



Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

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Ministry of Public Works and Transport

# Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)

Climate Resilient Road Connectivity Improvement Project

Prepared by:

Department of Road (DOR)

June 16, 2024

1. Lao PDR (the Recipient) will implement the Climate Resilient Road Connectivity Improvement Project (“the Project”), with the involvement of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) through the Department of Road as set out in the Financing Agreement. The International Development Association (the Association) has agreed to provide financing 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 relevant 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. 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 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 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 Recipient through Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) and the Association agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Minister of Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT). The Recipient shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p><b>REGULAR REPORTING</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a part of its regular project reporting, 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 environmental and social E&amp;S documents required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the grievance mechanism (GRM).</li> </ul>	<p>Submit bi-annual and annual reports to the Association throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Submit each report to the Association no later than 10 business days after the end of each reporting period.</p>	MPWT - PMU
B	<p><b>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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, road traffic related accidents on the Project roads, cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH), and accidents that result in death, serious or multiple injury and other incidents occurred in the Project construction sites or related to Project-financed civil works and activities.</li> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Notify the Association within 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident.</p> <p>Provide subsequent reports to the Association within a timeframe acceptable to the Association.</p>	MPWT - PMU
C	<p><b>CONTRACTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require contractors and supervising firms to provide a monthly summary on ESHS performance in the monthly progress reports in accordance with the metrics specified in the respective bidding documents and contracts, and submit such reports to the Association.</li> </ul>	<p>Submit a monthly summary on ESHS performance in the monthly progress reports and quarterly reports on ESHS performance to the Association upon request as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action A above.</p>	Contractors and supervising firms through MPWT - PMU
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
1.1	<p><b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appoint and maintain one (1) focal point to handle E&amp;S aspects at the PMU of MPWT; and one (1) focal point to handle E&amp;S aspects at the Project Implementing Unit (PIU) of each Department of Public Works and Transport (DWPT) in the Targeted Provinces to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project.</li> <li>Recruit and mobilize one (1) qualified senior Environmental and Social Consultant (SESC) on a part time basis, one (1) qualified Environmental and Social Consultant (ESC) on a full-time basis.</li> </ul>	<p>Appoint one E&amp;S focal point at MPWT-PMU and one E&amp;S focal point at each PIU/DPWT within 30 days of the Effective Date, and thereafter maintain such focal points throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Recruit one qualified SESC on a part time basis, and one qualified ESC on a full time basis within 90 days of the Effective Date, and thereafter maintain such SESC/ESC throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MPWT - PMU</p> <p>DPWTs - PIU</p>
1.2	<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</b></p> <p>(1) Update, adopt and implement, in a manner acceptable to the Association, Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).</p> <p>(2) Prepare and implement site-specific environmental and social assessments and Environmental and Social Management Plans (SS-ESMPs) for each site-specific Project activity or subproject as set out in the ESMF. Any proposed subprojects described in the exclusion list set out in the ESMF shall be ineligible to receive financing under the Project.</p>	<p>(1) A ESMF has been prepared and disclosed before Project appraisal. Update and adopt the ESMF before commencement of Project activities and thereafter implement the ESMF throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>(2) Adopt the SS-ESMP prior to the start of site-specific Project activities or subprojects, and thereafter implement the SS-ESMP throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MPWT - PMU</p>
1.3	<p><b>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</b></p> <p>(1) Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the relevant E&amp;S</p>	<p>(1) As part of the preparation of procurement documents and</p>	<p>MPWT - PMU</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	<p>instruments such as SEP, LMP, RPF and ESMF into the SS-ESMPs and include the SS-ESMPs as ESHS requirements in 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>(2) Require all contractors at their own costs to prepare, submit and implement the site-specific Contractor's ESMPs (C-ESMPs) in compliance with the approved SS-ESMPs.</p>	<p>respective contracts.</p> <p>(2) Within 30 days upon the contract award and thereafter Supervise contractors' implementation of their C-ESMPs throughout Project implementation.</p>	Contractors
1.4	<p><b>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</b></p> <p>Ensure that the consultancies and 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 Association, that are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the terms of reference.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	MPWT - PMU
1.5	<p><b>CONTINGENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE FINANCING</b></p> <p>(1) Ensure that the Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) Manual includes a description of the ESHS assessment and management arrangements for CERC activities. The CERC manual shall be included as an addendum to the ESMF for the implementation of Component 4 in accordance with the ESSs.</p> <p>(2) Adopt any environmental and social (E&amp;S) instruments which may be required for activities under Component 4 of the Project, in accordance with the CERC-ESMF Addendum and the ESSs, and thereafter implement the measures and actions required under said E&amp;S instruments, within the timeframes specified in said E&amp;S instruments.</p>	<p>(1) The adoption of the CERC Manual in form and substance acceptable to the Association is a withdrawal condition under Section III.B.1(b) of Schedule 2 of the Financing Agreement for the Project.</p> <p>(2) Adopt any required E&amp;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&amp;S instrument is required. Implement the E&amp;S instruments in accordance with their terms, throughout Project</p>	MPWT - PMU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
		implementation.	
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p><b>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 that relating to SEA and SH), forced labor, child labor, grievance redress arrangements for Project workers, and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors, and supervising firms in accordance with ESS2.</li> </ul>	Adopt the LMP before engaging Project workers and thereafter implement the LMP throughout Project implementation.	MPWT - PMU DPWTs - PIU Contractors Supervising firms
2.2	<p><b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR WORKERSS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish, maintain, and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2. The Recipient shall manage grievances from direct workers as described in the LMP and ensure that contractors designate relevant staff to manage their workers' GRM.</li> </ul>	Establish grievance mechanism prior to engaging Project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.	MPWT - PMU DPWTs - PIU Contractors Supervising firms
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	<p><b>WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt and implement a Waste Management Plan (WMP) as part of SS-ESMPs and C-ESMPs, to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, consistent with ESS3.</li> </ul>	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the SS-ESMPs and C-ESMPs	MPWT - PMU DPWTs - PIU Contractors Supervising firms
3.2	<p><b>RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures shall be incorporated and implemented as part of the SS-ESMPs and C-ESMPs to be prepared under actions 1.2 &amp; 1.3 above.</li> </ul>	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the SS-ESMPs and C-ESMPs	MPWT - PMU DPWTs - PIU Contractors

