

**Republic of Maldives
Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and
Energy
&
Ministry of Finance**

**Blue Capital for Prosperity and Climate
Resilience Project (P504589)**

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL
COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)**

August 15th 2024

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Maldives (herein after the **Recipient**) will implement the ‘Blue Capital for Prosperity and Climate Resilience Project’ (the **Project**) with the involvement of the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy (MoCCEE) and the Ministry of Finance (MoF), as set out in the Financing Agreement.
2. The Recipient 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 World Bank. 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(s).
3. Without limitation to the foregoing, this ESCP sets out material measures and actions that the Republic of Maldives 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 World Bank. Once adopted, said E&S instruments may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the World Bank.
4. As agreed by the World Bank 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, Recipient through the Ministry of Finance and the World Bank agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the World Bank and the Recipient Minister of Finance or Deputy Minister of Finance. The Recipient shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

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MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTING</p> <p>Prepare and submit to the World Bank 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 instruments required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the grievance mechanism(s).</p>	<p>Bi-annually throughout project implementation.</p> <p>Submit each report to the World Bank no later than 15 days after the end of each reporting period.</p>	<p>Environmental and Social Specialist (ESS) in the Project Management Department (PMU), Project Director (PD), Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy.</p>
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <p>Promptly notify the World Bank 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, cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH), and accidents that result in death, serious or multiple injury. 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.</p> <p>Subsequently, at the World Bank’s request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to address it and prevent its recurrence.</p>	<p>Notify the World Bank no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident.</p> <p>Provide subsequent report on details of the incident and mitigation actions taken to the World Bank within 30 days of the incident.</p>	<p>ESS (PMU), PD (PMU)</p>
C	<p>CONTRACTORS’ MONTHLY REPORTS</p> <p>Require contractors to provide monthly monitoring reports on ESHS performance in accordance with the metrics specified in the respective bidding documents and contracts and submit such reports to the [World Bank/Bank/Association].</p>	<p>Submit the monthly reports to the World Bank as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action A above.</p>	<p>PD (PMU)</p>
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>Establish within the Project Management Unit (PMU) qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project including an Environment and Social Specialist (ESS) and Communications Specialist (CS) to assist with addressing environmental and social risks and promote awareness.</p>	<p>Recruit an ESS and CS within 60 days of project effectiveness and thereafter maintain these positions throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>MocCEE and MoF</p>
1.2	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</p> <p>1. Develop and disclose an Environmental and Social Guideline (ESG) targeting Nature Based Solutions investments under component 2</p>	<p>Finalize ESG by project negotiation.</p>	<p>MocCEE and MoF</p>

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MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	2. Adopt and implement environmental and social assessments and management, in accordance with the Environmental and Social Guideline, consistent with the relevant ESSs	Adopt the required environment and social assessments and management instruments, acceptable to the World Bank, as per the ESG, before launching the bidding process for any civil works as appropriate, and thereafter implemented through the execution of works. Bidding documents will include provisions for contractors in line with site-specific environment and social assessments and management instruments prepared in line with the ESG.	PMU (ESS, PD) Contractors with a valid signed agreements with the MoCCEE under the Project. MNF grant recipients
1.3	MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the relevant E&S management instruments, the Labor Management Procedures, and code of conduct, into the ESHS specifications of 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.	As part of the preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts. Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation.	PMU ESSS, Procurement Specialist (PS) and PD
1.4	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE Ensure that the consultancies, technical 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 World Bank, that are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the terms of reference.	Throughout Project implementation.	PMU (ESSS, PD)
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES Prepare, 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 relating to Gender Based Violence (GBV), Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH)), forced labor, child labor, grievance arrangements for Project workers, and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors, and supervising firms.	The LMP will be incorporated into the ESG and adopted, before engagement of project workers and implemented throughout the life of the project.	PMU
2.2	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS		

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	Establish and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, equipped to handle GBV/SEA/SH incidents, as described in the SEP and LMP and consistent with ESS2.	Establish workers' GRM prior to engagement of project workers. Maintain, operate, and report workers' GRM throughout Project implementation.	PMU, Contractors, MNF grant recipients
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN Include and implement a waste management measures to the ESG consistent with ESS3. Measures to effectively manage wastes will be identified and included as part of the site-specific E&S management measures to be prepared under action 2.2, as stipulated in the ESG.	Same timeframe as for the adoption of ESG. Bidding documents to include requirement to adopt necessary waste management measures.	ESS, PD & PS
3.2	RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the ESG.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESMPs.	ESS, PD, PS
3.3	IMPLEMENTATION OF E-WASTE GUIDELINE: The E-waste guideline (that has been prepared under a different bank operation) presents all measures to be undertaken during the life cycle use of all electronic equipment purchases via the project. Measures on management include identification of energy efficient equipment, recycling and reuse where possible and buy back and service management with suppliers and sellers. During the procurement process insertion of clauses/specifications in procurement contracts will be carried out. The ESS will ensure that the clauses are reviewed by the Bank's procurement and environmental and social specialists prior to signing of contracts. All minimum standards and guidance provided in the E-waste guide will be followed during project implementation during the procurement and use of electronic equipment	As part of the preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts for purchase of electronic equipment. Will be implemented throughout Project implementation and reviewed during the MTR and annual reporting	PMU
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY Incorporate measures to manage safety risks, as appropriate, in the ESG to be prepared under action 1.2 above and in site specific E&S management instruments.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESG.	ESS, PS, PD
4.2	COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities and include mitigation measures in the ESG to be prepared under action 1.2 above and in site specific E&S management instruments	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESMPs.	ESS, PS, PD

