



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Ministry of Public Works and Transport

**The Southeast Asia Regional Economic Corridor and Connectivity
(SEARECC) Project
(P176088)**

Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP)

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(EDPD)

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ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

1. Lao PDR (herein after the **Recipient**) is implementing the Southeast Asia Regional Economic Corridor and Connectivity (SEARECC) (“the **Project**”), with the involvement of the following Ministries: (a) The Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) through the Department of Planning and Cooperation (DPC) which will be responsible for all civil works under the Project; (b) MAF, which will be responsible for institutional and operational capacity development in agricultural trade facilitation; (c) Customs Department under the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and the Department of Import and Export under the MOIC, which will be responsible for implementing Customs and trade facilitation activities through the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) and Provincial Trade Facilitation Committee (PTFC); (d) Ministry of Public Security (MoPS), which will be responsible for overall border facility management and security, immigration and border crossings, and relevant provincial authorities involved in roads improvement and maintenance, dry-ports development, cross-border facility management, management of private sector investment, and ensuring consistency between national regulations and local practices of border facility operation. The International Development Association (the **Association**) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Recipient will implement material measures and actions so that the Project is implemented in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs). This Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) sets out material measures and actions, any specific documents or plans, as well as the timing for each of these.
3. The Recipient will also comply with the provisions of any other E&S documents required under the ESF and referred to in this ESCP, such as Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Ethnic Groups Engagement Framework (EGEF), Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEP), and related plans that are prepared (ESMPs, RAPs, EGEPs) and the timelines specified in those E&S documents.
4. The Recipient is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the Ministry, agency or unit referenced in para 1 above.
5. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP will be monitored and reported to the Association by the Recipient as required by the ESCP and the conditions of the legal agreement, and the Association will monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout implementation of the Project.
6. As agreed by the Association and the Recipient, this ESCP may be revised from time to time during Project implementation, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to assessment of Project performance conducted under the ESCP itself. In such circumstances, the Recipient will agree to the changes with the Association and will update the ESCP to reflect such changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP will be documented through the exchange of

letters signed between the Association and the Recipient, through MPWT. The Recipient will promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

7. Where Project changes, unforeseen circumstances, or Project performance result in changes to the risks and impacts during Project implementation, the Recipient shall provide additional funds, if needed, to implement actions and measures to address such risks and impacts, which may include environmental, health, and safety impacts, labor influx and land acquisition.

Summary of the Material Measures and Actions to Mitigate the Project's Potential Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts		Timeframe	Responsible Entity/Authority
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 E&S documents required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, functioning of the grievance mechanism (GRM). 	<p>Quarterly, throughout project implementation.</p> <p>Annual progress report, throughout the project implementation.</p>	MPWT
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare and operationalize the Incident Reporting Mechanism 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 road traffic related accidents on the project roads and other incidents occurred in the project construction sites or related to project financed civil works. Provide sufficient detail regarding 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 supervising entity, as appropriate. Subsequently, as per the Association's request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to prevent its recurrence. 	<p>Within three months after the project effectiveness (prior to the start of construction works)</p> <p>Notify the Association within 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident; a report will be provided within 3 business days after the incident or accident.</p>	Component Management Units (CMUs) in each ministry (MAF, MOIC, MOPS, MPWT) will be responsible within their components and will report through the MPWT PMU.
C	<p>CONTRACTORS MONTHLY REPORTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit monthly monitoring report summarizing the implementation of environmental and social (ES) mitigation measures, to the DPWT. 	Monthly (and upon request by the Association)	Contractors (and by MPWT to the Association upon

