**The Republic of Uzbekistan**

**State Committee on Forestry**

**Uzbekistan Resilient Landscapes Restoration Project**

**P174135**

**Environmental and Social Commitment Plan**

**A DRAFT FOR NEGOTIATIONS**

**December 15, 2021**

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN**

1. The Government of Uzbekistan (hereinafter the Recipient) shall implement the Uzbekistan Resilient Landscapes Restoration Project (hereinafter the Project), with the involvement of the State Committee on Forestry (SCF). The International Development Association (hereinafter the Association) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Recipient shall implement material measures and actions so that the Project is implemented in accordance with the World Bank 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 shall also comply with the provisions of any other Environmental and Social (E&S) documents required under the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and referred to in this ESCP that will be developed for the Project, such as the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Labor Management Procedures (LMP), Process Framework & Resettlement Policy Framework (PF&RPF) and the timelines specified in those E&S documents.
4. Notwithstanding any other provision in this ESCP, the Recipient is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by SCF or another ministry or another implementing agency, contractor, or any other entity or unit for the Project.
5. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP shall be monitored and reported to the Association by the Recipient as required by the ESCP, the E&S instruments referred to in 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 Association and the Recipient, through the SCF, 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, through the SCF, shall agree to the changes with the Association and shall update the ESCP to reflect such changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP shall be documented through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the SCF. The SCF shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
7. Where Project changes, unforeseen circumstances, or Project performance result in changes to the environmental or social 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.

| **Material Measures and Actions** | | **Timeframe** | **Responsible Entity/Authority** |
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| **MONITORING AND REPORTING** | | | |
| A | **REGULAR 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 plan, and the grievance mechanism. In addition, prepare and submit to the Association a mid-term report (MTR) and a project completion report. | Monitoring reports: Every six months, throughout Project implementation.  MTR: by midterm of the Project implementation.  Project completion report: 60 days prior to the end of the Project. | SCF Project Implementation Unit (PIU) team |
| B | **INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS.**  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.    Reporting shall provide sufficient details regarding the incident or accident, indicating immediate measures taken to address it, and include 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 within an agreed timeframe.  Other incidents and accidents not subject to immediate notification and reporting in accordance with this provision shall be included in the regular Project reports pursuant to action A of this ESCP. | Notify the Association within 48 hours after becoming aware of the incident or accident.  A detailed report of the incident would be provided within fifteen (15) days. | SCF PIU team |
| C | **CONTRACTORS MONTHLY REPORTS.**  Require all relevant Contractors to provide regular monitoring reports/briefs on Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) / Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) , LMP and SEP implementation to the PIU/ and/or Supervision Consultants (if they exist). Such reports should be filed and submitted to the Bank by PIU upon request. | Starting 30 days after contractors start activities and throughout Project implementation. | SCF PIU team |