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
			Supervising firms
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	<p><b>TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks as required in the SS-ESMPs and C-ESMPs to be prepared under actions 1.2 and 1.3 above.</li> </ul>	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the SS-ESMPs and C-ESMPs.	MPWT - PMU DPWTs - PIU Contractors Supervising firms
4.2	<p><b>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess and manage specific risks and impacts on the community arising from subproject activities including, inter alia, behavior of Project workers, risks of labor influx, and response to emergency situations, as part of the SS-ESMPs and C-ESMPs to be prepared in accordance with the ESMF.</li> </ul>	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the SS-ESMPs and C-ESMPs.	MPWT - PMU DPWTs - PIU Contractors Supervising firms
4.3	<p><b>SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE AND SEXUAL HARRASSMENT (SEA/SH) RISKS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt and implement a Code of Conduct on SEA/SH as part of the SS-ESMPs and C-ESMPs, to assess and manage the risks of SEA and SH.</li> </ul>	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the SS-ESMPs and C-ESMPs.	MPWT - PMU DPWTs - PIU Contractors Supervising firms
4.4	<p><b>UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (UXO)</b></p> <p>Adopt and implement UXO risk management protocol for subprojects that involve risk of UXO. Ensure that the required budget for UXO survey and disposal (UXO Clearance) are in place.</p>	Obtain UXO Clearance certificate from the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) for the specified sub-project site prior to commencement of any construction activities. Reporting on this shall be included in the six-monthly regular reporting. Implement the UXO risks	MPWT - PMU DPWTs - PIU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
		management protocol and make the required budget available throughout the Project implementation.	
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	<p><b>RESETTLEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt and implement a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) for the Project, consistent with ESS5.</li> </ul>	A RPF has been prepared and disclosed before Project appraisal. Adopt the RPF prior to commencement of civil works, and thereafter implement the RPF throughout Project implementation.	MPWT - PMU DPWTs - PIU
5.2	<p><b>RESETTLEMENT PLANS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt and implement an abbreviated resettlement action plan (ARAP), as applicable, for each site-specific Project activity or subproject under the Project for which the RPF requires such ARAP, as set out in the RPF and consistent with ESS5, in a manner acceptable to the Association. All land acquisition and resettlement related costs shall be financed through Recipient's counterpart funding.</li> </ul>	Adopt and implement the respective ARAP in accordance with the RPF before the commencement of any civil works and before any displacement takes place, including ensuring that before taking possession of the land and related assets, full compensation has been provided and (as applicable) displaced people have been resettled and moving allowances have been provided.	MPWT - PMU DPWTs - PIU
5.3	<p><b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Project, via the DWPTs in the Targeted Provinces, shall ensure that the ARAPs include details on the Project Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM), which shall also be available to receive any Project related resettlement or compensation complaints and feedback. The MPWT-PMU shall maintain operational GRMs throughout the lifetime of the Project as outlined in the RPF. The Recipient shall ensure the designation of relevant staff to manage the GRM as described in the RPF.</li> </ul>	Prior to civil works and/or any land acquisition and throughout Project implementation	MPWT - PMU DPWTs - PIU
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
6.1	<p><b>BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt and implement site-specific Biodiversity Management Plan (SS-BMP) as part of SS-ESMPs and C-ESMPs, in consistent with the ESMF and ESS6.</li> <li>The Project shall not finance road improvement activities that could provide access to critical or other natural habitats such as wildlife sanctuaries and protected areas or that may cause deforestation.</li> </ul>	Adopt the SS-BMP prior to construction of any structures that may affect biodiversity, and thereafter implement the SS-BMP throughout Project implementation.	MPWT - PMU DPWTs - PIU Contractors Supervising firms
<b>ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>			
7.1	<p><b>ETHNIC GROUP DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt and implement Ethnic Group Development Framework (EGDF) requirements for the Project as part of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), SS-ESMPs and C-ESMP, consistent with ESS7.</li> </ul>	Adopt the EG requirements as part of SEP, SS-ESMPs and C-ESMPs prior to the carrying out of any subprojects and activities affecting EGs, and thereafter implement the EG requirements as part of SEP, SS-ESMPs and C-ESMPs throughout Project implementation.	MPWT - PMU DPWTs - PIU Contractors Supervising firms
7.3	<p><b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish and implement the grievance mechanism to address complaints submitted by EGs as described in the SEP.</li> </ul>	Prior to carrying out any Project activities affecting EGs, and implement throughout the Project implementation	MPWT - PMU DPWTs - PIU Contractors Supervising firms
<b>ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>			
8.1	<p><b>CULTURAL HERITAGE RISKS AND IMPACTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt and implement a Chance Find Procedure as part of the SS-ESMPs and C-ESMPs, consistent with ESMF and ESS8.</li> </ul>	Adopt the Chance Find Procedure prior to the carrying out of any subprojects and thereafter implement the Chance Find Procedure throughout Project implementation.	MPWT - PMU DPWTs - PIU Contractors Supervising firms

