

Republic of Moldova

Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development

Ministry of Finance

State Road Administration

Custom Service of the Republic of Moldova

[Version for Negotiations]

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL
COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)**

Moldova Rural Connectivity Project (P180153)

March 22nd , 2024

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Moldova (the Borrower) will implement the Moldova Rural Connectivity Project (the Project), with the involvement of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) through the Moldova Custom Service (MCS), and of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development (MIRD) and the State Roads Administration (SRA), as set out in the Loan Agreement. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the World Bank), has agreed to provide financing for the Project, as set out in the referred agreement.
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 World Bank. The ESCP is a part of the Loan Agreement. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the referred agreement.
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 World Bank. Once adopted, said E&S instruments may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the World Bank.
4. As agreed by the World 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 and the World Bank agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the World Bank and the Borrower represented by the [Minister of xxx].

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTING</p> <p>Prepare and submit to the World 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(s); contractor management; summary of any incidents and accidents in relation to the project; monitoring and coordination in relation to Associated Facilities (as detailed in action 1.6 below).</p> <p>MCS shall submit its reports for its Respective Parts of the Project to the SRA Project Implementing Unit (PIU), which in turn shall consolidate all reports before submitting to the World Bank.</p>	<p>Submit quarterly reports to the World Bank throughout Project implementation, commencing after the Effective Date.</p> <p>Submit each report to the World Bank within 15 days after the end of each reporting period.</p> <p>MCS shall submit its reports to the SRI PIU no later than [7] days after the end of each reporting period.</p>	<p><i>State Road Agency (SRA)</i></p> <p><i>MCS submits reports to the SRA PIU; SRA consolidates reports and submits to the World Bank.</i></p>
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <p>Promptly notify the World 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. 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 contractor and/or supervising firm, as appropriate.</p> <p>Subsequently, at the World Bank’s request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to address it and prevent its recurrence.</p>	<p>Notify the Bank within 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident.</p> <p>Provide subsequent report to the World Bank within a timeframe acceptable to the World Bank.</p>	<p><i>SRA & MOF through MCS</i></p>

C	<p>CONTRACTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS</p> <p>Require contractors and supervising firms 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 World Bank.</p>	<p>Submit the monthly reports to the World Bank as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action A above.</p>	<p><i>SRA & MOF THROUGH MCS shall require the reports from the contractors; SRA PIU shall consolidate reports and send to the World Bank as specified under Action A above.</i></p>
<p>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</p>			
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>Establish and maintain the following Project Implementation Units (PIU) with qualified staff and resources to support management of E&S, including Occupational Health & Safety (OHS), risks and impacts of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Within SRA, the PIU will include: one environmental specialist, one social specialist, one health & safety, one resettlement specialist. b) Within MCS, the PIU shall include at least one social and one environmental specialist. <p>SRA PIU shall have responsibility for integrating and consolidating all Project reports for submission to the World Bank, as set out in action A above. The MCS shall implement the Project in close coordination with SRA as set out in the Operational Manual.</p> <p>Maintain the Inter-Ministerial Council and Technical Group as set out in the Loan Agreement, including, inter alia, members from MOF, MIRD, SRA, and MCS which shall have among their primary responsibilities, supporting the coordinated implementation of the E&S aspects of the Project.</p>	<p>Establish and maintain the PIUs as set out in the Loan Agreement. Hire or appoint the environmental, social, resettlement and health & safety specialists prior to the Effective Date, and thereafter maintain these positions throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Throughout Project implementation</p> <p>Throughout Project implementation</p>	<p><i>MoF through MCS, MIRD, and SRA</i></p>

