



Ecosystem-Based Restoration Approach for Nyungwe-Ruhango Corridor Project (P507271)

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

Appraisal

10/23/2024

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Government of Rwanda, represented by the by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN), will implement Ecosystem-Based Restoration Approach for Nyungwe-Ruhango Project (P507271), under financial support from 8th replenishment of the GEF Trust Fund (GEF8) in Rwanda with the involvement of the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) as set out in the in the Financing Agreement.
2. The Government of Rwanda/MINECOFIN shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs), coupled with the provisions outlined within this Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), in a manner acceptable to the Bank. The ESCP is a part of the Financing 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 Government of Rwanda, under the oversight of MINECOFIN 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) 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 Government of Rwanda shall ensure that there are sufficient funds available to cover the costs of implementing the ESCP.
4. As agreed by the Bank and the Government of Rwanda represented by MINECOFIN, 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 Government of Rwanda agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Bank and MINECOFIN. The Government of Rwanda 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 SUPPORT¹			
A	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>a. Establish and maintain Project Implementation Unit within REMA that is tasked with qualified staff and resources to support management of environmental, social, health and safety (E&S) risks and impacts of the Project, including an environmental specialist and a social specialist.</p> <p>b. Enter into collaboration arrangements with the districts in which the Project is intervening in order to manage E&S risks and impacts of the Project.</p>	<p>a. Maintain the established PIU by project effectiveness as set out in the financing agreement and maintain the positions throughout project implementation.</p> <p>b. Sign District Implementation Agreement (DIA) between REMA on one hand, and the respective intervention Districts on the other by the effective date.</p>	REMA
B	<p>CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN/MEASURES</p> <p>1. All capacity building activities and trainings shall be laid out in a plan embedded in the ESMF. Training shall be provided to the PIU, project workers and contractors to ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with this ESCP. Trainings shall be prepared and delivered in accordance with results of capacity assessment, in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • World Bank ESSs • Implementation of Stakeholder Engagement Plan including stakeholder mapping and engagement; • Specific aspects of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and ESMP implementation; • Implementation of waste management plan; 	<p>1. Prepare a capacity building plan by project the effective date.</p>	1. REMA

¹ For all actions, consult with the country lawyer to ensure consistency with the legal agreement in cases where some actions need to be completed before the project becomes effective (effectiveness condition) or before certain disbursements can occur (disbursement condition).

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment and implementation of Grievance Redress Mechanism. Risks assessment and management at project sites; Emergency Preparedness and Response; Workers and community health and safety including road safety and Incidents Reporting requirements; Implementation of Labor Management Plans; GBV and SEA/ SH Implementation of RAP and LRP <p>2. Training for Project workers will be required on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occupational health and safety including preparedness and response arrangements to emergency situations. GRM GBV/SEA/SH measures LMP, CoCs 	<p>2. Provide training to relevant PIU staff, workers and contractors according to the capacity building plan through the project cycle.</p>	<p>2. REMA and Contractors</p>
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
C	<p>REGULAR REPORTING</p> <p>Prepare and submit to the Bank regular monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health and safety (E&S) performance of the Project. The reports shall include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of preparation and implementation of E&S documents required under the ESCP. Summary of stakeholder engagement activities carried out as per the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Complaints submitted to the grievance mechanism(s), the grievance log, and progress made in resolving them. E&S performance of contractors and subcontractors as reported through [monthly] contractors' and supervision firms' reports. Number and status of resolution of incidents and accidents reported under action E below. The content of the monitoring report will be further specified in the Project Operations Manual. 	<p>Consolidated quarterly reports shall be submitted to the Bank throughout Project implementation, commencing 6 months after project the Effective Date.</p> <p>Submit each report to the World Bank no later than 15 days after the end of each reporting period.</p>	REMA

