Government of Nepal

Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport (MoPIT)

Department of Roads (DoR)

Third Bridges Improvement and Maintenance Program

(P507516)

ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

[Appraisal][1]

January 2025

1. Government of Nepal (GoN) will implement the **Third Bridges Improvement and Maintenance Program** (composed of the Project and the Program, referred to hereto together as the Operation), with the involvement of Ministry of Physical Infrastructure and Transport (MoPIT) through the Department of Roads (DoR) where works are managed by 33 Divisional Road Offices (DROs) as well as Kathmandu-based units that operate across divisions, as set out in the Financing Agreement. The International Development Association (the Association) has agreed to provide the financing (P507516) for the Operation, as set out in the referred agreement(s).

2. The Recipient shall ensure that the Project is conducted in accordance with the 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, 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 Association. As provided for under the Financing Agreement, the Recipient shall ensure that there are sufficient funds available to cover the costs of implementing the ESCP.

4. As agreed by the Association and the Recipient, this ESCP will be revised from time to time if necessary, to reflect adaptive management of Program changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to Project performance. In such circumstances, the Association and the Recipient agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Recipient's Representative specified in the Financing Agreement. The Recipient 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[2]		
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE a. Maintain and resource the Geo-Environment and Social Unit (GESU) with the following staff: a Senior Divisional Engineer, 2 Engineers, an Environmental Inspector and a Sociologist which is under DoR to manage environmental and social aspects of roads and bridges. b. Recruit additional qualified individual consultants to support GESU in management of environmental, social, health and safety (E&S) risks and impacts of the Project. These will include(i) an Environmental Specialist, a Social Specialist, a Geotechnical Expert, Gender/ GBV Specialist and an Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Specialist at the Project Coordination Unit (PCU), (ii) an Environmental and OHS Officer and (iii) a Social and GBV officers at Federal Road Supervision and Monitoring (FRSMO) offices respectively throughout the project implementation. c. Enter into collaboration with all relevant ministries and offices for approvals of E& S studies, tree clearance, and utility relocations as required by prevailing laws.	a) Fully staff GESU, including among others, a Senior Divisional Engineer, 2 Engineers, an Environmental Inspector and a Sociologist to be confirmed before the start of bidding for the PforR works. b) Establish and Maintain the PCU with the qualified Environmental Specialist, a Social Specialist, Gender/GBV Specialist and a Health and Safety Specialist and FRSMO with Environmental/OHS officer and Social/GBV Officer no later than 90 days after Effective Date of the Loan Agreement and thereafter maintain throughout Operation implementation.	PCU, DoR-BB, MOPIT

[2] For all actions, consult with the country lawyer to ensure consistency with the legal agreement in cases where some actions need to be completed before the project becomes effective (effectiveness condition) or before certain disbursements can occur (disbursement condition).

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
B	CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN/MEASURES Prepare and implement the capacity building plan based on ESSA and E & S capacity assessment, to the relevant targeted groups such as PCU staff, Project workers, Consultants, Contractors, and Sub-contractors. The trainings will be delivered by qualified consultants/specialists/trainers to be hired by the Project: 1. Orientation training to staff of DoR-GESU on the World Bank ESF 2018 and its implementation modality (screening, scoping etc.) 2. Orientation training on E&S risk management including labor management, community, OHS, Stakeholder Engagement 3. Stakeholder mapping and engagement, 4. GBV/SEA/SH prevention, mitigation, and response 5. Emergency preparedness and response. Training needs and the target group will be assessed continuously and adapted to meet project needs throughout project implementation.	Relevant trainings before the commencement of works and thereafter, throughout Operation implementation as per Plan	PCU, DoR-BB, MOPIT,
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 (TA activities). The reports shall include: • Summary of stakeholder engagement activities conducted. • Complaints submitted to the grievance mechanism(s), the grievance log, and progress made in resolving them. • E&S performance of consultants, contractors and subcontractors as reported through monthly contractors' and supervision firms' reports. • Number and status of resolution of incidents and accidents reported.	Submit reports to the Association throughout Operation implementation, commencing after the Effective Date in every 4 months. Submit each report to the Association no later than 30 days after the end of each reporting period.	PCU, DoR-BB, MOPIT

