

Republic of Vanuatu

Vanuatu Affordable and Resilient Settlements Project and Additional Financing [P173278]

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

**Additional Financing - Negotiated
February 27, 2026**

FOR PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Vanuatu (the Recipient) is implementing the Vanuatu Affordable and Resilient Settlements Project (the Project), with the involvement of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MoLNR) as set out in the Original and Additional Financing Agreements (the Agreements). The International Development Association (the Association) has agreed to provide the original financing and additional financing for the Project, as set out in Agreements. This ESCP supersedes previous versions of the ESCP for the Project and shall apply both to the original and the additional financing for the Project referred to above.
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 Association. The ESCP is a part of the Agreements. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreements.
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 Agreements, the Recipient shall ensure that there are sufficient funds available to cover the costs of implementing the ESCP.
4. As agreed by the Association 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 Association and the Recipient agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Minister of MoLNR. The Recipient shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

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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 Maintain a Project Management Unit (PMU) with qualified staff and resources to support management of environmental, social, health and safety (E&S) risks and impacts of the Project including one Social and Environmental Specialist, one Social Officer and one Environmental Officer.	Maintain the PMU with qualified staff and resources to support management of E&S risks and impacts throughout Project implementation.	MoLNR
B	CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN/MEASURES Prepare and implement the following capacity building measures: • Training for PMU staff on the Asbestos Management Plan as required. • Training for PMU and contractors on Project environmental, social, health and safety (ESHS) requirements, including but not limited to the Code of Conduct, Stakeholder Engagement requirements, Occupational Health and Safety, monitoring and reporting requirements.	Training program shall be prepared, adopted and implemented initiated within 90 days of the effective date of the Additional Financing Agreement. Trainings shall be provided at regular intervals throughout the Project implementation period.	MoNLR
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
C	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).	.	MoNLR

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
		Submit six monthly reports throughout Project implementation and submit quarterly summaries and internal reports on public grievances, enquiries and related incidents, together with the status of implementation of associated corrective/preventative actions, shall be collated by the designated GM officer, and referred to the Project Director, Manager, Project Steering Committee and the Bank. no later than 10 days after the end of each reporting period.	
D	CONTRACTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS Contractors are required to provide monthly monitoring reports to the PMU. The PMU shall submit contractor monthly reports to the Association upon request.	Contractor to submit monthly progress reports to the PMU. Contractor reports to be submitted to the Association upon request.	MoNLR
E	INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS 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; 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. Arrange for an appropriate review of the incident or accident to establish its immediate, underlying and root causes. Prepare, agree with the Association, 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.	Notify the Association no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident. Provide available details upon request.	MoNLR

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
		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.	
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENTS AND/OR PLANS 1. Update, disclose, adopt and implement the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to include an e-waste management plan and updated exclusions list consistent with this ESCP and relevant ESSs. 2. Screen all proposed Project activities - including technical assistance and associated facilities - and assess their environmental and social risks and impacts, including potential cumulative and downstream impacts in accordance with the ESMF. 3. Prepare, disclose, adopt, and implement any relevant instruments, including site specific Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) or Environmental & Social Code of Practice (ESCoP) based on the assessment process set out in the ESMF. If required, prepare an ESMP and associated Asbestos Management Plan for the deconstruction of the existing MoLNR office. 4. Incorporate relevant aspects of this ESCP, including, <i>inter alia</i>, 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.	1. Adopt the updated ESMF no later than 60 days after the Effective Date of the Additional Financing Agreement and implement the ESMF throughout Project implementation. 2. All Project activities shall be screened and assessed in accordance with the Project's ESMF prior to the carrying out of the relevant Project activities. 3. Site specific instrument shall be prepared, disclosed and adopted prior to carrying out of the relevant Project activities, and shall be implemented throughout the carrying out of such activities. 4. Before the launching of procurement process for the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities.	MoNLR