<p>1.2</p>	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</p> <p>For Part 1 of the Project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Adopt and implement the site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for road corridor C-8, that has been prepared consulted, reviewed by the bank, and disclosed, and adopted prior to appraisal, consistent with the relevant ESSs, and the relevant Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs). 2. Prepare, consult, disclose, adopt, and implement a site-specific ESMP for each of C-24 and C-5 road corridors, based on the detailed design, consistent with the relevant ESSs and EHSGs. 3. Prepare, consult, disclose, adopt, and implement an Environmental and Social Management Framework for Component A.2 and A.3 of the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs. <p>For Part 2 of the Project:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Disclose, Adopt the preliminary Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) covering activities under Part 2 of the Project related to the three Border Crossing Points (BCPs) listed in paragraph 4 below. 5. Prepare disclose, consult upon, adopt, and implement full site-specific ESIAs which shall include site-specific ESMPs and ESMP Checklists, based on feasibility studies, detailed design, and the Preliminary ESIA, for activities under Part 2 of the Project related to the following BCPs: a) Leuseni b) Giurgiulesti c) Ungheni, consistent with the relevant ESSs, and the Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Apply C8_ESMP throughout project implementation. 2. Prior to launching the bidding process for the respective works contracts. Once adopted, implement the respective ESMPs throughout Project implementation. 3. Prepare, disclose, consult, adopt within 90 days of the effective date. Implement the ESMF throughout project implementation. 4. Apply Preliminary ESIA throughout implementation. 5. Prepare, disclose, consult upon, and adopt prior to launching the bidding process for the respective works contracts. Once adopted, implement the respective ESMPs throughout Project implementation. 	<p><i>Part 1: SRA</i></p> <p><i>Part 2: SRA & MOF through MCS</i></p>
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1.3	<p>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</p> <p>Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the relevant E&S instruments, the Labor Management Procedures, and code of conduct, into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply and cause subcontractors to comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p>	<p>As part of the preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts. Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p><i>SRA & MOF through MCS</i></p>
1.4.	<p>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</p> <p>Ensure that consultancies, studies (including feasibility studies), capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project are carried out in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the World Bank, that are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter, ensure that the outputs of those activities comply with the terms of reference.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementations</p>	<p>SRA and MOF through MCS</p>
1.5	<p>CONTINGENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE</p> <p>a) Ensure that the CERC Manual includes a description of the ESHS assessment and management arrangements including, if applicable, any ESIA Addendum that will be included or referred to in the CERC Manual for the implementation of the CERC Part of the Project, in accordance with the ESSs.</p> <p>b) Adopt any environmental and social (E&S) instruments which may be required for activities under the CERC Part of the Project, in accordance with the CERC Manual and thereafter implement the measures and actions required under said E&S instruments, within the timeframes specified in said E&S instruments.</p>	<p>a) The adoption of the CERC manual and, if applicable, other instruments, as relevant in form and substance acceptable to the World Bank is a withdrawal condition under Section I.B of Schedule 2 of the Loan Agreement for the Project.</p> <p>b) Adopt any required E&S instrument and include it as part of the respective bidding process, if applicable, and in any case, before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities for which the E&S instrument is required. Implement the E&S instruments in accordance with their terms, throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p><i>MoF</i></p>

<p>1.6</p>	<p>ASSOCIATED FACILITIES</p> <p>1. BCP UNGHENI <i>The new bridge in Ungheni (Zagarancea) and BCP in Romania</i> over the Prut River from Romania are considered Associated Facilities being carried out by the Government of Romania. These Associated Facilities are not under control or influence of the Borrower. The relevant ESIA/ESMPs listed in action 1.2 above shall: (a) identify the entities responsible for these Associated Facilities and their roles; (b) assess the risks and impacts for the Project; and (c) incorporate measures for coordination with relevant entities in Romania, including adaptive management and minimizing impacts through coordination of works.</p> <p>2. BCP LEUSENI Solution for a new bridge in Leuseni over the Prut River from Romania are considered Associated Facilities carried out by the Governmental of Romania. These Associated Facilities are not under control or influence of the Borrower. The relevant ESIA/ESMPs listed in action 1.2 above shall: (a) identify the entities responsible for these Associated Facilities and their roles; (b) assess the risks and impacts for the Project; and (c) incorporate measures for coordination with relevant entities in Romania, including adaptive management and minimizing impacts through coordination of works.</p>	<p>Include measures in relevant ESIA/ESMPs and thereafter implement throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p><i>SRA & MOF through MCS</i></p>
<p>1.7</p>	<p>ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO RETROACTIVE FINANCING</p> <p>Activities subject to retroactive financing which include works shall be subject to E&S implementation audit and amendments to works contracts, to identify required actions to ensure that such activities meet the requirements of the ESSs. Any remedial measures resulting from the audit to ensure consistency with the ESSs shall be implemented. Activities subject to retroactive financing comprising studies or assessments shall be subject to review and clearance by the World Bank to ensure that such studies meet the requirements of the ESSs.</p>	<p>Contract retrofitted to include E&S requirements, E&S implementation audit completed and required remedial measures implemented Prior to disbursing funds for activities subject to retroactive financing.</p>	<p><i>SRA & MOF through MCS</i></p>

ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES 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 contractors, subcontractors, and supervising firms. The LMP was prepared, consulted, reviewed by the bank, and disclosed, and adopted prior to Project Appraisal.	Implement the LMP throughout Project implementation.	<i>SRA & MOF through MCS</i>
2.2	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS Establish, operate and maintain a grievance mechanism for Project workers , as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.	Establish grievance mechanism prior to engaging Project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.	<i>SRA & MOF through MCS</i>
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	WASTE MANAGEMENT, RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT Incorporate waste management, resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the ESMPs to be prepared under the Project, including, inter alia, measures to address noise and dust emissions and the generation of wastes and wastewater, including hazardous and non-hazardous waste, underground water pollution, all in manner consistent with ESS3.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESMPs under Action 1.2 above.	<i>SRA & MOF through MCS</i>
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND			
4.1	TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY Incorporate measures to assess and manage traffic and road safety risks as required in the site-specific ESIA's and/or ESMP/ESMP Checklists , to be prepared under action 1.2 above.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESIA's, ESMPs and ESMP Checklists under action 1.2 above.	<i>SRA & MOF through MCS</i>

