

**Ministry of Finance and
Economic Management/ Ministry of Lands and
Natural Resources**

**Vanuatu Affordable and Resilient Settlements
Project (P173278)**

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

December 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Vanuatu will implement Vanuatu Affordable and Resilient Settlements Project (the **Project**), with the involvement of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MoLNR) as the Implementing Agency (IA). The International Development Association (hereinafter the Association) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The MoLNR will implement material measures and actions so that the Project is implemented in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (**ESSs**). This Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (**ESCP**) sets out material measures and actions, any specific documents or plans, as well as the timing for each of these.
3. The MoLNR will also comply with the provisions of any other E&S documents required under the ESF and referred to in this ESCP, such as Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP), Stakeholder Engagement Framework (SEF), and Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEP), and the timelines specified in those E&S documents.
4. The MoLNR is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the Ministry, agency or unit referenced in 1. above.
5. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP will be monitored and reported to the Association by The MoLNR as required by the ESCP and the conditions of the legal agreement, and the Association will monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout implementation of the Project.
6. As agreed by the Association and MoLNR, this ESCP may be revised from time to time during Project implementation, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to assessment of Project performance conducted under the ESCP itself. In such circumstances, the MoLNR will agree to the changes with the Association and will update the ESCP to reflect such changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP will be documented through the exchange of letters signed between the Association and the MoLNR. The MoLNR will promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
7. Where Project changes, unforeseen circumstances, or Project performance result in changes to the risks and impacts during Project implementation, the MoLNR shall provide additional funds, if needed, to implement actions and measures to address such risks and impacts.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	REGULAR REPORTING Prepare and submit to the Association 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 documents required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, functioning of the grievance mechanism(s).	Six-monthly reporting throughout Project implementation. Quarterly summaries and internal reports on public grievances, enquiries and related incidents, together with the status of implementation of associated corrective/preventative actions, will be collated by the designated GM officer, and referred to the Project Director, Manager and Project Steering Committee.	MoLNR
B	INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS Promptly notify the Association 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 occupational health and safety incidents and accidents as a result of construction activities. Provide sufficient detail regarding 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 supervising entity, as appropriate. Subsequently, as per the Association's request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to prevent its recurrence.	Notify the Bank within 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident. A report would be provided to the Association, as requested.	MoLNR
C	CONTRACTORS MONTHLY REPORTS Contractors are required to provide monthly monitoring reports to the Project Implementing Unit (PIU). The PIU will submit contractor monthly reports to the Bank upon request.	Contractor to submit monthly progress reports to the PIU. Contractor reports to be submitted to the Bank upon request.	Contractors/MoLNR
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.1 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>Establish and maintain an organizational structure with qualified staff and resources to support management of E&S risks, including a dedicated and qualified full time Environmental and Social Specialist, one Environmental Officer and one Social Officer to provide ongoing support, advice and monitoring related to the implementation of the Project.</p>	<p>The Project Management Unit (PMU), including one Environmental and Social Specialist, one Environmental Officer and one Social Officer will be established within 30 days after Project effectiveness.</p> <p>The organizational structure, including the specialist and officers, should be maintained throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MoLNR</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.2 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT PLANS AND INSTRUMENTS/ CONTRACTORS</p> <p>a. The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is to be updated (if required), disclosed, adopted, and implemented for the Project.</p> <p>b. Screen all proposed Project activities and assess the environmental and social risks impacts of the activities in accordance with the ESMF prepared for the Project.</p> <p>c. Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement any relevant instruments, for example activities specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) based on the assessment process, in accordance with the ESMF, all in a manner acceptable to the Association. The TOR for ESIA/ESMP should be prepared in a manner acceptable to the Association. For minor civil works that does not require specific instruments based on the screening process, implement the Code of Environmental Practice (CoEP) that is part of the ESMF.</p> <p>d. Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including, inter alia, any environmental and social management plans or other instruments, ESS2 requirements, and any other required ESHS measures, into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. Thereafter ensure that the contractors comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p>	<p>a. ESMF has been prepared and shall be updated (if required), disclosed and adopted prior to commencement of relevant Project activities.</p> <p>b. All Project activities shall be screened, and environmental and social risks shall be assessed in accordance with the ESMF prior to the carrying out of the relevant Project activities.