**Eswatini Water Services Corporation**

**Eswatini Water Supply and Sanitation Access Project – Additional Financing and Original Financing (P166697)**

**ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL**

**COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)**

**Negotiated**

**June 9, 2025**

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN**

1. The Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini (the Borrower) is implementing the Eswatini Water Supply and Sanitation Access Project (Project), with the involvement of the Eswatini Water Services Corporation, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Energy as the parent ministry and the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development as the project finance coordinating Ministry, as set out in the Original and Additional Financing Loan Agreement (the Agreements). The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (the Bank), has agreed to provide the original financing and additional financing for the Project, as set out in Agreements. This ESCP supersedes previous versions of the ESCP for the Project and shall apply both to the original and the additional financing for the Project referred to above.
2. The Borrower shall ensure that the Project is carried out in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) and this Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), in a manner acceptable to the Bank. The ESCP is a part of the Agreements. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreements.
3. Without limitation to the foregoing, this ESCP sets out material measures and actions that the Borrower shall carry out or cause to be carried out, including, as applicable, their respective timeframes; institutional, staffing, training, monitoring and reporting arrangements; and grievance management. The ESCP also sets out the environmental and social (E&S) documents that shall be prepared or updated, consulted, disclosed and implemented under the Project, consistent with the ESSs, in form and substance acceptable to the Bank. Said E&S documents may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Bank. As provided for under the referred Agreements, the Borrower shall ensure that there are sufficient funds available to cover the costs of implementing the ESCP.
4. As agreed by the Bank and the Borrower, this ESCP will be revised from time to time, if necessary, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes or unforeseen circumstances or in response to Project performance. In such circumstances, the Bank and the Borrower agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Bank and the Borrower’s Representative specified in the Agreements. The Borrower shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
5. The subsection on “Indicators for Implementation Readiness” below identifies the actions and measures to be monitored to assess Project readiness to begin implementation in accordance with this ESCP. Nevertheless, all actions and measures in this ESCP shall be implemented as set out in the “Timeframe” column below irrespective of whether they are listed in the referred subsection.

