Environmental Assessment and Review Framework Project Number: September 2013

Kazakhstan: Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Program

Prepared by Damu Entrepreneurship Development Fund for the Asian Development Bank.

CURRENCY EQUIVALENTS

(as of 02 September 2013)

Currency Unit	=	Kazakhstani Tenge (KZT)
KZT 1.00	=	\$ 0.0065445
\$1.00	=	KZT 152.8

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB		Asian Development Bank
EA&RF	_	Environmental Assessment and Review Framework
EIA		Environmental Impact Assessment
EMP		Environmental Management Plan
IEE		Initial Environmental Examination
MMF		Multitranche Financing Facilities
PFI		Participating Financial Institutions
PFR		Periodic financing request
RoK		Republic of Kazakhstan
SME		Small and Medium Enterprise
SPS		Safeguard Policy Statement

NOTE

In this report, "\$" refers to US dollars.

In preparing any country program or strategy, financing any project, or by making any designation of or reference to a particular territory or geographic area in this document, the Asian Development Bank does not intend to make any judgments as to the legal or other status of any territory or area.

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1. The \$500 million multitranche financing facility (MFF) for the Kazakhstan Small and Medium Enterprise Investment Program (the Investment Program) was approved by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on 29 September 2010. This is ADB's first sovereign operation that provides local currency (tenge) fixed interest rate financial intermediation loans and other support which mitigates foreign exchange, interest rate and tenor mismatch risks for participating financial institutions (PFIs) and their small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) clients. The MFF is structured to have 3 or 4 tranches.

2. The Tranche 1 project (Project 1) was financed by a T22.2 billion (\$150 million equivalent) financial intermediation loan with a fixed interest rate and 5-year bullet repayment to the Damu Entrepreneurship Development Fund (Damu), guaranteed by the Republic of Kazakhstan (RoK). The loan was relent through subloans to qualified PFIs to fund their respective market based working capital and investment loans, leases and other financing products provided to SMEs in Kazakhstan. On 26 August 2013, Damu submitted the second periodic financing request (PFR 2) under the Investment Program requesting a similar financial intermediation loan in an amount of \$150 million equivalent in tenge.

3. Tranche 1 was classified Category FI (treated as C) for environment, involuntary resettlement, and indigenous people. However, initial utilization by the PFIs was low due to their concern about compliance with ADB safeguards requirements. Specifically, the PFIs had problems in screening and categorization of the subprojects. To remedy a national environment specialist was hired in May 2012 under the related TA to (i) assist and advise Damu and the PFIs on the environmental and social safeguard issues and (ii) organize trainings on ADB safeguards requirements and procedures for screening and categorizing subprojects. As a result Damu and PFIs improved their capacity to comply with ADB safeguards requirements.

4. The Environmental Assessment and Review Framework (EARF) is proposed below in order to adequately screen, assess, review, and monitor the environmental impacts of candidate subprojects of the PFIs. It includes assessment of legal framework and institutional capacity, anticipated environmental impacts, environmental assessment for subprojects and components, consultation, information disclosure, and grievance redress, institutional responsibilities of various agencies, and monitoring and reporting.

II. ASSESSMENT OF LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

5. Any subproject selected under the MFF will be screened, classified, and assessed based on ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (2009), and environmental legislation of the RoK, and, if necessary, be reviewed and approved by ADB and the Ministry of Environmental Protection of RoK.

6. Kazakhstan's environmental protection procedures that apply prior to project approval are implemented pursuant to an Ecological Code and more than 120 norms and regulations, which define how the law must be implemented. The environmental requirements of ADB and RoK are given below.

ADB	Kazakhstan			
Screening and Categorization				
Where the FI's investments have minimal or no adverse environmental or social risks, the FI project will be treated as category C project and need not apply any other specific requirements.	Projects are classified by the 5 danger levels with 1 being the highest as defined by norms and standards developed by the Sanitary and Epidemiological Services (SES), in relation to human health and safety. The sensitivity of project			

All other FIs will be required to have in place or establish an appropriate environmental and social management system (ESMS) commensurate with the nature and risks of the FI's likely future portfolio to be maintained as part of the FI's overall management system. The ESMS will incorporate the following elements: (i) environmental and social policies; (ii) screening, categorization, and review procedure; (iii) organizational structure and staffing including skills and competencies in environmental and social areas; (iv) training requirements; and (v) monitoring and reporting.	 is measured by the SES classes of dangers. There are four categories: Category 1 projects have levels of severity/danger that trigger a full EIA. Category 2 projects are considered to have lower levels of severity/danger and as such a lesser assessment is undertaken, although still referred to as an Environmental Assessment. Category 3 and 4 projects are considered to present considerably lower risks of severity/danger as such generally do not warrant an assessment beyond the initial screening.
ources: ADB Operations Manual - Bank Policies (BP), OM Section	1 F 1/DF, 155000 011 4 March 2010

III. ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. Description of the Potential Subprojects

7. It is anticipated that future portfolio of the PFIs will include subprojects of SMEs such as retail and wholesale trade, small-scale manufacturing, service industries, ancillary industries, etc. The subprojects involve both upgrade and expansion of existing facilities and new subprojects.

