

# **GOVERNMENT OF SOLOMON ISLANDS**

## **Building Capacity in Statistics and Audit in the Solomon Islands (CAPSA)**

**P180723**

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

**Version: Appraisal**

**21<sup>st</sup> August 2023**

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Government of Solomon Islands (the Recipient) will implement the Building Capacity in Statistics and Audit in the Solomon Islands (CAPSA) Project (the Project), with the involvement of the Solomon Islands National Statistics Office (SINSO) and the National Office of the Auditor General of the Solomon Islands (OAG) as the Implementing Agencies, as set out in the Financing Agreement. The International Development Association (the Association) has agreed to provide financing (P180723) for the Project, as set out in the referred 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 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, 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 Association. Once adopted, said E&S instruments may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Association.
4. As agreed by the Association 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, the Recipient and the Association agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Minister of Finance, on behalf of the Recipient. The Recipient, through SINSO and OAG, shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
5. A Project Steering Committee (PSC), comprising key members of SINSO, OAG, and the Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MoFT), has been instituted and will hold overall responsibility for project governance. A Project Support Team (PST), reporting to the PSC, will be established with its core function to provide supplementary capacity necessary for effective project activity management.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
<b>MONITORING AND REPORTING</b>			
A	<p><b>REGULAR REPORTING</b></p> <p>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, stakeholder engagement activities, functioning of the grievance mechanism(s), and any other ESHS plans prepared for Project Activities.</p>	<p>Submit six-(6) monthly reports to the Association throughout Project implementation, commencing three (3) months after Project effectiveness. Submit each report to the Association no later than 10 days after the end of each reporting period.</p>	<p>National Statistics Office (SINSO) and the Office of the Auditor General of the Solomon Islands (OAG) with the support of the Project Support Team (PST).</p>
B	<p><b>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</b></p> <p>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, 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 Association’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 Association no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident.</p> <p>Provide subsequent report to the Association within a timeframe acceptable to the Association.</p>	<p>SINSO and OAG with the support of the PST.</p>
<b>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>			
1.1	<p><b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</b></p> <p>The Recipient shall establish and maintain a Project Support Team (PST) with a Project Manager that is tasked with carrying out environmental and social risk management tasks described in the ESCP and SEP.</p>	<p>Within three (3) months after Project effectiveness as set out in the Financing Agreement and before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities and thereafter maintain these positions throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>Project Steering Committee (PSC).</p>
1.2	<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</b></p> <p>The Recipient shall ensure that the project solely finances technical assistance (TA) activities and procurement of office equipment, and does not fund any physical works. Identified E&amp;S risks shall be managed through the ESCP and SEP.</p>	<p>Throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>SINSO and OAG with the support of the PST.</p>

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
1.3	<p><b>MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</b></p> <p>Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including a code of conduct, into individual consultant contracts.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	SINSO and OAG with the support of the PST.
1.4	<p><b>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</b></p> <p>Ensure that the consultancies, studies (including feasibility studies, if applicable), capacity building, training, and any other TA activities under the Project are carried out in accordance with terms of reference (TOR) acceptable to the Association, that incorporate E&amp;S risk management considerations (e.g., inclusion of vulnerable people, indigenous peoples, etc.) and are consistent with the ESSs and relevant Solomon Islands law. Thereafter, ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the TOR.</p> <p>The Recipient shall submit any TA TORs, work plans, and outputs for no-objection by the Association prior to finalization to ensure consistency with WB Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and relevant Solomon Islands legal and Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) requirements</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	SINSO and OAG with the support of the PST.
<b>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</b>			
2.1	<p><b>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</b></p> <p>Hire direct workers and consultants following the Recipients procurement guidelines, under written contracts. The Recipient shall not hire any vulnerable workers, such as migrant workers or low-wage workers, nor any workers under the age of 18. All project workers shall be made aware of, and commit to, following a code of conduct including provisions on the prohibition of SEA/SH behaviors.</p> <p>TORs for the regional survey workers will include E&amp;S considerations such as a code of conduct (including provisions on the prohibition of SEA/SH behaviors), grievance procedures, and occupational health and safety considerations such as ensuring first aid kits and safety at sea measures are in place .</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	SINSO and OAG with the support of the PST.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
2.2	<p><b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</b></p> <p>The IA’s shall follow SIG’s public service general orders and code of conduct where it relates to addressing grievances. SINSO shall also enforce the Statistics (amendment) Act 2007 in dealing with relevant grievances (e.g., offences, terminations, legal civil cases etc.). Where grievances relate specifically to financial issues, SINSO shall apply the Public Financial Management Act. The Recipient shall also provide project workers with a mechanism by which to share workplace-related grievances confidentially, including a mechanism for handling and sharing SEA/SH related complaints.</p>	Prepare and adopt workers’ GM approved by the Association within one (1) month after Project Effectiveness and thereafter monitor the GM throughout Project Implementation.	SINSO and OAG with the support of the PST.
<b>ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>			
7.1	Ensure and cause all contractors to ensure that all provisions with regard to culturally appropriate communications as described in SEP, e.g. use of local languages, are followed in all project activities.	Throughout Project implementation.	SINSO and OAG with the support of the PST
<b>ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b>			
10.1	<p><b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION</b></p> <p>Disclose the draft SEP prior to appraisal and adopt and implement a final SEP for the Project, consistent with ESS 10, which includes measures to, inter alia, provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information, and consult with them at all critical phases in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, and intimidation.</p>	Disclose the final SEP no later than one (1) month after Project effectiveness and thereafter implement the SEP throughout Project implementation.	SINSO and OAG with the support of the PST
10.2	<p><b>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</b></p> <p>Establish, publicize, operate, and maintain an accessible GM, 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 ESS 10.</p> <p>The IAs shall equip the GM to receive, register, and facilitate the resolution of SEA/SH complaints, including through the referral of survivors to relevant gender-based violence service providers e.g., SafeNet, all in a safe, confidential, and survivor-centered manner.</p>	Within two (2) months after Project effectiveness and thereafter operate and maintain the GM throughout Project implementation.	SINSO and OAG with the support of the PST

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
<b>CAPACITY SUPPORT</b>			
CS1	<p>Ensure project workers and contractors are aware of the project’s SEP and ESCP.</p> <p>The focus topics can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SEP and good practices related to engaging stakeholders (including vulnerable groups) in an ethical and responsive way.</li> <li>• The project’s GM, including the processes for handling sensitive complaints such as SEA/SH incidents.</li> <li>• Occupational health and safety, including first aid training.</li> <li>• Documentation, monitoring, and reporting.</li> <li>• Other topics (to be determined according to needs).</li> </ul>	<p>Within one (1) month after hiring project workers and contractors and thereafter during project implementation.</p>	<p>SINSO and OAG with the support of the PST</p>