| **MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS** | | **TIMEFRAME** | **RESPONSIBLE ENTITY** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND CAPACITY SUPPORT**[[1]](#footnote-1) | | | |
| A | **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**  a. Maintain the organizational structure in the PIU with qualified staff and resources to support management of environmental, social, health and safety (E&S) risks and impacts of the Project including a Social Specialist, an Environmental Specialist, and an occupational health and safety specialist.  b. Retain the consultant(s) to assist the team, stipulated in (a) to manage E&S risks and impacts of the Project during the construction phase | a. Maintain a PIU throughout Project implementation.  b. Retain the consultant throughout the Project construction phase. | EWSC/ PIU |
| B | **CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN/MEASURES**  Implement the following capacity building measures:   * Train contractors and PIU on occupational health and safety including emergency preparedness and response measures, SEA.SH and grievance mechanisms. | Implement training throughout project implementation | EWSC/PIU |
| **MONITORING AND REPORTING** | | | |
| C | **REGULAR REPORTING**  Prepare and submit to the Bank regular monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health and safety (E&S) performance of the Project. The reports shall include:   * Status of preparation and implementation of E&S documents required under the ESCP. * Summary of stakeholder engagement activities carried out as per the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. * Complaints submitted to the grievance mechanism(s), the grievance log, and progress made in resolving them. * E&S performance of contractors and subcontractors as reported through monthly contractors’ and supervision firms’ reports. * Number and status of resolution of incidents and accidents reported under action E below. | Submit quarterly reports to the Bank throughout Project implementation. Submit each report to the Bank no later than 15 days after the end of each reporting period. | EWSC/PIU |
| D | **CONTRACTORS’ MONTHLY REPORTS**  Require contractors and supervising firms to provide monthly monitoring reports on E&S performance in accordance with the metrics specified in the respective bidding documents and contracts and submit such reports to the Bank. | Submit these and when requested by the Bank reports to the Bank as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action C above. | EWSC/PIU |
| E | **INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS**  Notify the Bank of any incident or accident relating 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 those resulting in death or significant injury to workers or the public; acts of violence, discrimination or protest; unforeseen impacts to cultural heritage or biodiversity resources; pollution of the environment; dam failure; forced or child labor; displacement without due process (forced eviction); allegations of sexual exploitation or abuse (SEA), or sexual harassment (SH); or disease outbreaks. Provide available details of the incident or accident to the Bank upon request.  Arrange for an appropriate review of the incident or accident to establish its immediate, underlying and root causes. Prepare, agree with the Bank, and implement a Corrective Action Plan that sets out the measures and actions to be taken to address the incident or accident and prevent its recurrence. | Notify the Bank no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident. Provide available details upon request.  Provide review report and Corrective Action Plan to the Bank no later than 10 days following the submission of the initial notice, unless a different timeframe is agreed to in writing by the Bank. | EWSC/PIU |
| **ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS** | | | |
| 1.1 | **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENTS AND/OR PLANS**  1. Implement the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), and corresponding Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for Part 1 of the Project consistent with the relevant ESSs.  2. Implement an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) for Part 2 of the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs.  3. Retain valid permits and licenses as required for the project and monitor compliance. | 1. Implement the ESIA and ESMP throughout Project implementation.  2. Implement the ESMP throughout Project implementation.  3. Retain throughout Project implementation | EWSC/PIU |
| 1.2 | **MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS**  Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the relevant E&S assessments and plans, including those in sections 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 4.2, 5.1, 10.1 and 10.2 into the E&S specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply and that they require their subcontractors to comply with the E&S specifications of their respective contracts. Provide copies of the relevant contracts with contractors/subcontractors and supervision firms to the Bank/Association. | As part of the preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts.  Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation]. Copies of relevant contracts provided to the Bank upon request. | EWSC/PIU |
| **ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS** | | | |
| 2.1 | **LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES**  Implement and maintain the following instruments, prepared for the Project (previously prepared and disclosed):   1. Code of Conduct, which includes emphasis on respectful workplace behavior with provisions about SEA/SH; 2. Labor Management Procedure (LMP), with provisions and training to manage HIV/AIDS and sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH. Employ a qualified institution to conduct training and awareness on HIV/AIDS, SEA/SH, including awareness of grievance redress /feedback processes for reporting GBV cases; 3. Security Personnel Management Plan to manage the risks to human security that could arise from the use of security personnel hired by the project, including contractors and subcontractors. Ensure that Construction Contractor(s) prepare, implement and maintain a contract-specific Code of Conduct, LMP and provisions based on the Borrower’s instruments and tailored to the specific circumstances of the contract. | Throughout Project implementation. | EWSC/PIU |
