

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



RWANDA ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

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

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

02/19/2025

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Rwanda (the Recipient) will implement the Ecosystem-Based Restoration Approach for Nyungwe-Ruhango Corridor Project (the Project) with the involvement of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) and the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) as set out in the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Grant Agreement (Agreement). The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the Bank), acting as the implementing agency of the GEF, has agreed to provide the 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), 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 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, 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 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 SUPPORT¹			
A	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>1. Establish and maintain a Project Coordination Team (PCT) supported by the Single Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) within REMA, 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 risk management specialist and a social risk management specialist.</p> <p>2. 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>1. Recruit or assign the environmental specialist and social specialist on the PCT by Project Effective Date as set out in the Agreement and maintain the positions throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>2. Sign District Implementation Agreements (DIA) between REMA on one hand, and the three beneficiary districts on the other by the Project Effective Date.</p>	REMA
B	<p>CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN/MEASURES</p> <p>1. All capacity building activities and trainings shall be laid out in an E&S Capacity Building Plan embedded in the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). Training shall be provided to the PCT/SPIU and 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 the Project Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), including stakeholder mapping and engagement; • Specific aspects of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) implementation; 	<p>1. Prepare the E&S Capacity Building Plan by the Project Effective Date.</p>	1. REMA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of a Waste Management Plan (WMP); • Establishment and implementation of a Grievance Mechanism (GM); • Risks assessment and management at relevant Project sites; • Emergency Preparedness and Response; • Workers and community health and safety, including road safety and incidents reporting requirements; • Implementation of the provisions of the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) included in the ESMF; • Prevention and addressing of gender-based violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)/sexual harassment (SH) and implementation of the Gender and Anti-GBV Action Plan (GAP); and • Implementation of the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) and Livelihood Restoration Plans (LRPs). <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; • Workers' GM; • GAP and the included anti-GBV/SEA/SH measures; and • LMP provisions and Codes of Conduct (CoCs). 		
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 (ESHS) 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 SEP. • Complaints submitted to the GM(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. 	<p>Submit consolidated quarterly reports to the Bank throughout Project implementation, commencing 6 months after the Project Effective Date.</p> <p>Submit each report to the Bank no later than 15 days after the end of each reporting period.</p>	REMA

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The content of the monitoring report will be further specified in the Project Implementation Manual (PIM). 		
D	<p>CONTRACTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS</p> <p>Require contractors and supervising firms to provide monthly monitoring reports on ESHS performance in accordance with the metrics specified in the respective bidding documents and contracts and submit such reports to the Bank.</p>	Submit the monthly reports to the Bank as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action C above.	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 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>	Notify the Bank no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident. Provide available details upon request. 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 Bank.	REMA
ESS1: 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"> Finalize and adopt and implement an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs. Prepare and implement site-specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and corresponding Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) for subprojects and activities along other E&S risk management instruments as required in the ESMF, consistent with the relevant ESSs. Prepare and implement a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and site-specific Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) and Livelihood Restoration Plans (LRPs) as required in the RPF, consistent with ESS5. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize and adopt the ESMF prior to Project Effective Date and implement it throughout Project implementation. Prepare ESIAs and/or ESMPs prior to the procurement process or start of respective subproject/activity, and thereafter implement them 	REMA

	<p>4. Cause contractors to prepare and implement a site-specific 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>throughout the subproject/activity duration.</p> <p>3. Prepare the RPF prior to the Project Effective Date and implement it throughout Project implementation. Prepare and implement RAPs and LRPs 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 provided.</p> <p>4. Incorporate relevant ESIA/ESMP requirements in the bidding documents and contracts and ensure they are implemented as part of carrying out the subproject/activity 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, including LMP provisions and CoC, 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 and supervising firms throughout Project implementation.</p>	REMA