B. Anticipated Environmental Impacts

8. Due to variety of subproject areas they are expected to have diverse environmental impacts characteristic of small-scale manufacturing and construction, services industry etc. It is anticipated, however, that the magnitude of the impacts will be from minimal to site-specific. The potential environmental impacts include:

• *Physical Environment.* Potential impacts to area topography are likely to occur in the construction stage due to the possibilities of small-scale cut and fill. Earth-moving operations can cause soil erosion. Potential air quality impacts of the sub-projects during the construction phase can be anticipated due to fugitive dust generation in and around construction activities, and emissions of dust, exhaust gases characteristic of small-scale manufacturing during operation phase. Fuel and lubricants can contaminate groundwater and surface water if they are not properly stored and disposed. Potential impacts are also related to wastewater. Noise and vibration impacts, generated by construction activities can affect noise-sensitive receptors such as hospitals and schools in settlements. Solid waste can be generated during construction and repair of buildings, operation of workshops, cafes, shops, etc.

• *Biological Resources.* Potential impacts related to biological resources include a risk of biodiversity loss, physical disturbance of wildlife, removal of trees, etc;

• Socio-Economic Environment. It is anticipated that potential impacts to the socioeconomic environment will be mostly positive and on income and unemployment trends. Potential impacts on archaeological, historical and cultural assets can occur due to construction activities.

IV. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR SUBPROJECTS

A. Subproject selection

- 9. The following general criteria will be adopted by PFIs for selection of the subprojects:
 - Only subproject having no, minimum, or site-specific environmental impacts (Category C and B for environment) will qualify for ADB financing; the subprojects with significant impacts to the environment (Category A for environment) will be excluded from financing;
 - (ii) The subprojects will not include those with involuntary resettlement;
 - (iii) The subprojects should only involve activities that follow all the national laws and regulations of Kazakhstan;
 - (iv) Types of projects listed in ADB Prohibited Investment Activities List (Appendix 2) do not qualify for ADB's financing.

10. Any subproject, which does not meet the general criteria listed above have to be rejected. Appendix 1 provides the Subproject Screening Checklist that should be used to define eligibility of the subproject for financing.

B. Requirements to Environmental Screening and Categorization

11. All subprojects under the MFF will be screened to determine the level of environmental risk they pose, as well as the nature and level of environmental assessment required. Environmental categorization takes into account the nature, location, sensitivity, and scale of the project, nature and magnitude of the environmental impacts, and is based on the most environmentally sensitive component of the subproject. The definition of the environmental category of the subproject is as follows:

(i) A subproject having <u>minimal or no adverse environmental impacts</u>. Examples of such projects include wholesale trade, small scale manufacture: of bakery and farinaceous products, processing and preserving of fruit and vegetables, assembly of furniture, transportation services, accommodation and food service activities, rental and leasing activities, information services, etc. No further environmental assessment for those subprojects is required.

(ii) A subproject having <u>site-specific impacts</u>, few if any of them are irreversible – Category FI (treated as B). Examples of Category FI (B) medium-scale road construction outside protected areas, medium-size manufacturing of machinery and equipment, small-scale logging, etc. An abbreviated environmental assessment and preparation of the environmental management plan will be required for those projects.

(i) A subproject having <u>significant adverse environmental impacts</u> that are irreversible, diverse, or unprecedented. Among those projects are waste-processing and disposal installations for the incineration, chemical treatment or landfill of hazardous, toxic or dangerous wastes, large-scale land reclamation, extraction of petroleum and natural gas for commercial purposes, municipal solid waste processing and disposal facilities, etc. Subprojects with significant impacts will not be allowed under the MFF.

C. Requirements to Environmental Assessments and Environmental Management Plans

12. For projects with site-specific (non-significant) environmental impacts, an SMEs at an early stage of each subproject preparation and in consultation with a PFI, will identify environmental impacts on and risks to physical, biological, socioeconomic, and physical cultural resources and determine their significance and scope, and stakeholders.