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4.3	<p>SEA AND SH RISKS</p> <p>Adopt behavioral standards clearly stating zero-tolerance for GBV and SEA/SH with associated consequences and communicate to all project actors. Include SEA/SH prevention Code-of-Conduct clauses to prevent the occurrence of SEA/SH incidents in civil works contracts.</p>	SEA/SH mitigation measures included in LMP and Code-of-Conduct which will be prepared and adopted, before engagement of project workers and implemented throughout the life of the project.	MoCCEE, Contractors, MNF grant recipients
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	<p>RESETTLEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK ESS5 will apply if restrictions on land use are imposed, such as restrictions on access to legally designated parks and protected areas. NbS activities may hinder the local community’s access to land and marine resources. Before commencement of any activities, relevant E&S risk screening/ assessments will be conducted to assess any potential impacts and accordingly measures will be taken as described in the ESMF of the</p> <p>The protected area management plans developed under the project will consider allowing access to local communities to minimize livelihood impacts on farmers, fishermen and women who rely on natural resources within the PAs for their livelihood.</p>	<p>Prior to Commencement of Project activities.</p> <p>Local community shall be properly consulted as per the SEP and their views and concerns reflected during the preparation of protected area management plans.</p>	ESS, CS, PD
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	<p>BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS</p> <p>Measures to effectively manage risks and impacts on biodiversity through the application of exclusion criteria and mitigation hierarchy to manage biodiversity impacts will be identified and included in the ESG to be prepared under action 1.2 and site specific E&S management instruments.</p>	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESG.	ESS, PD, PS
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
7.1	Currently not relevant		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	<p>CULTURAL HERITAGE RISKS AND IMPACTS</p> <p>Include chance find procedures in the ESG and site-specific management instruments to be prepared (action 1.2) in case valuable artefacts or culturally valuable items are discovered at sub-project sites</p>	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of ESMPs.	ESS, PD, PS
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
9.1	Adopt and implement an Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) for the Maldives Nature Fund that will outline E&S due diligence requirements for MNF grant recipients.	ESMS will be developed and disclosed prior to the fund is made active.	ESS, PD, MoCCEE and MoF
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			

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10.1	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION</p> <p>Adopt and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) 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.</p>	<p>The SEP will be prepared and disclosed prior to end of project appraisal. SEP will be followed throughout implementation. SEP will be a living document that will be updated throughout implementation</p>	MoCCEE
10.2	<p>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</p> <p>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. Maintain effective monitoring and reporting of GRM cases.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Within the GRM, gender-sensitive mitigation measures will be put in place to address GBV or SEA/H reported cases. Through Code of Conduct and GRM, protocols will be established to address biases, harassment or violence. Vulnerable and marginalized groups, especially females, will be empowered to report any cases encountered.</p> <p>Establish multiple channels through which citizens/beneficiaries/affected persons can make complaints regarding project funded activities. Complaints can be submitted either verbally or in written form using a variety of communication tools such as formal letters/petitions, telephone, email, SMS, on-line entry system etc. Moreover, there will be printed standard formats made available at the GRM focal point to receive grievances which can be accessed by the complainants to record their grievances. Aggrieved parties can also submit their grievances via project’s website. If project stakeholders/affected parties provide verbal feedback/complaint, project staff will lodge the complaint on their behalf, and it will be processed through the same channels.</p>	<p>The project GRM to be outlined in the SEP which will be prepared and disclosed prior to end of appraisal and thereafter implemented throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>Information of GRM cases to be provided at each project implementation supervision mission.</p> <p>Prior to signing of civil works contracts.</p> <p>Prior to awarding MNF grants</p>	MoCCEE
CAPACITY SUPPORT			
CS1	<p>The Recipient will deliver the following training programs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Fundamentals of ESF and Introduction to the World Bank’s ESF- targeted at ESS, CS, PD Training on implementation of Stakeholder Engagement Plan for ESS, CS, PD, MCCEE and MoF 	<p>Respective timelines for each program</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Within one month of having Project Staff in place at Implementation and Prior to Midterm Review. 	World Bank, PMU, MoCCEE and MoF

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) and Sexual Harassment (SH) for ESS, ESMPs, PD, MCCEE. d) Trainings to MNF Grant Recipients on Environmental and Social Due Diligence Processes and Best Practice for better Environmental and Social Management in Construction and Operation. - Representatives of MNF Grant Recipients, and Representatives from GoM. e) Trainings for Grant Recipients and Contractors on ESMPs and Occupational Health and Safety. f) Training in proper GRM management and reporting systems. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Within one month of having Project Staff in place at Implementation and Prior to Midterm Review c) Within one month of having Project Staff in place at Implementation and Prior to Midterm Review d) Twice over the lifetime of the project. e) Prior to signing of civil works contracts. 	