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
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 Association 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 Association no later than 30 days following the submission of the initial notice, unless a different timeframe is agreed to in writing by the Bank.	PCU, DoR-BB, MOPIT
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	Ensure that the E&S risks and impacts of the Project, are managed in accordance with this ESCP and the Recipient's E&S Framework, which includes, inter alia, the country's relevant policy, legal and institutional framework, including its national, departmental, or local implementing institutions and applicable laws, regulations, procedures, and implementation capacity. Promptly notify the Association of any changes to the Recipient's E&S Framework that may materially adversely affect the Recipient's ability to manage the E&S risks and impacts of the Project in line with the ESSs and the immediate measures taken or that are planned to be taken to address said changes and the ensuing potential risks and impacts of the Project. If, in the opinion of the Association, such changes adversely affect relevant ESHS risk management aspects of the Project, the Recipient shall agree to implement measures and actions to address them in a manner acceptable to the Association. The ESCP shall be updated to reflect such agreed actions.	Throughout Operation implementation. Notify the Association immediately after taking notice of the change to the Recipient's E&S Framework. Subsequent actions, if requested by the Association, shall reflected in an updated ESCP as indicated in paragraph 4 of the Initial Section of this ESCP.	PCU, DoR-BB, MOPIT,
1.2	MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP in contractors, consulting firms ToR and bidding documents.	Throughout Operation implementation.	PCU, DOR-BB, MOPIT
1.3	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE Carry out the consultancies, design studies, capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project, based on the available technical assistance (TA) and in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Bank, which are consistent with the ESSs.	Throughout Operation implementation.	PCU, DoR-BB, MOPIT

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	Thereafter prepare and finalize the outputs of such activities in compliance with the terms of reference.		
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES Ensure that the labor management and working conditions of Project workers are consistent with this ESCP and with the Borrower's labor framework, which includes, inter alia, the country´s relevant policy, legal and institutional framework, including its national, departmental, or local implementing institutions, and the applicable laws, regulations, procedures, and implementation capacity. Promptly notify the Bank of any changes to the Borrower's E&S Framework that may materially adversely affect the Borrower's ability to manage the E&S risks and impacts of the Project in line with the ESSs and the immediate measures taken or that are planned to be taken to address said changes and the ensuing potential risks and impacts of the Project. If, in the opinion of the Bank, such changes adversely affect relevant ESHS risk management aspects of the Project, the Borrower shall agree to implement measures and actions to address them in a manner acceptable to the Bank. The ESCP shall be updated to reflect such agreed actions	Prior to the start of activities and thereafter implement throughout Program implementation Throughout Operation implementation. Notify the Association immediately after taking notice of the change to the Recipient's Labor Framework. Subsequent actions, if requested by the Association, shall reflected in an updated ESCP as indicated in paragraph 4 of the Initial Section of this ESCP.	PCU, DoR-BB, MOPIT
2.2	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLAN OCHS Management aspects will be integrated in the TOR to assess and manage the OCHS risks and impacts of the Project (TA activities) on working conditions, management of workers relationships, occupational health, and safety (including personal protective equipment.	Prior to the start of activities and thereafter implement the OCHS throughout Operation implementation	PCU, DoR-BB, MOPIT,
2.3	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS Establish and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers to express their concerns and protect their rights related to labor and working conditions.	Ninety (90) days after project effectiveness and maintained throughout Operation implementation.	PCU, DoR-BB, MOPIT
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.2	RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures such as re-use of waste, plastic, etc. with ESS3, to mitigate adverse impacts in activities under the TA component.	Throughout Operation implementation.	PCU, DoR-BB, MOPIT PCU, DoR-BB, MOPIT

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	Develop and implement Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and its Implementation Plan for e-waste management adopting Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) for the collection, storage, and safe disposal of e-waste generated by the Project during its lifetime as per requirement.	Three months after Operation effectiveness	
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN Incorporate stakeholder engagement and information disclosure measures in the implementation of the Project (TA activities), in a manner consistent with ESS10. To this end, implement the following measures: a) Identify relevant stakeholders. b) Provide stakeholders with information about the environmental and social risks and impacts of the Project in a timely, understandable, accessible and appropriate manner and format in Project sites, government offices, websites, meetings etc. c) Consult stakeholders in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation. d) Document and report the stakeholder engagement activities under the regular reports, as relevant, including: (i) stakeholder identification and/or mapping; (ii) information disclosed; (iii) description of consultations and participation mechanisms utilized, and records of meetings held; (iv) feedback received and responses to said feedback; and (iv) measures to engage stakeholders who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable;	Throughout Operation implementation.	PCU, DoR-BB MOPIT
10.2	PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM Update existing project GRM 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. 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. Institutionalize the GRM within DoR.	Update and institutionalize the grievance mechanism No later than 4 months after Operation effectiveness and there after maintain and operate the mechanism throughout Operation implementation.	PCU, DoR-BB MOPIT

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY