

Georgia

Enhancing Energy Security Through Power Interconnection and Renewable Energy Program - Phase I of a Multi-Phase Programmatic Approach (MPA) P179950

Negotiated ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

March 29, 2024

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. Georgia (the Borrower) will implement Phase 1 of the Multi-Phase Approach (MPA) Enhancing Energy Security Through Power Interconnection and Renewable Energy Program (the **Project**) with the involvement the Georgian State Electrosystem Joint Stock Company (GSE), and the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia (MoESD) as set out in the Loan Agreement and the Project Agreement. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the Bank) has agreed to provide financing for the Project, as set out in the referred agreements.
2. The Borrower 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 Bank. The ESCP is a part of the Loan Agreement and the Project Agreement. Unless otherwise defined in the ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the referred 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, 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) instruments that shall be adopted and implemented under the Project, all of which shall be subject to prior consultation and disclosure, consistent with the ESS, and in form and substance, and in a manner acceptable to the Bank. Once adopted, said E&S instruments may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Bank.
4. As agreed by the Bank and the Borrower, this ESCP will be revised from time to time if necessary, during Project implementation, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to Project performance. In such circumstances, the Borrower, through GSE, and the Bank agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Bank and the Borrower represented by the Director General of GSE. GSE shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBILITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<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, including but not limited to the implementation of the ESCP, status of preparation and implementation of E&S instruments required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the grievance mechanism.</p>	<p>Submit six-monthly reports to the Bank throughout the Project implementation, commencing after the Effective Date. Submit each report to the Bank no later than 45 days after the end of each reporting period.</p>	<p>GSE (data will be collected from service provider(s), consultant(s), and supervision firm(s))</p>
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <p>Promptly notify the Bank 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 inter alia, cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH), and accidents that result in death, serious or multiple injury, any incidental spillage that can cause pollution of land/water, expropriation issues, accidents involving workers or members of affected communities, labor issues, etc. Provide sufficient detail regarding the scope, severity, and possible causes of the incident or accident, indicating immediate measures taken or that are planned to be taken to address it, and any information provided by any service provider(s), consultant(s), and supervision firm(s), as appropriate.</p> <p>Subsequently, as per the Bank’s request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to prevent its recurrence.</p>	<p>Notify the Bank within 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident.</p> <p>Provide subsequent report within a timeframe acceptable to the Bank, as requested.</p>	<p>GSE</p>
C	<p>MONTHLY REPORTS</p> <p>Require service provider(s), consultant(s), and supervision firm(s) 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>	<p>Submit monthly reports to the Bank upon request.</p>	<p>GSE</p>

ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>Maintain organizational structure in GSE, as described in the Project Operation Manual, that is tasked with ESHS management with qualified resources to support management of ESHS risks and impact of the Project, including at least one full-time senior Environmental Specialist, one full-time senior Social Specialist, one Community Liaison Officer, and one Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Specialist designated for the Project implementation.</p>	<p>Maintain the organizational structure throughout Project implementation. Designate the specialists within 30 days from the Effective Date and maintain throughout Project implementation.</p>	GSE
1.2	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</p> <p>Ensure that the E&S instruments for subsequent phases of the MPA, the preparation of which will be financed under the Project, such as Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and Plan (ESIA/ESMP) for Overhead Transmission Lines (OHLs) in Georgia and Romania and for the undersea cable, as well as the Resettlement Policy Framework and Resettlement Action Plan for OHLs in Georgia are consistent with the relevant ESSs, the relevant national legislation, and the applicable international agreements to which the Borrower is a party.</p> <p>Ensure that the seabed studies and siting of the landing sites to be conducted under the Project adhere to the relevant national and international rules of navigation, safety at sea, and pollution prevention.</p> <p>Adopt and implement procedures satisfactory to the Bank and consistent with the ESSs and national law for the carrying out of the unexploded ordnance (UXO) survey.</p>	<p>Ensure consistency of the E&S instruments with relevant ESSs throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Ensure adherence to national and international rules throughout duration of seabed studies.</p> <p>Adopt procedures prior to commencement of the UXO survey and implement throughout Project implementation.</p>	GSE
1.3	<p>MANAGEMENT OF SERVICE PROVIDERS, CONSULTANTS AND SUPERVISION FIRMS</p>		GSE

	<p>Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), Code of Conduct, OHS, waste management, navigation safety and community health and safety measures into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with service provider(s), consultant(s) and supervision firm(s). Thereafter ensure that the service provider(s), consultant(s), and supervision firm(s) comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p>	<p>Incorporate during preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts.</p> <p>Supervise adherence throughout contract life.</p>	
1.4	<p>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE Ensure that the consultancies, seabed studies, capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project, including, inter alia, the preparation of E&S instruments for subsequent phases of the MPA, are carried out in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Bank, that are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the terms of reference.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>GSE</p>
1.5.	<p>ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO RETROACTIVE FINANCING Complete E&S Due Diligence Review to ensure that seabed surveys and the related supervision services, subject to retroactive financing, are consistent with the ESSs and adhere to the relevant national and international rules of navigation, safety at sea, and pollution prevention.</p>	<p>Before disbursement of retroactive financing.</p>	<p>GSE</p>
1.6	<p>ASSOCIATED FACILITIES Connection of the undersea cable landing point on the Romanian coast to Romania's power transmission infrastructure has been identified as an Associated Facility under ESS1 which is not under the control or influence of the Borrower. The E&S instruments to be prepared under the Project shall: (a) identify the entities responsible for those Associated Facilities and their roles; (b) assess the risks and impacts for the Project; and (c) incorporate measures for coordination with the relevant entities in Romania, including adaptive management and minimizing impacts through coordination of works.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MoESD, GSE</p>

ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <p>Adopt and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) for the Project, including, inter alia, provisions on working conditions, management of workers relationships, occupational health and safety (including personal protective equipment, and emergency preparedness and response), Code of Conduct (including relating to SEA and SH), forced labor, child labor, grievance arrangements for Project workers, and applicable requirements for service provider(s), consultant(s), and supervision firm(s).</p>	<p>Adopt the LMP within 60 days after the Effective Date and thereafter implement the LMP throughout Project implementation.</p>	GSE
2.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</p> <p>Establish and operate a grievance mechanism (GM) for Project workers as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.</p>	<p>Establish GM prior to engaging Project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.</p>	GSE
2.3	<p>OHS MEASURES</p> <p>Ensure that service provider’s undertaking seabed studies identify measures for OHS risk management based on a thorough assessment of site-specific hazards and, thereafter, develop, adopt, implement, and update periodically, as required, service provider’s OHS plans consistent with the Project LMP, in the manner acceptable to the Bank, and in compliance with the requirements of ESS2 and national legislation of Georgia.</p> <p>Ensure that service provider(s), consultant(s) and supervision firm(s) have designated staff responsible for the implementation of OHS measures.</p>	<p>Ensure that service provider(s) adopt their OHS plans prior to commencement of activities and implement these plans throughout the life of respective contracts.</p> <p>Throughout the life of respective contracts.</p>	GSE
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			

3.1	WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN Ensure that Waste Management Plan (WMP) of service provider(s) undertaking seabed studies are incorporated into their contract(s). Ensure that service provider(s) updates and implements WMP for vessels deployed for seabed studies consistent with ESS3 and good international industry practice, aligned with the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive (2008), International Safety Management Code (2010), and satisfactory to the Bank.	Ensure incorporation of WMP into service provider(s) contract prior to signing, and its update and implementation throughout the contract life.	GSE
3.2	Ensure that the E&S instruments prepared under the Project for subsequent phases of the MPA incorporate the requirements of ESS3.	Throughout Project implementation.	GSE
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	NAVIGATION SAFETY Ensure that service provider(s) undertaking seabed studies consistently adheres to the international rules and standards for the safety of navigation established by the International Maritime Organization of the UN and laid out in the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974; the Convention on the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea (COLREG), 1972; and the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW), 1978.	Throughout seabed studies contract life.	GSE
4.2	COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY Ensure the service provider(s) raises awareness of employees on risks related to and measures for mitigation of impacts on local communities (such as interference of seabed study vessel navigation with operations of community fishermen).	Throughout seabed studies contract life.	GSE
4.3	Ensure that the E&S instruments to be prepared under the Project for subsequent phases of the MPA incorporate requirements of ESS 4.	Throughout Project implementation.	GSE
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	RESETTLEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK AND PLANS	Throughout Project implementation.	GSE

	Ensure that the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) to be prepared under the Project for subsequent phases of the MPA incorporate the requirements of ESS 5.		
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	Ensure that the E&S instruments for subsequent phases of the MPA to be prepared under the Project incorporate the relevant requirements of ESS 6.	Throughout Project implementation.	GSE
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
Not relevant			
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	Ensure that the E&S instruments for subsequent phases of the MPA to be prepared under the Project incorporate the relevant requirements of ESS 8, including applicable chance finds procedures	Throughout Project implementation.	GSE
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
Not relevant			
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN Adopt and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Project, consistent with ESS10, which shall include 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.	Adopt SEP within 60 days after the Effective Date and implement throughout Project implementation.	GSE
10.2	PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM Establish, publicize, maintain, 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.	Adopt Project GM within 60 days after the Effective Date and operate it throughout Project implementation.	GSE

	The GM 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.		
CAPACITY SUPPORT			
CS1	<p>Deliver training for GSE staff on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder mapping and engagement - Implementation of SEP, LMP, and ESCP - Procedures and plans relating to UXO studies - Specific aspects of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment relevant for laying an undersea cable 	Prior to commencement of seabed studies and thereafter as required.	GSE
CS2	<p>Require service provider(s), consultant(s) and supervision firm(s) the delivery of training to contracted workers on their LMP, OHS, and Code of Conduct, and awareness rising about their contractual rights and obligations.</p> <p>Require service provider(s) and supervision firm(s) involved in seabed studies the delivery of training to contracted workers on the procedures and plans relating to UXO studies.</p>	<p>Full training and awareness session within a month after hiring employees and thereafter at least once a year.</p> <p>Prior to commencement of UXO studies.</p>	GSE