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D	<p>CONTRACTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS</p> <p>Require contractors and supervising firms to provide monthly monitoring reports on E&S performance in accordance with the metrics specified in the respective bidding documents and contracts and submit such reports to the Bank.</p>	<p>Submit the monthly reports to the Bank as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action C above.</p>	Contractors through REMA
E	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <p>Notify the Bank 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; 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 World Bank 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 Bank, and 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.</p>	<p>Notify the Bank 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 Bank no later than 10 days following the submission of the initial notice, unless a different timeframe is agreed to in writing by the World Bank.</p>	REMA
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENTS AND/OR PLANS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare and implement an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs. 2. Prepare and implement Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs), and corresponding Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for project components and any other E&S risk management instruments as would be prescribed 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare the ESMF prior to project by effective date , and thereafter implement the ESMF throughout Project implementation. 2. Prepare subproject/ activity ESIAs and/or ESMPs and RAPs as would be prescribed 	REMA

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	<p>in the project ESMF.</p> <p>3. Prepare and implement resettlement policy framework and site-specific resettlement plans</p> <p>4. Cause contractors to prepare and implement the site-specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), as set out in the ESMF. The proposed activities described in the exclusion list set out in the ESMF shall be ineligible to receive financing under the Project.</p>	<p>in the project ESMF and RPF prior to the start of respective subproject/ activity, and thereafter implement the respective ESIA and/or ESMPs throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>3. Incorporate respective subproject/ activity ESMPs in the respective bidding documents for the respective subprojects/ activities prior to the carrying out of subproject/ activity that requires the application of such ESMP. Once finalized, implement the respective ESMPs throughout Project implementation.</p>	
1.2	<p>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</p> <p>Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the relevant E&S instruments, the Labor Management Procedures, and the code of conduct, into the E&S specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. Thereafter, ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply and cause subcontractors to comply with the E&S specifications of their respective Contracts. Provide copies of the relevant contracts with contractors/subcontractors and supervision firms to the Bank.</p>	<p>Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation.</p>	REMA
1.3	<p>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</p> <p>Carry out the consultancies, studies (including feasibility studies, if applicable), capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the project including RF/FP, ESIA (and their embedded ESMP), SEP, LMP, Livelihood Restoration Plans, and Gender Action Plans, Biodiversity Management Plans or any other prescribed by the project ESMF, in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Bank, that are consistent</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	REMA

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	with the ESSs. Thereafter prepare and finalize the outputs of such activities in compliance with the terms of reference.		
1.4	CONTINGENT [EMERGENCY] [EARLY] RESPONSE FINANCING No CONTINGENT [EMERGENCY] [EARLY] RESPONSE FINANCING component in this project.	N/A	N/A
1.5	ASSOCIATED FACILITIES No Facilities will be associated to the project.	N/A	N/A
1.6	USE OF [BORROWER/RECIPIENT'S] ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL FRAMEWORK The Bank ESF will be used.	N/A	N/A
1.7	COMMON APPROACH Common approach is not being considered for the project.	N/A	N/A
1.8	ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO RETROACTIVE FINANCING Retroactive financing is not being requested.	N/A	N/A
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES Given the type of activities of the project a standalone LMP is not warranted. ESMF will provide the mitigation measures to ensure that potential labor risks are managed in line with ESS2	Potential labor risk mitigation measures will be specified in the ESMF, as 1.1 above	REMA
2.2	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLAN As the Ecosystem-Based Restoration Approach for Nyungwe-Ruhango project activities do not entail large civil works, and the A-ESRS risk rating for the project is MODARATE, a standalone OHS Management Plan for the project is not essential, OHS elements essential to the project will be specified in the ESMF.	OHS elements will be specified in the ESMF, as 1.1 above.	REMA

2.3	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS Establish and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the appropriate E&S risk management instrument prescribed by the project ESMF and consistent with ESS2.	Establish grievance mechanism prior engaging Project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.	REMA
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN Prepare and implement a Waste Management Plan (WMP), as part of the ESMP prepared for the subproject/ activity referred to under ESS1, to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, consistent with ESS3.	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the respective subproject/ activity ESMP.	REMA, Contractors
3.2	RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the respective subproject/ activity ESMPs to be prepared under ESS1 above.	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the respective subproject/ activity ESMP.	REMA, Contractors
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY Incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks as required in the respective subproject/ activity ESMPs to be prepared under ESS1 actions 1.1 and 1.2 above.	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the respective subproject/ activity ESMPs.	REMA, Contractors
4.2	COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities including inter alia, behavior of Project workers, risks of labor influx, response to emergency situations, and include mitigation measures in the respective subproject/ activity ESMPs to be prepared under ESS1 actions 1.1 and 1.2 above.	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the respective subproject/ activity ESMPs.	REMA, Contractors
4.3	SEA AND SH RISKS Measures to manage SEA/SH risks will be part the ESMF	Potential SEA/SH risk mitigation measures including code of conduct will be provided in the ESMF, as 1.1 above	REMA, Contractors