13. The SMEs will prepare an environmental management plan (EMP) that addresses the potential impacts and risks identified by the environmental assessment. The EMP will include the proposed mitigation measures, environmental monitoring and reporting requirements, emergency response procedures, related institutional or organizational arrangements, capacity development and training measures, implementation schedule, cost estimates, and performance indicators. The structure and composition of the EMP is provided in Appendix 3.

14. The SMEs should ensure that ADB be given access to undertake environmental due diligence for all subprojects. However, SMEs has the main responsibility for undertaking environmental due diligence and monitoring the implementation of environmental mitigation measures for all subprojects. The due diligence report as well as monitoring reports on implementation of the environmental management plan needs to be documented systematically and be available to the public, if requested.

V. CONSULTATION, INFORMATION DISCLOSURE, AND GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM

A. Public Consultation

15. For subprojects with site-specific impacts the SME will organize consultations with project affected people and other stakeholders. Consultation will be based on the following principles:

- (i) Early start in the subproject preparation stage and continuation throughout the project cycle;
- (ii) Timely disclosure of relevant information in a comprehensible and readily accessible to affected people format;
- (iii) Ensuring the absence of intimidation or coercion during public consultation;
- (iv) Gender inclusive and responsive with focus on disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, and
- (v) Enabling the integration of all relevant views of affected people and stakeholders into decision-making.

B. Information Disclosure

16. Environmental information for each of the subproject with more than minimal environmental impact should be disclosed to the public:

 PFIs and SMEs are responsible for ensuring that all environmental assessment documentation, including the environmental due diligence and monitoring reports for projects, are properly and systematically kept as part of an PFIs/SMEs project-specific record; (ii) Environmental Monitoring Reports are subject to public disclosure, and therefore be made available to public; and,

C. Grievance Redress Mechanism

17. In order to receive and facilitate the resolution of affected peoples' concerns, complaints, and grievances about the project's environmental performance an Environmental Grievance Redress Mechanism will be established by PFIs. When and where the need arises, the mechanism will be used for addressing any complaints that arise during the implementation of sub-projects identified under the MFF. Since small scale activities are expected a basic mechanism will be sufficient to address the likely concerns. PFIs and SMEs will inform potentially affected persons of this mechanism.

VI. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Environmental and Social Management System

18. The PFIs are required to have in place or establish an appropriate environmental and social management system (ESMS) commensurate with the nature and risks of the PFI's likely future portfolio to be maintained as part of the PFI's overall management system. The ESMS will incorporate the following elements:

- (i) environmental and social policies;
- (ii) screening, categorization, and review procedure;
- (iii) organizational structure and staffing including skills and competencies in environmental and social areas;
- (iv) training requirements; and
- (v) monitoring and reporting.
- 19. The system will be documented and agreed upon by ADB and the PFI.

B. Responsibilities

20. To prepare the subprojects and to comply with ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (2009):

(i) <u>PFIs will be responsible for:</u>

a. Preparing environmental screening checklists and categorizing subprojects in coordination with SMEs;

b. Ensuring that SME obtained all regulatory clearances before starting the subproject;

c. Preparing and submitting to the ADB an environmental monitoring report reflecting implementation of EMPs on SMEs subprojects every six months.

(ii) <u>SMEs will take the following responsibilities</u>:

a. In case of subprojects with more than minimal environmental impacts appointing or hiring an environmental specialist to prepare an EMP (outline of an environmental management plan is shown in Appendix 3);

b. Ensure that the environmental management plan, including all proposed mitigation measures and monitoring programs, are properly implemented.

c. In the case of unpredicted environmental impacts occurring during subproject implementation, provide and implement a corrective action plan in coordination with the PFI;

d. Providing awareness training in environmental management for all employees working on the subproject.

e. Ensure that meaningful public consultation be undertaken with affected groups and local NGOs

- f. Submitting the EMP to PFI as part of the approval of subproject;
- (iii) <u>ADB will take the following responsibilities</u>:

a. Review and publicly disclose environmental monitoring reports on the ADB website;

b. Monitor the implementation of the EMP and due diligence as part of overall project review mission;

c. Provide assistance to PFIs, if required, in carrying out its responsibilities and safeguard capacity building.

C. Staffing Requirements

21. Depending on the size of the PFI and nature of its business activities, the PFI will appoint a suitably qualified officer to oversee environmental and social aspects, and appoint one or more staff for day-to-day implementation of the ESMS.

