

GOVERNMENT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS

**Community Access and Urban Services
Enhancement Project II (CAUSE II)
P181295**

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

**Version: Final Draft
10th June 2024**

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Solomon Islands (the Recipient) will implement the Community Access and Urban Services Enhancement Project II (the Project), with the involvement of the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and the Honiara City Council as Implementing Agencies, as set out in the Financing Agreement. The Association has agreed to provide financing (P181295) for the Project, as set out in the referred agreement.
2. The Recipient shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the World Bank (WB) 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 Financing Agreement and forms an integral part of the legal obligations of the Recipient. 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 Recipient 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 WB ESS, and in form and substance, and in a manner acceptable to the Association. Once adopted, said E&S instruments may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Association.
4. As agreed by the Association and the Recipient, this ESCP shall 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 Recipient, through the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and the Honiara City Council, and the Association agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Recipient. The Recipient, through the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and the Honiara City Council, shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTING</p> <p>The Recipient shall 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 Environment and Social (E&S) instruments required under the ESCP (such as the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Labour Management Procedures (LMP), and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)), stakeholder engagement activities, functioning of the grievance mechanism, and any other ESHS plans prepared for Project Activities.</p>	<p>Submit six (6) monthly reports to the Association throughout Project implementation, commencing three (3) months after Project effectiveness. Submit each report to the Association no later than 45 days after the end of each reporting period.</p>	PMU
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <p>The Recipient shall promptly notify the Association 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), child endangerment, 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 Association’s request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to address it and prevent its recurrence.</p>	<p>Minor incidents will be reflected in the six (6) monthly reports to the Association, major incidents will be reported to the Association within 48 hours¹.</p> <p>A report will be provided to the Association, as requested.</p>	PMU
C	<p>CONTRACTORS’ MONTHLY REPORTS</p> <p>The Recipient shall 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 Association.</p>	<p>Submit the monthly reports to the Association as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action A above.</p>	PMU

