents and accidents reported under action E below.</li> </ul>	Submit 6-monthly reports to the Association throughout Project implementation, commencing after the Effective Date. Submit each report to the Association no later than 14 days after the end of each reporting period.	DPLGA
D	<p><b>CONTRACTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS</b></p> <p>If construction contractor firms are engaged to construct sub-projects, these firms are to provide monthly monitoring reports on E&amp;S performance in accordance with the metrics specified in the respective bidding documents and contracts and submit such reports to the Association.</p>	Submit the monthly reports to the Association upon request and as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action C above.	DPLGA
E	<p><b>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</b></p> <p>Notify the Association of any incident or accident relating 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; unforeseen impacts to cultural heritage or biodiversity resources; pollution of the environment; dam failure; forced or child labor; displacement without due process (forced eviction); allegations of sexual exploitation or abuse (SEA), or sexual harassment (SH); or disease outbreaks. Provide available details of the incident or accident to the Association upon request.</p> <p>Arrange for an appropriate review of the incident or accident to establish its immediate, underlying and root causes. Prepare, agree with the Association, and</p>	<p>Notify the Association no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident. Provide available details upon request.</p> <p>Provide review report and Corrective Action Plan to the Association no later than 10 days following the submission of the initial notice, unless a different timeframe is agreed to in writing by the Association.</p>	DPLGA

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	implement a Corrective Action Plan that sets out the measures and actions to be taken to address the incident or accident and prevent its recurrence.		
<b>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>			
1.1	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENTS AND/OR PLANS</b>  1. Prepare and implement an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs.  2. Prepare and implement a Project Operations Manual (POM) that includes key E&S management processes from the ESMF and other E&S instruments.  3. Prepare and implement a Disaster Response Procedure (DRP) that includes key E&S management processes from the ESMF and other E&S instruments.  4. Require grant beneficiaries to prepare, submit and implement subproject and/or site specific Environmental and Social Screening Form and Environmental and Social Code of Practice (ESCP) or Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) as set out in the ESMF and the POM. The proposed subprojects and / or activities described in the exclusion list set out in the ESMF shall be ineligible to receive financing under the Project.	1. Implement the ESMF (dated July 2025) throughout Project implementation.  2. Prepare the POM no later than one (1) month of the effective date and thereafter implement the POM throughout Project implementation.  3. Prepare the DRP before the commencement of disaster response activities and implement the DRP throughout Project implementation.  4. Require as per the Partnership and/or Grant Agreement	
1.2	<b>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS AND BENEFICIARIES</b> Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the relevant E&S instruments, the LMP and CoC, into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts/agreements with contractors and beneficiaries. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and beneficiaries comply and cause subcontractors to comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts / agreements. Provide copies of the relevant contracts/agreements to the Association.	As part of the preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts/agreements. Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation. Copies of relevant contracts/agreements provided to the Association upon request.	DPLGA
1.3	<b>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</b> Carry out the consultancies, studies (including feasibility studies, if applicable), capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project, including, inter alia, development and piloting of inter-ward grants, climate resilient grants, climate-smart livelihood activities and the use of the platform for benefit sharing initiatives – ensuring that E&S screening, assessment and management process outlined in the ESMF and the stakeholder engagement requirements outlined in SEP and ESS7 (refer 7.1) are incorporated into the	Throughout Project implementation.	

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	design, in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Association, and that are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter prepare and finalize the outputs of such activities in compliance with the terms of reference.		
<b>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</b>			
2.1	<b>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</b> Prepare and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) for the Project as part of the ESMF.	Implement the LMP (dated July 2025) throughout Project implementation.	DPLGA
2.3	<b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</b> Establish and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.	Establish worker grievance mechanisms prior to engaging Project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.	DPLA
<b>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT [</b>			
3.1	<b>WASTE MANAGEMENT</b> Require grant beneficiaries to implement waste management related mitigations (as specified in the ESCOPs and/or ESMPs to be prepared) as part of the Project ESMF, to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, consistent with ESS3.	Throughout Project implementation.	DPLGA
3.2	<b>RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b> Require grant beneficiaries to implement resource efficiency related mitigations (as specified in the ESCOPs and/or ESMPs to be prepared) as part of the Project ESMF.	Throughout Project implementation.	DPLGA
<b>ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>			
4.1	<b>TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY</b> Require grant beneficiaries to implement traffic and road safety related mitigations (as specified in the ESCOPs and/or ESMPs to be prepared) as part of the Project ESMF.	Throughout Project implementation.	DPLGA
4.2	<b>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b> Require grant beneficiaries to implement community health and safety related mitigations (as specified in the ESCOPs and/or ESMPs to be prepared) as part of the Project ESMF	Throughout Project implementation.	DPLGA
4.3	<b>SEA AND SH RISKS</b> Prepare and implement a GBV Prevention and Response Action Plan as part of the ESMF, to assess and manage the risks of SEA and SH.	Implement the GBV Action Plan throughout Project implementation.	DPLGA