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	<p><b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) which includes ethnic considerations 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.</li> </ul>	A draft SEP has been prepared and disclosed before Project appraisal. Update and adopt the SEP prior to the carrying out of any Project activities and thereafter implement the SEP throughout Project implementation.	MPWT - PMU DPWTs - PIU Contractors Supervising firms
10.2	<p><b>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Establish the grievance mechanism prior to the carrying out of any Project activities and thereafter maintain and operate the mechanism throughout Project implementation.	MPWT - PMU DPWTs - PIU Contractors Supervising firms
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
CS1	<p>Implement the capacity building outlined in section 5.5 of the ESMF including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ESMF and approach</li> <li>Preparation of SS-ESMPs, SS-BMPs and ARAP (if needed) in accordance with the ESCP, ESMF, RPF and SEP</li> <li>Preparation, implementation, monitoring and reporting of Contractor's ESMP (C-ESMP) in accordance with the approved SS-ESMP, SS-BMP and SEP</li> <li>Biodiversity impacts, mitigation &amp; monitoring</li> <li>E&amp;S compliance monitoring and reporting</li> </ul>	At least one month before starting the civil works and throughout implementation of road works.	Association and ESF consultants MPWT - PMU DPWTs - PIU Contractors

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incident and accident reporting</li> <li>• Application of LMP, including OHS, CHS, Worker Code of Conduct, incident reporting (ESIRT), SEA/SH, COVID-19 and also other types of (air, water and waste) born communicable diseases and possible outbreak.</li> <li>• UXO Management</li> <li>• Application of SEP and the grievance/beneficiary feedback mechanism</li> </ul>		Supervising firms