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| **ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS** | | | | |
| 1.1 | | **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE:**  a.Maintain throughout Project implementation effective staffing and institutional structures to support the management of the Project E&S risks and impacts. SCF should maintain one Environmental Specialist with experience in Occupational Health and Safety (OHS), one Social Risk Management Specialist, and one Gender Specialist with strong experience on gender-based violence (GBV) as part of the PIU team. The PIU shall further engage GBV service providers, and train selected local officers and community members in areas where GBV services are absent.  b. Mobilize additional staff on short-term or long-term assignment as necessary to manage the E&S risks of the Project in accordance with the ESSs and ESMF institutional assessment/needs, including subject matter specialists on biodiversity, forestry management, environmental and social impact assessment, GBV including sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment SEA/SH, labor conditions (including prevention of child and/or forced labor, health & safety), land tenure, and social inclusion. | a. The PIU, including environmental and social risk management staff, shall be established prior to Project Effective Date and maintained throughout Project implementation.  b. As needed starting 90 days after Project Effective Date and maintained throughout project implementation. | SCF PIU team |
| 1.2 | | **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT:**  a.Conductscoping of key environmental and social risks and impacts of the Project and identify appropriate mitigation measures as further described in 1.3 and 5.2 in accordance with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Process Framework & Resettlement Policy Framework (PF&RPF) and the ESSs.  b. Undertake site-specific environmental and social risk screening and impact assessments for sub-projects in accordance with the ESMF and PF&RPF. All activities that may lead to high E&S risks shall be excluded from the Project and ineligible for Project financing, in particular all activities that might involve in involuntary land acquisition (i.e. physical displacement) as detailed in and the exclusion list in the ESMF.  c. Screen any proposed subprojects and activities in accordance with the ESMF prepared for the Project, and, thereafter, draft, adopt, and implement the subproject ESIA/ ESMP, and any other instruments as the ESMF and ESSs require for the respective subproject activities, in a manner acceptable to the Association.  d. The site-specific documents shall be disclosed to stakeholders, including local communities, in accordance with the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. | a. Draft ESMF acceptable to the Association has been prepared, consulted on, and disclosed locally prior to Project Appraisal completion. Final ESMF shall be consulted upon and redisclosed prior to Project Negotiations. The ESMF will be implemented throughout the life of the Project.  b. Before commencement of relevant Project activities, throughout Project implementation.  c. Screening and E&S instruments to be adopted prior to commencement of relevant sub-project activities. Thereafter, E&S instruments to be complied with and implemented throughout Project implementation.  d. Before commencement of relevant Project activities, throughout Project implementation. | SCF PIU team |
| 1.3 | | **MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS**:  Finalize, consult on, disclose, adopt, maintain, and implement an ESMF) satisfactory to the Association to screen and manage the environmental and social risks and impacts of the Project in accordance with the ESSs. The ESMF should outline the guiding principles of environmental and social screening, assessment, review, management, and monitoring procedures for all envisaged activities. The ESMF shall be disclosed in country in both English and the local language(s), as well as on the SCF website and external website of the Association. | Draft ESMF to be finalized, consulted upon, and redisclosed prior to Project Negotiations. Thereafter, implement ESMF throughout Project implementation.  ESIAs/ESMPs to be adopted and disclosed prior to commencement of subproject activities and implemented throughout Project implementation. | SCF PIU team |
| 1.4 | | **EXCLUSIONS.**  The following type of activities shall not be eligible for finance under the Project:   * Activities that might cause long-term, permanent. and/or irreversible adverse environmental impacts; * Significant loss or conversion of natural habitats; * Introduction of non-native plants or animals that pose a risk of becoming invasive species; * Activities that have high probability of causing serious adverse effects to human health and/or the environment (biodiversity); * Activities that cause harm to an area of international importance or cultural heritage and archaeological sites identified by UNESCO and/or the Government of Republic of Uzbekistan * Activities within Protected Areas that are not consistent with the valid Management Plans for those areas; * Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict; * Activities that require involuntary physical resettlement of people or their dwellings; * Activities with adverse impacts on physical cultural resources; and * All the other excluded activities set out in the ESMF of the Project. | These exclusions shall be applied as part of the assessment process conducted under action 1.2. above. | SCF PIU team |
| 1.5 | | **MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS**:  Develop and implement procedures for managing project employees, contractors, and subcontractors. This shall include the following: |  | SCF PIU team |
| 1. Environmental and social requirements, consistent with sub-project specific ESIA/ESMP and LMP, shall be included in the procurement and contracting process, including bidding documents, for potential civil works. | During procurement process as relevant, and before commencement of subproject activities, thereafter, maintained throughout Project implementation. |
| 1. Relevant requirements shall be included in contracts and subcontracts consistent with the requirements of ESSs. |
| 1. Codes of conduct shall be required for contractors, subcontractors, primary suppliers, and their workers. |
| 1. Preparation of detailed ESMPs that are costed, with enough budget to adequately mitigate E&S risks. |
| 1. SCF shall monitor contractor commitment and compliance with ESSs and contract and subcontract terms as applicable. | Throughout Project implementation |
| 1. Establish grievance mechanisms for contractors and subcontractors, workers, affected communities and other stakeholders to handle concerns and complaints. |
| 1. Ensure and require that contractors follow site-specific ESMPs and integrate/annex the relevant areas into contracts for civil works or landscape restoration. |
| 1. Ensure and require that contractors adopt and implement a subproject LMP consistent with the Project LMP and ESS2. |
| 1.6 | | **PERMIT, CONSENTS AND AUTHORIZATIONS:**  Obtain or ensure that contractors obtain, as appropriate, the permits, consents, and authorizations that are applicable to the Project from relevant national authorities, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and with the ESMF.   * Comply and cause contractors to comply, as appropriate, with the conditions established in these permits, consents, and authorizations throughout Project implementation. * Obtain Clearances from authorities of Uzbekistan as necessary. * Obtain non-objections from the Association as set out in the ESMF or otherwise necessary. | Obtain permits, consents and authorizations prior to initiating activities, and thereafter comply with these permits, consents and authorizations throughout Project implementation. | SCF PIU team |
| **ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS** | | | | |
| 2.1 | **LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES (LMP):** Finalize, adopt, and implement the LMP for the Project in accordance with ESS2 to the satisfaction of the Association. SCF shall ensure compliance with the LMP by all Project employees and contracted firms and institutions. If the project activities include community workers, the LMP will be updated prior to engaging community workers. | | Draft LMP is prepared prior to appraisal and will be finalized and disclosed prior to Project Negotiations and maintained throughout Project implementation. | SCF PIU team |
| 2.2 | **OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES (OHS)**: Ensure contractors prepare and implement occupational health and safety measures in accordance with ESS2 and the World Bank Group EHS Guidelines specified in the ESMF, LMP and subproject ESIA/ESMPs. | | Adopt measures prior to engaging Project workers, and implement them throughout Project implementation | SCF PIU team |
| 2.3 | **WORKERS WORKING ENVIRONMENT:** Ensure a non-discriminatory, decent work environment for all Project workers, consistent with ESS2, including by ensuring that all Project workers adhere to the ESHS code of conduct. | | Adopt measures prior to engaging Project workers, and implement them throughout Project implementation | SCF PIU team |
| 2.4 | **GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS:** Require contractors to establish, maintain, and operate a grievance mechanism for project workers, ad described in the LMP and consistent with ESS 2. | | GM to be operationalized prior to engaging Project workers and maintained thereafter throughout Project implementation | SCF PIU team |
| 2.5 | **PROJECT WORKERS TRAINING:** Require contractors to train contracted workers on Environment, Social, Health and Safety (ESHS) aspects relevant to the project to heighten awareness about their contractual obligations. | | Complete trainings prior to start of civil works, and regular refresher trainings thereafter throughout Project implementation. | SCF PIU team |
| **ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT** | | | | |
| 3.1 | Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures will be covered under the ESIAs and/or ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.3 above, and might include development of specific sub-management plans (such as Waste Management Plan, Water and Wastewater Management Plan, Hazardous Materials Management Plan). | | Implemented throughout the project implementation. | SCF PIU team |
| **ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY** | | | | |
| 4.1 | **COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY FROM CONSTRUCTION AND CONFLICT IMPACTS.**  The measures and actions necessary to assess and manage subproject activity specific risks and impacts on communities in accordance with ESS4 shall be spelled out in the ESMF and subsequent subproject ESMPs. | | Measures to be adopted prior to initiating subproject activities, and thereafter maintained throughout Project implementation | SCF PIU team |
| 4.2 | **TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY.**  In consultation with the host communities, adopt and implement measures and actions to assess and manage traffic and road safety risks – including those resulting from movement of Project related vehicles transporting Project workers and any project related goods and materials – on Project workers and the community, as required in the Project ESMF and subproject ESMPs. | | Site specific plans to be prepared before subproject activity is initiated and implemented and maintained throughout Project implementation. General traffic and road management plan to be prepared as annex to the ESMP. Maintained throughout Project implementation | SCF PIU team |
| 4.3 | **GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE RISKS**:   1. Undertake assessment of GBV including SEA/SH) risks and identify mitigation measures and actions. 2. SCF shall prepare a Framework for Addressing SEA and SH to guide the development of subproject-specific SEA/SH Action Plans as part of the ESIA/ESMP. 3. Develop, adopt, and implement a SEA/SH Action Plan. 4. Recruit a Gender Specialist with strong GBV/SEA/SH experience in the PIU. | | 1. On timeframes specified in 1.2 and comply with mitigation measures throughout Project implementation 2. As part of ESMF on timeframe specified in 1.3. 3. Adopt within 60 days of Project Effectiveness, and implement and comply with mitigation measures throughout Project implementation 4. Same as timeline in (c). | SCF PIU team |
| 4.4 | **TRAINING FOR THE COMMUNITY.**  As outlined in the ESMF and SEP, SCF shall ensure trainings are delivered to the Project workers and the community to heighten their awareness on Project-related environmental and social risks and impacts and mitigation measures, including trainings on (not exhaustive):   * Communicable diseases, including COVID-19 * HIV-AIDS/STI/GBV/SEA/SH and Child/Forced labor awareness and prevention * Community grievance mechanism as described in the SEP/ ESMF/ Framework for Addressing GBV/SEA/SH. * Environmental and social requirements and good practices to be followed at construction sites. | | Prior to initiating subproject activity, with regular refresher training, maintained throughout Project implementation. | SCF PIU team |