</p> <p>c. Activity/site specific ESIA or ESMPs to be prepared, disclosed and adopted prior to carrying out of the relevant Project activities. Thereafter, activities/site specific ESIA or ESMPs and CoEP to be implemented throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p> <p>d. Before the launching of procurement process for the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p>	<p>MoLNR</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.3 EXCLUSIONS: Exclude the following types of activities as ineligible for financing under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities that may cause long term, permanent and/or irreversible (e.g., loss of major natural habitat) adverse impacts; • Activities that have high probability of causing serious adverse effects to human health and/or the environment; • Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict; • Activities that may affect lands, livelihoods or rights of vulnerable groups; • Activities that may involve involuntary resettlement, land acquisition/use restriction or adverse impacts on land affixed assets or livelihoods; • Activities that may involve involuntary displacement and/or acquisition, restriction or adverse impacts on cultural heritage • Demolition or removal of assets without consultation, consent of owners of the structure and compensation for the replacement cost of the affected asset; • Construction works involving forced labor, child labor, or other harmful or exploitative forms of labor; • Activities that have potential to cause significant loss or degradation of critical natural habitats whether directly or indirectly or those that could adversely affect forest and forest health; • Activities that could affect sites with archaeological, paleontological, historical, religious, or unique natural values; • Use of goods and equipment for military or paramilitary purposes. 	<p>During the assessment process conducted under action 1.2. above.</p>	<p>MoNLR</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
<p>1.4 MANAGEMENT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES: Ensure that the consultancies, studies, capacity building, training and any other technical assistance are carried out in accordance with ESMF and terms of reference reviewed, all in a manner acceptable by the Association, that incorporate the relevant requirements of the ESSs. Ensure that any outputs from the technical assistance are consistent with the terms of reference and in accordance with the ESSs.</p>	Throughout the implementation of the Project.	MoNLR
<p>1.5 CONTINGENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE FINANCING</p> <p>a. Prepare Emergency Response Manual (ERM) to also include a description of the ESHS assessment and management arrangements including for the implementation of Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC), in accordance with the ESSs and in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p> <p>b. Prepare, disclose, consult and adopt any environmental and social (E&S) management plans or instruments which may be required for activities under Component 4 (Contingent Emergency Response) of the Project, in accordance with the ESMF, Emergency Response Manual, and the ESSs, and thereafter implement the measures and actions required under said E&S management plans or instruments, within the timeframes specified in said E&S management plans or instruments.</p> <p>c. Prepare, disclose, consult and adopt an ESMF addendum with the situation specific environmental and social risk assessment and management measures if current ESMF measures envisaged do not fit the activities of the CERC.</p>	<p>a. ERM shall be prepared before the CERC activation</p> <p>b. The E&S management plans or instruments shall be prepared, disclosed, consulted, and thereafter adopted before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities under Component 4 (Contingent Emergency Response) of the Project. The E&S management plans or instruments shall be implemented in accordance with their terms, throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>c. Prior to CERC activation</p>	MoNLR
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <p>Update (if necessary), adopt, and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) that have been developed for the Project.</p> <p>Provisions to prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) are included in the LMP for Project staff and for contracted workers in line with relevant national laws and legislation and ESS2 and adopted and applied under the Project.</p>	Labor Management Procedures shall be updated (if necessary), disclosed and adopted as part of the ESMF before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities and throughout the Project implementation period.	MoLNR
2.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</p> <p>Establish, maintain, and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.</p>	Adopt, implement and update the Grievance Redress Mechanism throughout Project Implementation.	MoLNR
2.3	<p>OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OHS) MEASURES</p> <p>Prepare activities specific ESIA or ESMPs which include OHS measures in accordance with ESMF and LMP, in a manner acceptable to the Association. Thereafter, adopt and implement the measures specified in the activities specific ESIA or ESMPs, and CoEP (for minor civil works), in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p>	<p>Prepare and disclose activities specific ESIA or ESMPs before finalization of the design and contractor procurement documents.</p> <p>Implement activities specific ESIA or ESMPs and CoEP throughout the Project implementation.</p>	MoLNR
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.2	<p>WASTE MANAGEMENT, RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT:</p> <p>Prepare activities specific ESIA or ESMPs which include waste management and material management measures in accordance with ESMF, in a manner acceptable to the Association. Thereafter, adopt and implement the measures specified in the activities specific ESIA or ESMPs and CoEP (for minor civil works), in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p>	<p>Prepare and disclose activities specific ESIA or ESMPs before finalization of the design and contractor procurement documents.</p> <p>Implement activities specific ESIA or ESMPs and CoEP throughout the Project implementation.</p>	MoLNR
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	<p>TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY:</p> <p>Adopt, implement, and update traffic and road safety measures in the ESMF through the development of a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) in the activities specific ESIA or ESMPs, in a manner acceptable to the Association. The TMP shall include measures for keeping motorists and pedestrians safe from road work areas.</p>	<p>Prepare and disclose activities specific ESIA or ESMPs before finalization of the design and contractor procurement documents.</p> <p>Implement activities specific ESIA or ESMPs throughout the Project implementation.</p>	MoLNR