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4.4	<b>CONFLICT RISKS AND SECURITY MANAGEMENT</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the Social and Conflict Analysis tool to assess conflict risks in target provinces and LLGs and develop and implement measures to address these risks during project implementation.</li> <li>Assess and implement measures to manage the security risks of the Project, including the risks of engaging direct or contracted security personnel to safeguard project workers, sites, assets and activities, as needed, and as set out in the ESMF and in accordance with ESS 4.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct conflict assessment within 3 months of signing the Partnership Agreement and thereafter implement throughout Project implementation.</li> <li>Throughout Project implementation; and before deploying security personnel</li> </ol>	DPLGA
<b>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</b>			
5.1	<b>LAND ACCESS PROCEDURE</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare and implement a Land Access Procedure (LAP) for the Project, consistent with ESS5 and ESS7.</li> <li>Require the grant beneficiaries to commit to following the LAP to secure land access for each activity under the Project where land access is required; and ensure required documentation (i.e. records of consultation, land access agreements) is in place and understood by landholder(s) before sub-project implementation.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the LAP included in the ESMF (dated July 2025) throughout Project implementation.</li> <li>Require as per the Grant Agreement and confirm land access arrangements are in place before sub-project implementation.</li> </ol>	DPLGA
<b>ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
6.1	<b>BIODIVERSITY RISK AND IMPACTS</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sub-projects are to be screened as per the process set out in the ESMF and activities described in the exclusion list set out in the ESMF (which includes activities that may cause significant impacts to biodiversity) shall be ineligible to receive financing under the Project.</li> <li>Require the CDD-SC to implement biodiversity related mitigations (as specified in the ESCOPs and/or ESMPs to be prepared) as part of the Project ESMF.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Throughout Project implementation.</li> <li>Throughout Project implementation.</li> </ol>	DPLGA
<b>ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>			
7.1	Include the elements of an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) in the overall project design and the SEP to be prepared and implemented under action 10.1 below.	Same timeframe as for action 10.1	
<b>ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>			
8.1	<b>CULTURAL HERITAGE RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>	Throughout Project implementation	DPLGA

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	Sub-projects are to be screened as per the process set out in the ESMF and activities described in the exclusion list set out in the ESMF (which includes activities that may cause impacts to cultural heritage) shall be ineligible to receive financing under the Project.		
8.2	<b>CHANCE FINDS</b> Describe and implement the chance finds procedures as part of the Project ESMF.	Throughout Project implementation.	DPLLGA
<b>ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b>			
10.1	<b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN</b> Update and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan 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.	The SEP (dated July 2025) will be reviewed and updated within six (6) months of project effectiveness and thereafter implemented throughout project implementation.	DPLGA
10.2	<b>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</b> 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.  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.	The GM will be updated and operationalized within six (6) months of project effectiveness.	DPLGA
<b>INDICATORS FOR IMPLEMENTATION READINESS</b> [This subsection lists the ESCP actions (by their numbering in the first column of the ESCP) that are identified as relevant to monitor project readiness from an E&S standpoint. These may include actions related to: i) establishment of E&S risk management units in the Project Implementation Entities, ii) recruitment and training of E&S staff within Project Implementation Entities, iii) Memorandums of Understanding or other written agreements/arrangements between Project Implementation Entities and other concerned agencies to ensure proper coordination of E&S risk management activities; iv) E&S effectiveness or disbursement conditions, if deemed warranted, v) ES assessments and plans to be prepared by the Borrower at the onset of implementation; vi) other project-specific requirements related to E&S readiness for implementation].			
<p>The following actions are indicators for implementation readiness:</p> <p>Action A(a) – PMU established, and E&amp;S Specialist hired.</p> <p>Action A(b) – PPOs established (in a phased approach with existing RSDP-1 provinces established first), and E&amp;S officer hired</p> <p>Action B – Capacity building plan prepared.</p>			