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| **ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT** | | | |
| 5.1 | **LAND ACQUISITION AND RESETTLEMENT:**  a. The project does not anticipate land acquisition and involuntary resettlement causing physical displacements due to direct project construction works. The ESMF must include respective screening procedures to be implemented by the Project. Any proposed subprojects and activities must be screened against potential resettlement impacts in accordance with the ESMF. Subprojects and activities that would involve physical involuntary resettlement must be excluded. Livelihood impacts related to access restrictions to land, pastures, forests, and other natural resources, both within and outside of protected areas, will be mitigated as further described in Section 5.2.  b. However, if land is needed for the Project, it shall be acquired only through voluntary land transactions consistent with ESS5. The voluntary land transaction must follow the procedures outlined in the RPF and be consistent with requirements outlined in ESS5. | a. Before commencement of proposed subprojects and activities, maintained throughout Project implementation.  b. The voluntary land transaction guidelines and the outlined process shall be followed and documented to the satisfaction of the Association for each subproject activities involving voluntary land transaction. This process shall be adopted and implemented prior to commencement of any subproject activity. | SCF PIU team |
| 5.2 | **PROCESS FRAMEWORK and RESETTLEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK (PF&RPF):**  Prepare, consult upon, and disclose the PF&RPF in a manner acceptable to the Association. The PF&RPF prepared for the Project will be implemented to mitigate the risks and impacts related to restrictions of access to land, pastures, forests and other natural resources that would cause a community or groups within the community to lose or curtail their pre-existing livelihoods—both in legally designated protected areas and in any other lands to be restored under the project. The PF&RPF will be prepared in a participatory manner with the affected communities, further consulted upon with other interested parties, and disclosed and applied by SCF. | The draft PF&RPF will be prepared, disclosed and consulted on prior to Project Negotiations. The PF&RPF will be implemented throughout the project life. | SCF PIU team |