VII. MONITORING AND REPORTING

22. The extent of monitoring activities, including their scope and periodicity, will be commensurate with the project's risks and impacts. PFIs are required to supervise implementation of safeguard measures and relevant safeguard plans by SMEs, and to submit periodic monitoring reports on their implementation performance. ADB will require PFIs to:

- (i) establish and maintain procedures to monitor the progress of implementation of EMPs on Category B projects;
- (ii) verify the compliance with environmental measures and their progress toward intended outcomes;
- (iii) document and disclose monitoring results and identify necessary corrective and preventive actions in the periodic monitoring reports;
- (iv) follow up on these actions to ensure progress toward the desired outcomes, and
- (v) submit periodic monitoring reports on safeguard measures as agreed with ADB.

23. ADB will carry out the following monitoring actions to supervise subprojects implementation:

- (i) conduct periodic site visits for subprojects with more than minimal adverse environmental or social impacts;
- (ii) conduct supervision missions with detailed review by ADB's safeguard specialists/officers or consultants for subprojects with significant adverse social or environmental impacts;

- (iii) review the periodic monitoring reports submitted by PFIs to ensure that adverse impacts and risks are mitigated as planned and as agreed with ADB;
- (iv) work with PFIs to rectify to the extent possible any failures to comply with their safeguard commitments, as covenanted in the legal agreements, and exercise remedies to reestablish compliance as appropriate; and
- (v) prepare project completion reports that assesses whether the objective and desired outcomes of the EMPs have been achieved, taking into account the baseline conditions and the results of monitoring.

Subproject Screening Checklist Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Criteria

SCREENING QUESTIONS	Yes	No	REMARKS	
A. Compliance with laws and/or regulations (for existing SMEs)				
Is the subproject in breach of any applicable government environmental, health, safety or social laws or regulations?				
B. ADB's Prohibited Investment Activity List				
Is any of the project activities included in ADB's list of prohibited investment activities in Appendix 1?				
C. Subprojects with high adverse environmental impacts (Category A)				
Is the subproject proposed for financing are included in the list (Appendix 4) of projects or activities which have high environmental and social risks?				
D. Potential Social Impacts				
Will the project:Use land that has been acquired for State needs?			If No, go to the next	
• Result in the removal/displacement of renters/leaseholders or informal land-users (people without legal rights on the land/squatters)?		question.		
 Cause people or any community to lose access to natural resources, traditional habitats, or communal facilities? 	엽		ineligible for financing	
• Will the subproject directly or indirectly affect ethnic minorities in the project area which (i) maintain collective attachment to distinct habitats or ancestral territories, (ii) speak a distinct language or dialect, and (iii) has been historically, socially and economically marginalized or discriminated against?				
Will the credit loan be used for:				
Duving the land, structures (husiness and residential)				
Buying the land, structures (business and residential)			If Yes, ensure supporting documents available for willing seller & willing buyer	
• Acquiring the assets/ or expansion of businesses which will result in the			transaction	
removal/ displacements of renters, leaseholders, formal and informal users of the assets			If Yes, exclude from financing	
Acquiring the assets which will cause people or any particular				
community/ groups especially for ethnic minorities or the poor to lose access to:			If Yes, exclude from	
1. natural resources,			financing	
2. traditional habitat,				
3. customary activities,				
4. communal facilities			If Yes, exclude from financing	
 Acquiring of assets./ or expansion of businesses which may facilitate/ increase the risk of: 			mancing	
1. Violation of the code labor standard, including use child labor				
 Marginalization of the ethnic minority groups in the project areas (related to their identity, dignity, livelihood system, cultural uniqueness) 				
3. Human trafficking				

- Notes: (i) The Remarks field can be used to comment on screening questions A, B, C, and D. Such comments can, for example, refer to the availability of clearance, permits, or licenses currently being requested from the concerned local government agency, or clarify that SME is not substantially involved in production of or trade in alcoholic beverages, or inform that project is located at xx km distance from a specially protected area.
 - (ii) If the answer to questions A, B, C, and D is "no", the PFI may proceed with assigning environmental category to a project.
 - project.(iii) "Subproject" in this checklist means the investment or economic activity of the SME Borrower for which an FI Loan is provided.