| 2.2 | **OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLAN**  Implement and maintain a Health and Safety Management System for the Project in accordance with the requirements of the ESMP(s) and existing EWSC system.  Require contractors and subcontractors to prepare and implement OHS Management Plan in accordance with the ESMP(s) prepared under action 1.1 above. | Implement and maintain the Health and Safety Management System and Contractor OHS Plans throughout Project implementation. | EWSC/PIU |
| 2.3 | **GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS**  Ensure that Construction Contractor(s) implement and maintain a Worker Grievance Mechanism (WGM) consistent with the requirements of ESS2 and based on the general principles established in the project GRM and the LMP.  Implement and maintain the WGM throughout Project implementation. | Throughout Project implementation. |  |
| **ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT** | | | |
| 3.1 | **WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**  Require Contractors to implement and maintain a Waste Management Plan (WMP), as part of the ESMP prepared for the Project, to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, consistent with ESS3. | Implement and maintain the WMP throughout Project implementation. | EWSC/PIU |
| 3.2 | **WATER BALANCE**   1. Prepare a Water Balance Assessment for the abstraction of water from the Mkhondvo River at the Masibini Water Treatment Plant and prepare an Environmental Flow Management Plan (EFMP). 2. Implement and maintain the requirements as set out in the EFMP prepared based on the findings of the Water Balance Assessment conducted for the abstraction of water from the Mkhondovo river. | 1. Complete on October 14, 2021 2. Implement throughout Project implementation. | EWSC/PIU |
| 3.2 | **RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT**  Continue to implement resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the ESMP(s) prepared under action 1.1 above. | Implement and maintain as part of the ESMP(s) throughout the project implementation. | EWSC/PIU |
| **ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY** | | | |
| 4.1 | **TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY**  Ensure the contractor implement and maintain measures to manage traffic and road safety risks as required in the ESMP(s) prepared under action 1.1 above. | Same timeframe as for the implementation of the ESMP. | EWSC/PIU |
| 4.2 | **SEA AND SH RISKS**  Ensure that the SEA/SH Prevention and Response Action Plan, prepared by the PIU for inclusion in the ESMP(s), and subsequently adapted by each contractor to make it specific to the particular activity being implemented during construction, is maintained and implemented. | Throughout Project implementation. | EWSC/PIU |
| **ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT** | | | |
| 5.1 | **RESETTLEMENT PLANS**  As needed, prepare and implement resettlement action plans (RAPs) consistent with the requirements of national legislation, the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and ESS5. | 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 have been resettled and moving allowances have been provided. | EWSC/PIU |
| **ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES** | | | |
| 6.1 | **BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS – ECOLOGICAL FLOW**  Maintain and monitor the biodiversity management requirements for maintenance of minimum ecological flow as stipulated in the environmental flow management plan refer to in 3.2. | Implement and monitor throughout the life of the project. | EWSC/PIU |
| **ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE** | | | |
| 8.1 | **CHANCE** **FINDS**  Ensure that the Construction Contractor(s) implements the chance finds procedure described in the ESMP prepared for the Project. | Throughout the life of the project. | EWSC/PIU |
| **ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES** [This standard is only relevant for Projects involving Financial Intermediaries (FIs).] | | | |
|  | Not applicable |  |  |
| **ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE** | | | |
| 10.1 | **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN**  Update, disclose, implement and maintain a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) as needed. Carry out the SEP activities through ongoing consultation with and feedback from communities throughout Project implementation, and review and update the SEP as needed. This timeframe for ongoing consultations, as per the Project life cycle, to be determined by the PIU and shared with Bank.  Community awareness of the Project, including awareness of the Construction Contractor(s) activities, is to be achieved through active community engagement by the Community Liaison Officers, who are already appointed in each chiefdom.  Ensure that the Construction Contractor(s) role in communication with stakeholders affected by construction activities is clearly defined in the Contractor(s) management plans and effectively aligned with the requirements as set out in the Project Stakeholder Engagement Plan. | Throughout the life of the project. | EWSC/PIU |
| 10.2 | **PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM**  Implement and maintain a grievance mechanism, based on the GRM in the SEP. The GRM to include specific procedures for SEA/SH, including confidential reporting, and provision for safe and ethical documenting of SEA/SH cases.  Undertake awareness raising for potential PAPs and communities about the availability of the GRM and how to use it.  Ensure that the Construction Contractor(s) implement and maintain a grievance mechanism based on the GRM in the SEP, for Project workers | Throughout the life of the project. | EWSC/PIU |
| **INDICATORS FOR IMPLEMENTATION READINESS** | | | |
| The following actions are indicators for implementation readiness:   * 1. (1) Disclose the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), and corresponding Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)   A: Ensuring that there is adequate E&S staff to ensure the implementation of the Project’s E&S risk management measures.  5.1 Implementation of the RAP compensation and mitigation activities prior to taking possession of the land (applicable to RAP affected areas).  10.1 Carry out stakeholder engagement activities in the areas to be intervened prior to starting project activities in such areas.  10.2 Ensure there is a functioning GRM. | | | |

1. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)