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| **ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES** | | | |
| 6.1 | Identify and assess biodiversity related risks and impacts within the scope of sub-project ESIAs/ESMPs, as per the project ESMF, and in a manner acceptable to the Bank.  Adopt and implement measures to address biodiversity related risks and impacts within the scope of sub-project ESMPs, as per the project ESMF, and in a manner acceptable to the Bank.  If needed, develop, adopt and implement, in addition to E&S documents mentioned above, sub-project Biodiversity Management Plans (BMP), as per the project ESMF, and in a manner acceptable to the Bank. | Identified and incorporated prior to finalization of the bidding documents for sub-projects.  Implemented throughout the project implementation. | SCF PIU team |
| **ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES** | | | |
| The standard is not relevant to the project based on the screening against ESS 7. | | | |
| **ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE** | |  |  |
| 8.1 | In accordance with the guidance of the ESMF prepared for the project: (i) identify and assess adverse risks and impacts of proposed sub-projects on cultural heritage under respective sub-project ESIAs/ESMPs; (ii) identify, adopt and implement measures (including incorporation into the design of subproject structures and activities) to avoid such risks and impacts.  Prepare, adopt, and implement the chance finds procedure described in the ESMF developed for the Project. | Identified and incorporated prior to finalization of the bidding documents for sub-projects.  Implemented throughout the project implementation. | SCF PIU team |
| **ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES** | |  |  |
| This standard is not relevant, as the project has no financial intermediaries. | | | |

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| **ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE** | | | |
| 10.1 | **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN.**  Adopt and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Association.  Following the project SEP, and prior to subproject activity implementation, subproject specific stakeholder engagement activities program shall be prepared and implemented. | Draft SEP has been prepared, disclosed, and consulted on prior to appraisal; and updated version will be redisclosed prior to Project Negotiations.  Stakeholder engagement activities program shall be prepared prior to subproject activity implementation. | SCF PIU team |
| 10.2 | **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE.**  The subsequent stakeholder engagement activities programs shall be disclosed with the use of different, culturally appropriate communication approaches to ensure communication with the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. | Prior to commencement of activities | SCF PIU team |
| 10.3 | **GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR THE PROJECT.**  Update, adopt, maintain and operate a grievance mechanism (GM), as described in the SEP. | GM shall be operationalized within 30 days of Project Effective Date and in any event prior to commencement of activities on site. | SCF PIU team |
| **CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)** | |  |  |
| CS1 | Training to be provided to relevant staff of SCF, PIU staff and other involved agencies on:   * Preparation of site-specific ES instruments and specific aspects of environmental and social assessment as described in the ESMF * Biodiversity management issues and best practices; * Relevant OHS issues including COVID-19 precautions; * Gender Action Plan, SEP and GM implementation; * LMP; and * Prevention of and response to SEA/SH. | Within the first year of the project implementation, in order of relevance, followed by, at minimum, annual refresher trainings as needed throughout project implementation. | SCF PIU team |
| CS2 | Training for Project workers on:   * Environmental and social requirements and good practices to be followed at construction sites; * OHS including on emergency prevention and preparedness and response arrangements to emergency situations; * COVID-19 infection safety awareness, community health and safety; * SEA/SH risk prevention and LMP; * Engagement and GM. | The trainings shall be delivered at the commencement of engagement of Project workers, followed by, at minimum, one annual refresher training. | SCF PIU team |