

**Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)**

for the

**Urban Networking to Complement and Extend the Reach of the Sustainable Cities IAP (SC-IAP)  
(P164635)***Draft for Consultation**March 9, 2018***Introduction**

The World Bank is providing a grant funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to the World Resources Institute, working in partnership with Local Government for Sustainability (ICLEI), a global network of 1,500 towns, cities and regions, and C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, Inc. (C40), a network of the world's megacities, in an amount of USD2,000,000 to strengthen the Global Platform for Sustainable Cities (GPSC) for more integrated and sustainable urban planning and development through city-to-city and network knowledge sharing.

While the project clearly has very positive environmental and social objectives and is low risk, the World Bank's Operational Policy OP 4.01 on Environmental Assessment has been triggered and the project classified as Category B because of technical assistance (TA) to be provided through the development of new knowledge products and adaptation of existing tools.

**Project Description**

The GPSC, implemented by the World Bank, provides a platform for knowledge sharing and collaborative engagement by cities participating in the GEF's Sustainable Cities Integrated Approach Pilot program (SC-IAP), promoting integrated urban design, planning and management, and to train, connect and provide them access to a wide range of relevant tools and knowledge. This project ("Resource Team") will support GPSC efforts by harnessing the strengths of existing city networks to increase connectivity with other city good practices and solutions as well as to inform and connect them to global policy developments. The project has **four main components**:

1. City Access Point to Resource Team services, including identification of peer-to-peer needs and opportunities; development of capacity development plans; and, delivering and documenting peer-to-peer exchanges.
2. Learning Events, Webinars and Linkages to Global Events, including provision and documentation of training workshops ("city academies") for GPSC cities; webinars; and promotional events.
3. Knowledge Management Documentation, including inputs into an urban sustainability methodology; contribute to a library of existing knowledge for the GPSC web-based technical knowledge library; and, production of new knowledge products and adaptation of existing tools for the GPSC technical library.
4. Project Management, including overall project coordination, reporting and representation.

## **Purpose and Scope of ESMF**

Because Terms of reference for some of the grant activities will be prepared during grant implementation rather than available prior to grant appraisal, this Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been proposed for the grant to set out the potential environmental and social issues that would be relevant to the proposed TA activities, the applicable principles to be incorporated, and the procedures which will be applied to ensure that safeguards are appropriately integrated into the TA work. This specifically covers knowledge and learning activities under Components 2 and 3 of the project.

## **Potential Social and Environmental Impacts**

The project involves conducting needs assessment and capacity development through knowledge sharing and development of knowledge products to promote good practice in environmental and social sustainability. This includes climate action planning and resilience planning through activities such as supporting greenhouse-gas (GHG) inventory and low-carbon infrastructure in the water and wastewater, mobility and transport, buildings, and energy sectors. The project also offers the possibility of disseminating new approaches for fostering social inclusion in infrastructure projects such as improved design for community cohesion and gender integration, for persons with disabilities, or for prevention of gender-based violence. This extends to new approaches to minimizing involuntary resettlement including in situ redevelopment and land consolidation and readjustment.

The project includes no physical works, results in no direct environmental or social impacts, and is mainly focused on knowledge sharing. However, the project does involve technical assistance through the development of new knowledge products and adaptation of existing tools (component 3), and learning events where TA would be delivered through training, sharing of good practices and other activities (component 2). Assurance is needed that these activities would mitigate possible negative environmental and social consequences from the knowledge products and learning activities, and promote positive environmental and social benefits. For example, a training workshop on transit-oriented development (TOD) should include awareness of possible negative consequences of implementing TOD plans, such as causing housing resettlement, as well as opportunities for positive benefits through project design.

## **Procedures to Address Environmental and Social Safeguards Issues**

The activity review process and other procedures specified in this ESMF will apply to Component 2 and 3 activities under the project that raise potential environmental and social issues. The following procedures are established as a framework to ensure compliance with the Bank's OP 4.01 throughout project implementation.

- A. Review of activity plans/ terms of reference. Conceptual plans for creation of new knowledge products (including web-based Webinars) or adaption of existing knowledge projects under the grant will be reviewed by the WB task team (including safeguards specialists) for safeguards issues prior to implementation of the activity.
- B. Existing knowledge products submitted by the recipient for inclusion in the GPSC web-based or other knowledge platforms will be reviewed by the WB GPSC task team for safeguards issues, drawing on review of safeguards specialists, as needed.

- C. Training workshops (“city academies”) delivered under the grant will include at least one 30-minute session sensitizing participants to the principles of WB safeguards policies. The content of the session will be reviewed by the WB task team, including safeguards specialist, before implementation. A member of the WB task team will participate in the session.
- D. The recipient will report on compliance with the ESMF in its periodic narrative reporting on grant progress, and review will be made by the WB task team as part of implementation status and completion reporting.