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
1.2	MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, <i>inter alia</i>, relevant E&S assessments or plans, the Labor Management Procedures, and 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 that they require their 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 Association.	As part of the preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts. Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation. Copies of relevant contracts provided to the Association upon request.	MoNLR
1.3	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE Carry out the technical assistance activities, including consultancies, studies (including feasibility studies, if applicable), master planning, capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Association, that are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter review and ensure the outputs of such activities are in compliance with the terms of reference.	Throughout Project implementation.	MoNLR
1.4	CONTINGENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE FINANCING 1. Prepare the Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) Manual , including a description of the ESHS assessment and management arrangements for the implementation of CERC, in accordance with the ESSs and in a manner acceptable to the Association. 2. Implement the E&S provisions of the CERC Manual, and any assessments and plans required therein.	1. The preparation of CERC Manual in form and substance acceptable to the Association is a withdrawal condition under Section III.B.1(b) of Schedule 2 of the Agreements. 2. In accordance with the timeframes specified in the CERC Manual and any assessments and plans required therein.	MoNLR
1.5	ASSOCIATED FACILITIES Cause the Recipient to ensure that the activities in the demolition of the MoNLR building are carried out in accordance with the applicable requirements of this ESCP and the ESSs, including, the approved ESMP.	Undertake screening throughout the Project and ensure key provisions incorporated into the procurement bidding documents prior to the deconstruction of the MoLNR office.	MoNLR

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES Implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) for the Project; including provisions to prevent and manage the risks of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH).	Implement the LMP throughout Project implementation.	MoNLR
2.2	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLAN Require contractors and subcontractors to prepare and implement OHS Management Measures or Plan in accordance with the requirements of Annex 7 of the ESMF as part of the ESMP or ESCOP in a manner acceptable to the Association.	Prepare and include the OHS Management Plan prior to the commencement of activities and thereafter implement the plan throughout Project implementation.	MoNLR
2.3	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS Maintain and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.	Maintain and operate Project worker grievance mechanism throughout Project implementation.	MoNLR
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN Prepare, adopt and implement a Waste Management Plan (WMP) of all relevant types of waste as part of the ESMP prepared for the Project, to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, consistent with ESS3.	Prepare the relevant WMP as part of site ESMP/C-ESMP and thereafter implement the WMP throughout Project implementation.	MoNLR
3.2	RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the ESMPs or ESCOPs to be prepared under action 1.1 above.	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the ESMPs/ESCOPs.	MoNLR
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 ESMPs or ESCOPs to be prepared under action 1.1 above.	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the ESMPs or ESCOPs.	MoNLR

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
4.2	COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities, including, inter alia, minimize the potential for community exposure to communicable diseases and exposure to asbestos; 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 and include mitigation measures in the ESMPs or ESCOPs to be prepared under action 1.1 above.	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the ESMPs or ESCOPs.	MoNLR
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	RESETTLEMENT PLAN 1. Prepare, disclose and implement an Abbreviated Resettlement Action Plan for the resettlement of one household in Ohlen Mataso consistent with ESS5, in a manner acceptable to the Association. 2. Screen all project activities per action 1.1 above and prepare, disclose and implement a Resettlement Plan (RP) for any activity involving ESS5 impacts consistent with ESS5, in a manner acceptable to the Association.	1. Prepare, disclose and implement the ARAP prior to carrying out the relevant works at Ohlen Mataso, including ensuring that before taking possession of the land and related assets, full replacement assets and relocation assistance have been provided. 2. Prepare, disclose and implement the respective RP 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.	MoNLR
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS Assess risks to biodiversity as part of the ESMP or ESCOP preparation under action 1.1 above and implement the ESMP or ESCOP throughout implementation of the relevant Project activity.	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the ESMPs or ESCOPs.	MoNLR

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
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 site specific ESMPs or ESCOPs.	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the ESMPs or ESCOPs.	MoNLR
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES Not relevant.			
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	Adopt, and implement the updated AF Stakeholder Engagement Framework (SEF). Prepare, disclose, adopt and implement site specific Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEP)	Adopt and implement the SEF throughout Project implementation. Prepare, disclose, adopt and implement site specific SEP before relevant Project activities commence, and implement the SEPs throughout implementation of the relevant Project activities.	MoNLR
10.2	PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM Maintain, publicize, 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.	Maintain and operate the existing mechanism throughout Project implementation.	MoNLR
INDICATORS FOR IMPLEMENTATION READINESS			
The following actions are indicators for implementation readiness: 1.1.1 Update, disclose, adopt and implement the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to include an e-waste management plan and updated exclusions list consistent with this ESCP and relevant ESSs.			