4.2	<p>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</p> <p>Assess, consult and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities during construction and operational phases, including, inter alia, behavior of Project workers and freight truck operators, risks of labor influx, communicable diseases (i.e., COVID-19, AIDs/HIV), response to emergency situations, and include mitigation measures in the site specific ESIA, ESMPs, and ESMP Checklists to be prepared for the site-specific investments in under action 1.2 above.</p>	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESIA, ESMPs, and ESMP Checklists under action 1.2 above.	<i>SRA & MOF through MCS</i>
4.3	<p>SEA AND SH RISKS</p> <p>Prepare, consult, disclose, adopt, and implement a SEA/SH Action Plan, to assess and manage the risks of SEA and SH of the project, and incorporate relevant mitigation measures into site specific instruments under action 1.2.</p>	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs and ESMP Checklists under action 1.2 above.	<i>SRA & MOF through MCS</i>
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	<p>RESETTLEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK</p> <p>Adopt and implement a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) for the Project, consistent with ESS5. The RPF has been prepared, consulted, reviewed by the Bank, and disclosed prior to Project Appraisal. The RPF will guide the screening and assessment of all project investments sites and land registration activities for impacts covered under ESS5 and as deemed necessary, Resettlement Action Plans (RAP) will be prepared, consulted, disclosed, and implemented per the RPF.</p>	Implement the RPF throughout Project implementation.	<i>SRA & MOF through MCS</i>
5.2	<p>RESETTLEMENT PLANS</p> <p>Prepare, disclose, consult upon, adopt, and implement resettlement action plans (RAP) for each activity under the Project for which the RPF requires such RAP, consistent with ESS5.</p>	Adopt and implement the respective RAP 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	<i>SRA & MOF through MCS</i>

		have been resettled and moving allowances have been provided.	
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
	The site-specific ESMPs for Component A and for Component B will further assess any possible impacts and instituting mitigation measures to ensure that project activities do not negatively impact any critical or sensitive natural habitat, wetlands, or biodiversity and living natural resources. In the event that significant risks and adverse impacts to biodiversity and habitats are identified, the Borrower will prepare a biodiversity management plan (BMP) either as a standalone document or as part of the construction ESMP.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs and ESMP Checklists	<i>SRA & MOF through MCS</i>
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
	Not relevant		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	CULTURAL HERITAGE RISKS AND IMPACTS Adopt and implement a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) as part of the site-specific ESMPs /ESMPs Checklist consistent with ESS8.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs/ESMP Checklists under action 1.2 above.	<i>SRA & MOF through MCS</i>
8.2	CHANCE FINDS Describe and implement chance finds procedures in the site specific ESMPs/ESMP Checklists under action 1.2 above.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs/ESMP Checklists under action 1.2 above.	<i>SRA & MOF through MCS</i>
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
9.1	Not currently relevant		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION a) 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. The SEP	a). Implement the SEP throughout Project implementation.	<i>SRA & MOF through MCS</i>

	<p>has been prepared, consulted, reviewed by the Bank, disclosed, and adopted prior to Project Appraisal.</p> <p>b) Update and redisclose the SEP to include the criteria and process for financing community-identified investments under Part 2 of the Project, and thereafter implement this Part of the Project as per the detailed procedures outlined in the SEP and Project Operations Manual.</p>	<p>b). Update and redisclose SEP within three (3) months from Effective Date</p>	
10.2	<p>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Establish the grievance mechanism prior to the Effective Date, and thereafter maintain and operate the mechanism throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>SRA & MOF through MCS</p>
CAPACITY SUPPORT			
CS1	<p>Provide training, as needed, and as specified in the POM, to relevant SRA and MCS PIUs’ teams staff, stakeholders, communities, contractors on basic ESF and related environmental and social issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder engagement and grievance mechanisms • OHS, including on emergency prevention and preparedness and response arrangements to emergency situations. • Environmental and social assessments • Labor influx, community health and safety • Labor working conditions and associated monitoring • SEA/SH awareness and Codes of Conduct • Monitoring and reporting, and any other relevant topics, as specified in the POM. 	<p>Within one (1) month of the hiring of environmental and social specialists. For project workers, the training modules shall be provided once site specific contracts are awarded and prior to start implementation of the relevant activities</p>	<p>MIRD, MoF SRA & MCS</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community capacity building to heighten awareness of risks and to mitigate impacts as outlined in the SEP.		
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