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4.4	SECURITY MANAGEMENT² Assess and implement measures to manage the security risks of the Project, including the risks of engaging security personnel to safeguard project workers, sites, assets, and activities as set out in subproject/ activity ESMPs under ESS1 actions 1.1 and 1.2 above.	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the respective subproject/ activity ESMPs.	REMA
4.5	DAM SAFETY (FOR ANNEX A ESS4) Dams are not included in the Ecosystem-Based Restoration Approach for Nyungwe-Ruhango Project.	N/A	N/A
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			

² Depending on security risks and details of the project, the Borrower may retain or engage public security personnel, including military, to provide security for the project. Such cases may require a specific security management assessment and/or security management plan and setting out specific measures and actions in the ESCP. See Annex to the “Tip Sheet: Drafting the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan” for further guidance.

5.1	<p>RESETTLEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK and RESETTLEMENT ACTION PLAN</p> <p>1. Prepare and implement a Resettlement framework and/or a Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) for each subproject/ activity under the Project for such RAP or LRP is required, as set out in the RPF and consistent with ESS5.</p>	<p>1. Prepare the RPF to the project and thereafter implement the RPF throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>2. 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.</p>	REMA
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	<p>BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS</p> <p>Prepare and implement a Biodiversity Management Plan (BMP) as part of the subproject/ activity ESIA and or ESMPs and consistent with ESS6.</p>	<p>Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the respective subproject/ activity ESIA and/or ESMPs.</p>	REMA
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			

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7.1	INDIGENOUS PEOPLES [FRAMEWORK] [PLAN] or [PLANS] ESS7 is not triggered in Rwanda (No World Bank supported project in Rwanda ever triggered ESS7)	N/A	N/A
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	CULTURAL HERITAGE RISKS AND IMPACTS Prepare and implement a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) as part of ESMPs, consistent with ESS8.	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the respective subproject/ activity ESMPs	REMA
8.2	CHANCE FINDS Describe and implement the chance finds procedures, as part of the ESMF and for subproject/ activity ESIAs and/or ESMPs.	Same timeframe in section 1.1 as for the preparation and implementation of the respective subproject/ activity ESMPs	REMA
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES [This standard is only relevant for Projects involving Financial Intermediaries (FIs).]			
9.1	ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (ESMS) No financial intermediaries in the Ecosystem-Based Restoration Approach for Nyungwe-Ruhango Project.	N/A	N/A
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN Prepare and implement the project SEP, 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 and disclose prior to the project Appraisal and thereafter implement the SEP throughout Project implementation.	REMA
10.2	PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM		

	<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 and shall be allocated project funds to operate effectively and efficiently.</p>	<p>Establish the grievance mechanism and operationalize grievance redress committees prior to the start of respective subproject/ activity, and thereafter maintain and operate the mechanism throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>REMA</p>
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INDICATORS FOR IMPLEMENTATION READINESS

The following actions are indicators for implementation readiness:

A. (a) Maintenance of E&S risk management unit in the REMA SPIU with an Environmental Specialist and a Social Specialist designated to the Project.

A. (b) Memorandums of Understanding or other written agreements/arrangements between REMA and intervention the Project Districts to ensure proper coordination of E&S risk management activities.

1.1. ESS1 Assessments:

- ESMF prepared duly consulted and disclosed by project effective date;
- ESMP and other E&S risk management instruments prescribed by the project ESMF prepared, consulted and disclosed prior to start of subprojects/ activities.

10.1. SEP prepared duly consulted and disclosed by project Appraisal.