ADB PROHIBITED INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES LIST

The following do not qualify for Asian Development Bank financing:

- (i) production or activities involving harmful or exploitative forms of forced labor ¹ or child labor;²
- (ii) production of or trade in any product or activity deemed illegal under host country laws or regulations or international conventions and agreements or subject to international phaseouts or bans, such as (a) pharmaceuticals,³ pesticides, and herbicides,⁴ (b) ozone-depleting substances,⁵ (c) polychlorinated biphenyls⁶ and other hazardous chemicals,⁷ (d) wildlife or wildlife products regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,⁸ and (e) transboundary trade in waste or waste products;⁹
- (iii) production of or trade in weapons and munitions, including paramilitary materials;
- (iv) production of or trade in alcoholic beverages, excluding beer and wine;¹⁰
- (v) production of or trade in tobacco;¹⁰
- (vi) gambling, casinos, and equivalent enterprises;¹¹
- (vii) production of or trade in radioactive materials,¹² including nuclear reactors and components thereof;
- (viii) production of, trade in, or use of unbonded asbestos fibers;¹³
- (ix) commercial logging operations or the purchase of logging equipment for use in primary tropical moist forests or old-growth forests; and
- (x) marine and coastal fishing practices, such as large-scale pelagic drift net fishing and fine mesh net fishing, harmful to vulnerable and protected species in large numbers and damaging to marine biodiversity and habitats.

¹ Forced labor means all work or services not voluntarily performed, that is, extracted from individuals under threat of force or penalty.

² Child labor means the employment of children whose age is below the host country's statutory minimum age of employment or employment of children in contravention of International Labor Organization Convention No. 138 "Minimum Age Convention" (www.ilo.org).

³ A list of pharmaceutical products subject to phaseouts or bans is available at <u>http://www.who.int</u>

⁴ A list of pesticides and herbicides subject to phaseouts or bans is available at <u>http://www.pic.int</u>

⁵ A list of the chemical compounds that react with and deplete stratospheric ozone resulting in the widely publicized ozone holes is listed in the Montreal Protocol, together with target reduction and phaseout dates. Information is available at http://www.unep.org/ozone/montreal.shtml

⁶ A group of highly toxic chemicals, polychlorinated biphenyls are likely to be found in oil-filled electrical transformers, capacitors, and switchgear dating from 1950 to 1985.

⁷ A list of hazardous chemicals is available at <u>http://www.pic.int</u>

⁸ A list is available at <u>http://www.cites.org</u>

⁹ As defined by the Basel Convention; see http://www.basel.int

¹⁰ This does not apply to qualified SME borrowers who are not substantially involved in these activities. Not substantially involved means that the activity concerned is ancillary to a qualified SME borrower's primary operations.

 ¹¹ This does not apply to qualified SME borrowers who are not substantially involved in these activities. Not substantially involved means that the activity concerned is ancillary to a qualified SME borrower's primary operations.
 ¹² This does not apply to the purchase of medical equipment, quality control (measurement) equipment, and any

¹² This does not apply to the purchase of medical equipment, quality control (measurement) equipment, and any equipment for which ADB considers the radioactive source to be trivial and adequately shielded.

¹³ This does not apply to the purchase and use of bonded asbestos cement sheeting where the asbestos content is less than 20%.

Appendix 3

Outline of an Environmental Management Plan

EMP deals with the set of mitigation and management measures to be taken during project implementation to avoid, reduce, mitigate, or compensate for adverse environmental impacts (in that order of priority). It may include multiple management plans and actions. It includes the following key components (with the level of detail commensurate with the project's impacts and risks):

- (i) Mitigation:
 - (a) identifies and summarizes anticipated significant adverse environmental impacts and risks;
 - (b) describes each mitigation measure with technical details, including the type of impact to which it relates and the conditions under which it is required (for instance, continuously or in the event of contingencies), together with designs, equipment descriptions, and operating procedures, as appropriate; and,
 - (c) provides links to any other mitigation plans (for example, for involuntary resettlement, Indigenous Peoples, or emergency response) required for the project.
- (ii) Monitoring:
 - (a) describes monitoring measures with technical details, including parameters to be measured, methods to be used, sampling locations, frequency of measurements, detection limits and definition of thresholds that will signal the need for corrective actions; and
 - (b) describes monitoring and reporting procedures to ensure early detection of conditions that necessitate particular mitigation measures and document the progress and results of mitigation.
- (iii) Implementation arrangements:
 - (a) specifies the implementation schedule showing phasing and coordination with overall project implementation;
 - (b) describes institutional or organizational arrangements, namely, who is responsible for carrying out the mitigation and monitoring measures, which may include one or more of the following additional topics to strengthen environmental management capability: technical assistance programs, training programs, procurement of equipment and supplies related to environmental management and monitoring, and organizational changes; and
 - (c) estimates capital and recurrent costs and describes sources of funds for implementing the environmental management plan.
- (iv) Performance indicators: describes the desired outcomes as measurable events to the extent possible, such as performance indicators, targets, or acceptance criteria that can be tracked over defined time periods.