¹ Major incidents/accidents must be reported in accordance with the World Bank Safeguards Incident Response Toolkit’ (SIRT). The SIRT outlines the requirements for reporting GBV cases and has a protocol that defines incident severity and reporting requirements.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>1) The Recipient shall maintain a combined Project Management Unit (PMU) (representing the Honiara City Council (HCC) and the Ministry of Infrastructure Development (MID)), resourced with qualified staff and resources to support the management of ESHS risks and impacts of the project.</p> <p>2) The Recipient shall recruit an Environmental and Social (E&S) Officer and a Senior Environmental and Social (E&S) Specialist, that are tasked with carrying out the ESHS risks and impacts management tasks described in the ESCP, ESMF, LMP, and SEP. The terms of references (TORs) for these positions must be acceptable to the Association.</p> <p>3) The Recipient shall retain, or establish new, Project Implementation Units (PIU) in the provinces, resourced with qualified staff, including community liaison officers (CLOs), and resources to oversee implementation of subprojects on the ground.</p>	<p>1) Throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>2) The E&S Officer and Senior E&S Specialist shall be recruited no later than three (3) months of the effective date of the Financing Agreement for the Project (the effective date), and thereafter maintained throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>3) Within six (6) months of the effective date and thereafter maintained throughout Project implementation.</p>	MID and HCC
1.2	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</p> <p>1) The Recipient shall adopt and implement an ESMF for the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs. The PMU shall use the screening process included in the ESMF to screen activities for eligibility and E&S risks and impacts, prior to commencement of specific project activities. Any additional E&S management plans prepared, such as Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs), Hazardous Waste Management Plans, Borrow Pit Management Plans, and/or Batching Plant Management Plans, shall be developed, consulted on, disclosed, and implemented during Project implementation as determined through the E&S screening process, and prior to commencement of the bidding process for any physical works.</p>	<p>1) Disclose the draft ESMF prior to appraisal. Finalize and disclose the final ESMF within 30 days of the effective date and adopt the ESMF as part of the negotiation package, prior to project effectiveness, and thereafter implement the ESMF throughout Project implementation. The PMU to review the E&S screening process after six (6) months of the effective date. Plans to be developed, adopted, and disclosed prior to commencement of the bidding process for any physical works.</p>	PMU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	<p>2) The Recipient shall submit all screening forms and site-specific instruments, such as ESIA/ESMPs prepared for Component 1 activities, for no-objection by the Association prior to finalization, to ensure consistency with the WB Environment and Social Framework (ESF) and relevant Solomon Island legal and Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) requirements.</p>	<p>2) Submit all screening forms and ESIA/ESMPs for Component 1 activities to the Association for no-objection.</p>	
1.3	<p>EXCLUSION LIST</p> <p>The following type of activities shall not be eligible for financing under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-projects that are located in protected area where construction is not allowed as per national laws; • Cause negative significant impact on sensitive ecosystems / habitats, or cause significant environmental impacts that cannot be mitigated, or require complex mitigation measures; • Involve significant conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats (e.g., protected areas), or environmental gains do not outweigh potential losses; • Activities that would lead to conversion or degradation of critical forest areas and clearing of forests or forest ecosystems; • Activities affecting protected areas (or buffer zones thereof), other than to rehabilitate areas damaged by previous natural disasters; • Activities that will cause, or have the potential to result in, permanent and/or significant damage to nonreplicable cultural property, irreplaceable cultural relics, historical buildings and/or archaeological sites; • Loss or damage to cultural property, including sites having archaeological (paleontological, historical, religious, cultural, and unique natural values); • Do not meet minimum design standards with poor design or construction quality, particularly if located in vulnerable areas; • Investments that may have potential to increase water use conflict between upstream and downstream population; • Investments that have civil works involving child or forced labour; • Activities that present a considerable sexual exploitation, abuse, and sexual harassment (SEA/SH), gender-based violence (GBV), child endangerment, and/or violence against children (VAC) risk; • Activities that increase erosion/land slide risks; 	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>PMU</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploitation of limited/non-renewable natural resources (such as ground water); • Activities proposed for land with existing disputes or caveat; and • Activities that cause significant physical and economical displacements. 		
<p>1.4 MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</p> <p>The Recipient shall incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the relevant E&S instruments, the LMP, 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>The Recipient shall cause all contractors and subcontractors to follow activity level E&S instruments as defined through the screening process set out in the ESMF.</p>	<p>As part of the preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts, before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the carrying out of such activities.</p> <p>During implementation, before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities.</p>	<p>PMU</p>
<p>1.5 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</p> <p>The Recipient shall screen technical assistance (TA) activities to ensure that they will not support negative downstream and cumulative impacts included in the exclusion list and reflect key E&S aspects and risks and mitigation measures including WB ESF and relevant Solomon Island legal, and GIIP requirements in consultancy TORs for consultancies, studies, capacity building, training, and any other TA activities under the Project. The Recipient shall review TA outputs to ensure consistency with WB ESF and relevant Solomon Island legal and GIIP requirements.</p> <p>The Recipient shall submit any consultancy TORs and outputs for no-objection by the Association, prior to finalization to ensure consistency with WB ESF and relevant Solomon Island legal and GIIP requirements.</p>	<p>TA activities are carried out consistent with the WB ESSs, Solomon Island law, and GIIP throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Submit any consultancy TORs and outputs to the Association for no-objection during project implementation, as they are developed.</p>	<p>PMU</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
ESS 2: LABOUR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOUR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <p>The Recipient shall adopt and implement the LMP for the Project, including 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 provisions relating to GBV, SEA/SH, child exploitation and abuse), sexually transmitted infections (STIs), forced labour, a mandated age verification procedure for all workers, grievance arrangements for Project workers, incident reporting, and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors, and supervising firms.</p>	<p>Disclose the draft LMP prior to appraisal. Finalize the LMP and disclose the final LMP within 30 days of the effective date and adopt the LMP as part of the negotiation package, prior to project effectiveness and thereafter implement the LMP throughout Project implementation.</p>	PMU
2.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</p> <p>The Recipient shall review and update the grievance mechanism (GM) for Project workers and use it to receive and resolve issues related to labour and working conditions. The Project Worker GM shall be able to receive complaints of a sensitive nature, including those about GBV, SEA/SH, child endangerment, VAC, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.</p>	<p>Update the Project worker GM within 60 days of the effective date and monitor the Project Worker GM throughout Project Implementation.</p>	PMU
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	<p>RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</p> <p>1) The Recipient shall adopt and implement an ESMF which shall include measures to screen for and manage solid and liquid wastes and other types of hazardous and non-hazardous wastes associated with proposed Project activities.</p> <p>2) The Recipient shall screen Component 1 activities and develop, consult on, disclose, and implement Hazardous Waste Management Plans, Borrow Pit Management Plans, and/or Batching Plant Management Plans, as defined through the screening process. The Recipient shall submit any site-specific instrument developed for no-objection by the Association prior to finalization, to ensure consistency with the WB ESF and relevant Solomon Island legal and GIIP requirements.</p>	<p>1) Disclose the draft ESMF prior to appraisal. Finalize and disclose the final ESMF within 30 days of the effective date and adopt the ESMF as part of the negotiation package, prior to project effectiveness, and thereafter implement the ESMF throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>2) Submit all site specific instruments for Component 1 activities to the Association for no-objection.</p>	PMU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	<p>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</p> <p>The Recipient shall use the ESMF to screen, assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community consistent with ESS4 arising from Project activities, including, inter alia, increases in GBV, SEA/SH, and safety risks, the potential for labour influx and worker spread of STIs, HIV/AIDS, Covid-19, and other infectious diseases and viruses, GBV, SEA/SH, child endangerment, or VAC incidents perpetrated between project workers or by workers toward community members, and/or lack of universal access in infrastructure design.</p>	Disclose the draft ESMF prior to appraisal. Finalize and disclose the final ESMF within 30 days of the effective date and adopt the ESMF as part of the negotiation package, prior to project effectiveness, and thereafter implement the ESMF throughout Project implementation.	PMU
4.2	<p>UXO CHANCE FINDS</p> <p>An unexploded ordnance (UXO) chance finds procedure will be included as part of the ESMF of the Project.</p>	Disclose the draft ESMF prior to appraisal. Finalize and disclose the final ESMF within 30 days of the effective date and adopt the ESMF as part of the negotiation package, prior to project effectiveness, and thereafter implement the ESMF throughout Project implementation.	
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	<p>RESETTLEMENT PLAN</p> <p>The Recipient shall adopt and implement the Project in accordance with the abbreviated resettlement plan (RP), consistent with ESS5, that shall be prepared for the Project and included as an annex to the ESMF. The Recipient shall use the RP to guide consultation measures that the project will put in place during any land dispute or land issues.</p>	Disclose the draft RP as part of the ESMF prior to appraisal. Finalize and disclose the RP within 30 days of the effective date and adopt the RP as part of the negotiation package, prior to project effectiveness, and thereafter implement the Project in accordance with the RP throughout Project implementation.	PMU