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MPWT to submit such monthly reports to the Association upon request. 		request)
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and maintain two (2) focal persons to handle E&S concerns (one for each) at the PMU of MPWT; and 1 focal person to handle E&S concerns in each of the CMUs in MOIC, MAF, MOPS and MPI. Also assign one (1) focal person for E&S at the DWPTs of the 5 provinces. The PMU, CMUs and DWPTs shall comprise qualified staff, to ensure proper management of the E&S risks. The MPWT at the national level will hire and mobilize one (1) Social Safeguard Consultant and one (1) Environmental Safeguard Consultant that would provide capacity building and trainings to these E&S focal persons. 	<p>MPWT PMU, including the two focal points, will be established within 30 days of project effectiveness. Focal persons at DWPTs and CMUs, and two staff hired by MPWT will be in place within 90 days after project effectiveness.</p> <p>The organizational structure will be maintained throughout the project implementation.</p>	MPWT; MOIC; MAF; and MOPS,
1.2	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update, adopt and implement, in a manner acceptable to the Association, the E&S documents as follows: Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) – which includes a Preliminary-Environment and Social Impact Assessment (Pre-ESIA) and Labor Management Procedures (LMP) – Ethnic Groups Engagement Framework (EGEF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and any other future plans. The MPWT will conduct the Feasibility Study (FS) and Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) (which will include identification of direct, indirect, cumulative and transboundary impacts) and prepare and implement its associated Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) and any other documents 	<p>Throughout project implementation.</p> <p>The FS/ESIA to start in early 2022. All plans to be prepared, consulted and disclosed prior to the start of site-specific project activities.</p> <p>The CERC ESMF</p>	MPWT

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	<p>required (RAPs, EGEPs, LMP, SEP and any other action plans) for the works and activities supported by the SEARECC project, following the screening procedures, assessment protocols and measures described and agreed in the ESMF and the other instruments prepared for the project (EGEF, SEP, RPF). The ESIA/ESMP will develop site specific environmental and social clauses to be included in the tender documents to ensure implementation by contractors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A CERC-ESMF that is incorporated in the SEARECC ESMF will be finalized by MPWT following completion of the CERC Operation Manual. 	<p>addendum should be prepared and its procedures followed prior to activating the CERC.</p> <p>During 6 months after project effectiveness.</p>	
1.3	<p>MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screen any proposed subprojects in accordance with the ESMF prepared for the Project, and thereafter, draft, adopt and implement the subproject ESMPs, RAPs, EGEPs and any other plans, as required, in a manner acceptable for the Association. The TORs for project's technical assistance activities (technical studies, institutional strengthening and update of legal framework) will be reviewed by the Association prior to procurement/start of activities for no objection, to ensure that ESF requirements are effectively integrated. Potential risks and impacts associated with any downstream activities will be considered through these TORs. 	<p>Throughout the project implementation and prior to the start of relevant project activities</p> <p>Prior to the procurement/start of activities</p>	<p>MPWT and DWPT at the Provincial level</p> <p>TORs will be submitted to the Association by each Component Management Units and PMU</p>
1.4	<p>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including the relevant E&S documents and/or plans, and the Labor Management Procedures, into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents with contractors. Thereafter ensure that the contractors comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts. The MPWT will require all contractors and subcontractors at their own costs to implement the following procedures included in the bidding documents and contracts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction ESMPs (CESMPs): Requirements for the preparation and 	<p>ESHS specifications to be included in bidding documents and contractor's contracts</p> <p><i>Throughout Project implementation</i></p>	<p>The MPWT PMU and CMUs will be responsible for bid and contract preparation to ensure relevant E&S documents are included.</p>

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	<p>implementation of CESMPs following the ESIA/ESMP prepared by the government and the ToR/contracts to builders which are satisfactory to the Association.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Social commitments on child labor; GBV; SEA/SH and VAC ○ Work plan and Timeline ○ Labour Management and Health and Safety procedures as required in the LMP ○ Standard working procedures/methodologies ○ Workers Code of Conduct (CoC) ○ Workers GRM ○ Training plan ○ Communication plan as agreed in the SEP that incorporate COVID19 communication measures ○ GBV and SEA/SH Action Plan ○ ESHS Action Plan ○ Contingency/Emergency Plan ○ Submission of monthly reports on the CESMPs implementation including accidents, grievances and any other issues affecting construction (lack of water, permits delay, etc). 		DWPTs at the Provincial level and Contractors
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update, adopt, and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) that have been developed for the Project. • A Code of Conduct (CoC) in line with the LMP will be included in all contracts for project workers. 	Throughout the Project Implementation	MPWT PMU, CMUs Contractors
2.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish, maintain, and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as 	Grievance mechanism	