4.2	COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY: Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above including, inter alia, measures to: minimize the potential for community exposure to communicable diseases; ensure that individuals or groups who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable, have access to the development benefits resulting from the Project; manage the risks of labor influx; and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment.	Throughout the Project implementation period.	MoNLR
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	ESS5 SCREENING & DUE DILLIGENCE: a. Screen, assess and exclude involuntary land acquisition, involuntary restrictions on land use or involuntary resettlement as per the exclusions list 1.3. b. Adopt, implement and document voluntary and negotiated settlements as per the process included within the ESMF prepared for the Project in a manner acceptable to the Association.	a. Throughout the Project implementation period. b. Submit due diligence for negotiated settlement for the Bank's approval and, once approved, implemented prior to commencing Project activities that involve voluntary/negotiated land acquisition, restriction or resettlement.	MoNLR
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS: Adopt and implement the biodiversity management measures specified in the ESMF and include the measures in activities specific ESIA or ESMP, in a manner acceptable to the Association. These shall include measures to avoid or minimize disturbance of natural habitats during Project design and construction.	Prepare ESIA and ESMP before finalization of the design and contractor procurement. Implement the ESIA and ESMP throughout the Project implementation period.	MoNLR
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
Not Relevant.			
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	CHANCE FINDS: Adopt, and implement the chance finds procedure described in the ESMF and include the Procedure in the activities specific ESIA or ESMPs developed for the Project.	Prepare, adopt and implement the chance find procedure before commencement of relevant activities and throughout Project implementation.	MoNLR
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES [This standard is only relevant for Projects involving Financial Intermediaries (FIs). See below a couple of examples of actions that should be considered when FIs are involved.]			

Not Relevant.			
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Update, adopt, and implement Stakeholder Engagement Framework (SEF). Prepare, disclose, adopt and implement site specific Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEP) 	Update, prepare, adopt and implement the SEF throughout Project implementation. Prepare, disclose, adopt and implement site specific SEP before relevant project activities commence.	MoNLR
10.2	PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: Prepare, adopt, maintain and operate a grievance mechanism, as described in the SEF.	Throughout the project implementation	MoNLR
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
CS1	Develop a timebound training program for PMU Environmental and Social staff, stakeholders, communities, Project workers on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction to World Bank ESF Overview of ESMF E&S Instruments Preparation, Implementation and Monitoring (ESIA/ESMP/ECOP) LMP and SEP Preparation and Monitoring Project Orientation and Risk Awareness (Project Stakeholders) Risk Awareness Orientation (Project Workers) GBV and SEA orientation 	Training program to be prepared, adopted and implementation initiated within 90 days of effective date. Trainings to be provided at regular intervals throughout the project implementation period	MoNLR/ PMU Environmental and Social Specialist