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ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	<p>BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS</p> <p>The Recipient shall adopt and implement an E&S screening procedure as part of the ESMF consistent with ESS6. The included E&S screening procedure shall dictate the exclusion of activities that may impact critical natural or high value biodiversity habitats.</p>	<p>Disclose the draft ESMF prior to appraisal. Finalize and disclose the final ESMF within 30 days of the effective date and adopt the ESMF as part of the negotiation package, prior to project effectiveness, and thereafter implement the ESMF throughout Project implementation.</p>	PMU
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
7.1	<p>The key requirements of ESS7 and relevant elements of an IPP (e.g. culturally appropriate mechanisms of engagement) will be included in the SEP and ESMF.</p>	<p>Disclose the draft ESMF prior to appraisal. Finalize and disclose the final ESMF within 30 days of the effective date and adopt the ESMF as part of the negotiation package, prior to project effectiveness, and thereafter implement the ESMF throughout Project implementation.</p>	PMU
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	<p>CULTURAL HERITAGE RISKS AND IMPACTS</p> <p>The Recipient shall adopt and implement an E&S screening procedure as part of the ESMF consistent with ESS8. The included E&S screening procedure shall dictate the exclusion of activities that may significantly affect sites with archaeological, paleontological, historical, religious, or unique natural values.</p>	<p>Disclose the draft ESMF prior to appraisal. Finalize and disclose the final ESMF within 30 days of the effective date and adopt the ESMF as part of the negotiation package, prior to project effectiveness, and thereafter implement the ESMF throughout Project implementation.</p>	PMU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
8.2	<p>CHANCE FINDS</p> <p>A chance finds procedure will be included as part of the ESMF of the Project.</p>	<p>Disclose the draft ESMF prior to appraisal. Finalize and disclose the final ESMF within 30 days of the effective date and adopt the ESMF as part of the negotiation package, prior to project effectiveness, and thereafter implement the ESMF throughout Project implementation.</p>	PMU
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION</p> <p>The Recipient shall update, disclose, adopt, and implement a SEP for the Project, consistent with ESS10 (in acceptable manner to the Association), 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.</p>	<p>Disclose the draft SEP prior to appraisal. Finalize and disclose the final SEP within 30 days of the effective date and adopt the SEP as part of the negotiation package, prior to project effectiveness, and thereafter implement the SEP throughout Project implementation.</p>	PMU
10.2	<p>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</p> <p>The Recipient shall update the GM for the CAUSE I project and then operate and maintain the GM 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 GM shall be equipped to receive, register, and facilitate the resolution of SEA/SH, GBV, child endangerment, and/or VAC complaints, including through the referral of survivors to relevant GBV service providers, all in a safe, confidential, and survivor-centered manner.</p>	<p>Update the GM prior to appraisal. Finalize the GM and disclose the final GM within 30 days of the effective date and adopt the GM as part of the negotiation package, prior to project effectiveness and thereafter implement the GM throughout Project implementation.</p>	PMU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
CAPACITY SUPPORT			
CS1	<p>The Recipient shall ensure that staff, stakeholders, project participants, and communities are trained on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of Project’s E&S instruments and respective mitigation measures. • The Project’s GM, including the processes for handling sensitive complaints such as GBV, SEA/SH, child endangerment, and VAC incidents. • Sub-component activity environmental and social screening processes. • SEP and good practices related to engaging stakeholders in an ethical and responsive way. • LMP including the project worker GM. • Occupational health and safety. • Community health and safety including UXO chance finds. • SEA/SH and GBV risk management. • Child Protection and VAC risk management. • Other (to be determined according to needs). 	Six (6) months after the effective date and thereafter during project implementation.	PMU
CS2	<p>The Recipient shall ensure that Project workers receive training on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Project’s GM. • LMP including the project worker GM. • Occupational health and safety. • Community health and safety including UXO chance finds. • SEA/SH and GBV risk management. • Child Protection and VAC risk management. • Other (to be determined according to needs). 	Six (6) months after the effective date and thereafter during project implementation.	PMU