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	described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2. The government will manage grievances from direct workers as described in the LMP and ensure that contractors designate relevant staff to manage their workers' GRM.	operational prior to engaging Project workers and maintained throughout Project implementation	MPWT PMU Contractors
2.3	<p>OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OHS) MEASURES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare, adopt, and implement occupational, health and safety (OHS) measures specified in the ESMP, including Covid-19 prevention measures. 	Before the start of civil works and throughout project implementation.	MPWT PMU; MOIC; MOPS and MAF Contractors
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN: Prepare, adopt, and implement an Waste Management Plan as part of works contracts, as envisaged by subproject ESMPs under actions 1.2 and 1.3 above.	Same timeframe than for the preparation and implementation of the ESMPs	MPWT PMU, CMUs, DPWT and Contractors
3.2	<p>RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures will be covered under the ESMP to be prepared under action 1.2 above. 	Same timeframe than for the preparation and implementation of the ESMPs	MPWT PMU Contractors
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	<p>TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For management of traffic and road safety, the government will ensure that Contractors develop and implement a site-specific traffic management plan (as part of the C-ESMP), alternates routes and time of travel, affected roads, etc. The plan must be shared with the local traffic authorities and spread into the community in forms (printed, radio or other means) and time periods to agree with the contractors. The plan will be developed in a way to avoid peak rush hours, to ensure traffic control by 	The requirement for traffic and road safety will be part of the bidding documents. The plan will be reviewed and approved by the MPWT before project activities start.	Contractors

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	placing adequate flagmen and signs (following international standards and diamond quality) along the route, only trained drivers employed, and vehicle safety is regularly inspected.	Contractors budget implementation of ESIA/ESMPs needs to be reflected in their financial and technical proposal	
4.2	<p>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project will ensure that contractors implement measures and actions to manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities. The ESIA and / or ESMP will include measures to protect community health and safety consistent with the requirements in the ESF and ESMF, including to prevent and avoid: traffic accidents, disease transmission and, SEA/SH, VAC and GBV, Covid19 and other zoonotic diseases outbreaks that can increase risk to communities and workers, among others risks which will be included these measures in the ESMPs to be prepared in accordance with the ESMF and in a manner acceptable to the Association. 	<p>FS/ESIA work (including ESMPs) starting in early 2022.</p> <p>Prior to tendering respective works, and throughout the project implementation</p> <p>Contractors budget implementation of ESIA/ESMPs needs to be reflected in their financial and technical proposal</p>	<p>MPWT; DPWT, MOIC, MPOS and MAF</p> <p>Contractors</p>
4.3	<p>GBV, SEA/SH and VAC RISKS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update, adopt, and implement a Gender-Based Violence Action Plan (GBV Action Plan) as required in the ESMPs based on the ESMF to assess and manage the risks of gender-based violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) and Violence Against Children (VAC). Engage and involve in the implementation GBV, SEA/SH and VAC service providers 	<p>FS/ESIA work (including ESMPs) starting in early 2022.</p> <p>Prior to tendering respective works, and throughout the project implementation.</p>	<p>MPWT; MOIC; MAF; and MOPS</p>

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ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	<p>RESETTLEMENT PLANS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare, consult, adopt, disclose and implement Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs) consistent with the requirements of the RPF, ESS5, and national legislation and aligned with ESMF and ESIA findings and implement the respective RAPs before carrying out the associated activities, in a manner acceptable to the Association. Full compensation will be paid to affected households/ persons before any civil works is implemented and/or displacement takes place. 	<p>FS/ESIA work (including detailing land acquisition needs and preparation of RAPs) starting in early 2022.</p> <p>Prior to displacement and/or civil works.</p>	MPWT; DPWT
5.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project, via the DWPTs in the provinces, will ensure that the RAPs include details on the Project Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM), which will also be available to receive any Project related resettlement or compensation complaint and feedback. The MPWT PMU will maintain operational GRMs throughout the lifetime of the Project as outlined in the RPF. The government will ensure the designation of relevant staff to manage the GRM as described in the RPF. 	Prior to civil works and/or any land acquisition and throughout implementation	MPWT
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	<p>BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare, adopt, and implement a stand-alone Biodiversity Management Plan, in accordance with the guidelines of the ESIA prepared for the Project, and in a manner acceptable to the Association. The project will not finance road improvement that could provide access to critical habitats such as wildlife sanctuary and protected areas or may cause deforestation. 	<p>Submit for the Association's prior approval: three months after Project effectiveness, prior to construction of structure that may affect biodiversity.</p> <p>Once approved the plan is implemented throughout Project implementation.</p>	MPWT