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1.3	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE Carry out the consultancies, studies (including feasibility studies, if applicable), capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities (TA) under the Project in line with the relevant provisions in the ESMF, RPF and RAP and/or LRP, SEP, and GAP, and any other management plans required by the ESMF, in accordance with terms of reference (ToR) acceptable to the Bank, consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter prepare and finalize the outputs of such activities in compliance with the ToR.	Throughout Project implementation.	REMA
ESS2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES Given the type of the Project activities, a standalone LMP is not warranted. The ESMF will provide the mitigation measures and other LMP provisions to ensure that potential labor risks are managed in line with ESS2.	As the ESMF under action 1.1.	REMA
2.2	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLAN As the Project activities do not entail large civil works, and the Appraisal Environmental and Social Risk Summary (A-ESRS) rates their E&S risks as Moderate, a standalone OHS Management Plan is not essential, thus the applicable OHS elements will be specified in the ESMF.	As the ESMF under action 1.1	REMA
2.3	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS Establish and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP provisions in the ESMF, consistent with ESS2.	Establish the GM prior to engaging Project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.	REMA
ESS3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN Prepare and implement a Waste Management Plan (WMP), as part of the ESIA/ ESMP prepared for the subprojects/activities referred to under ESS1, to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, consistent with ESS3.	As the ESIA/ESMPs under action 1.1.	REMA, Contractors
3.2	RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the relevant subproject/activity ESMPs.	As the ESMPs under action 1.1.	REMA, Contractors

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ESS4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY Incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks as required in the ESMPs.	As the ESMPs under action 1.1.	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 ESMPs.	As the ESMPs under action 1.1.	REMA, Contractors
4.3	SEA AND SH RISKS Measures to manage SEA/SH risks will be part of the ESMF.	As the ESMF under action 1.1.	REMA, Contractors
4.4	SECURITY MANAGEMENT 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 the ESMPs, consistent with ESS4.	As the ESMPs under action 1.1.	REMA
ESS5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	RESETTLEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK and RESETTLEMENT ACTION PLANS 1. Prepare and implement a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) for the Project, consistent with ESS5. 2. Prepare and implement a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) or a Livelihood Restoration Plan (LRP) for each activity under the Project when such RAP or LRP is required, as set out in the RPF and consistent with ESS5.	1. As the RPF under action 1.1. 2. As the RAPs and LRPs under action 1.1.	REMA
ESS6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS Implement the provisions for conservation of biodiversity as part of the Project activities as stipulated in the ESMF, consistent with ESS6.	As the ESIs and/or ESMPs under action 1.1.	REMA
ESS7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
ESS7 is not relevant for the Project.			
ESS8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			

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8.1	CULTURAL HERITAGE RISKS AND IMPACTS In case needed for any subproject/activity, prepare and implement a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) as part of the ESMP, consistent with ESS8.	As the ESMPs under action 1.1.	REMA
8.2	CHANCE FINDS Describe and implement the Chance Finds Procedure, as part of the ESMF and site-specific ESIAAs and/or ESMPs.	As the ESMF and ESMPs under action 1.1.	REMA
ESS9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
ESS9 is not relevant for the Project.			
ESS10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN Implement the Project SEP, consistent with ESS10, which includes 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.	Implement the SEP throughout Project implementation.	REMA
10.2	PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM Establish, publicize, maintain, and operate accessible Grievance Mechanisms (GMs) 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. Operationalize Grievance Redress Committees as required by the SEP. The GM shall be equipped to receive, register, and facilitate the resolution of SEA/SH complaints, including through the referral of survivors to relevant GBV service providers, all in a safe, confidential, and survivor-centered manner and shall be allocated Project funds to operate effectively and efficiently.	Establish the GMs and operationalize Grievance Redress Committees prior to start of Project activities and site-specific subproject activities and thereafter maintain and operate them throughout Project/subproject implementation.	REMA
INDICATORS FOR IMPLEMENTATION READINESS			
The following actions are indicators for implementation readiness: A. (a) Maintenance of E&S risk management team 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 the Project districts to ensure proper coordination of E&S risk management activities.

1.1. ESS1 E&S Assessments and/or Plans:

- ESMF and RPF adopted and disclosed prior to effective date; and
- ESIA/ESMPs and other E&S risk management instruments prescribed by the ESMF prepared, consulted and disclosed prior to start of procurement process or subprojects/activities.

5.1. RAPs/LRPs

- RAPs/LRPs prepared as prescribed by the RPF and consulted prior to start of relevant subprojects/activities.

10.2. GM established and operational prior to the start of Project activities and site-specific subproject activities.