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ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES [See examples of possible actions below, if determined that ESS7 is relevant].			
7.1	<p>INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FRAMEWORK:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare, adopt, and implement Ethnic Group Engagement Plan (EGEPs) consistent with the requirements of the Ethnic Group Engagement Framework (EGEF) that has been prepared for the Project and ESS7, in a manner acceptable to the Association. FS/ESIA will conduct screening of Ethnic Groups in the subprojects and prepare EGEPs as needed. Subprojects prepared after the FS/ESIA stage should also follow screening and other measures as detailed in the EGEF. 	Based on the EGEF, if EGEPs need to be prepared, submit to the Association for approval prior to the carrying out of the relevant activity and implement throughout project implementation.	MPWT
7.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare, consult, adopt, and implement the arrangements for the grievance mechanism for Ethnic Groups, as required under the EGEF and further describe such arrangements in the respective EGEPs (if the grievance mechanism is distinctive from the one established under ESS10). The government will ensure the designation of relevant staff to manage the GRM as described in the SEP/EGEF. The established Grievance Redress Committee (GRC) for each Component will ensure women representation by allocating at least 1-2 women members for the committee positions. 	Based on the IPPF and implement throughout the project implementation	MPWT; MOIC; MAF; and MOPS
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	<p>CHANCE FINDS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare, adopt, and implement the chance finds procedure described in the ESMP developed for the Project. 	Throughout Project implementation	MPWT

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ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update, adopt, and implement Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP). 	SEP prepared and disclosed prior to project appraisal. Implement throughout Project implementation	MPWT
10.2	PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project will ensure that the arrangements for the Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRMs) covering all sub- projects as described in the ESMF, SEP, RPF, EGEF and LMP are implemented for all project components. Furthermore, the government will develop a communication plan for the grievance redress mechanism to ensure that potential PAPs and communities are aware of its existence and familiar with the process for submitting grievances to such grievance mechanism. The government will ensure the designation of relevant staff to manage the GRM as described in the SEP. 	Prior to commencement of the Project activities. Maintained throughout Project implementation	MPWT; MOIC; MAF; and MOPS
10.3	COMMUNICATION PLAN: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Project will develop and disclose all E&S instruments and the project grievance/ feedback management process for project affected people that ensures transparency, prompt feedback and accessibility without costs implications as required by ESS10 and outlined in SEP, ESMF, LMP; EGEF and RPF. 	<i>Prior to commencement of the Project activities.</i>	MPWT
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
CS1	Some key trainings, but not limited to, will be provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the capacity building outlined in section 6.10 of the ESMF. 	Six months after effectiveness.	MPWT and E&S Consultants

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMU staff at national and provincial level (and implementation support consultants) and EDPD/PTRI of MPWT-to be provided by E&S consultants: Basic requirements of ESF ESSs, including specific requirements of ESMPs, RPF, ESMF, EGEF, RAP, ESHS, EGEP, LMP, OHS, VAC, SEP and GRM. • Contractors, sub-contractors and site supervisors/engineers of contractors/sub-contractors and implementation support consulting firm. Training to be provided by the E&S Coordinator of MPWT, on the requirements of ESF ESSs on the E&S risks at the level of contractors, sub-contractors and supervision consultants, including ESHS, OHS, RAP, EGEF, EGEP, LMP, SEA/SH, VAC, SEP and GRM • Communities: Road safety, SEA/SH, VAC, SEP and GRM, and basic ESMPs and ESMF of the project. • Contractors and their subcontractors, with oversight of the supervision consultants and DWPTs, to ensure all workers of contractors and their Sub-contractors sign Codes of Conduct for the contractors' workers and trained on requirements of Codes of Conduct including ESHS, OHS, GBV, SEA/SH, VAC, LMP, SEP and GRM. • Sectoral implementing agencies (MAF responsible for agricultural value chains, and biodiversity and forest conservation, customs department of MOF, Department of Import and Export of MOIC, and MOPS): mitigation measures and management plans for indirect/cumulative/transboundary impacts 	<p>At least one month before starting the civil works.</p> <p>At least one month before starting the civil works.</p> <p>At least one month before starting the civil works and throughout implementation of road works.</p>	<p>MPWT and E&S Consultants</p> <p>Contractors</p> <p>Supervision consultants. DPWTs</p>