

Federated States of Micronesia
Digital Federated States of Micronesia
Project P170718

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL
COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

For Negotiations
20 June, 2025

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Federated States of Micronesia (Recipient) is implementing the Digital Federated States of Micronesia Project (the Project), with the involvement of the following Ministries/agencies/units (together as Implementation Agencies, IAs): Department of Transport, Communications and Infrastructure (DTCI), the FSM Telecommunication Cable Corporation (FSMTCC), also known as Open Access Entity (OAE), the Telecommunication Regulation Authority (TRA), the Department of Health and Human Services (DH&HS) and the Department of Finance and Administration (DoFA), as set out in the Original and Additional Financing Agreements (the Agreements). The International Development Association (the Association) has agreed to provide the original 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 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 Agreement. 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 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 Association. Said E&S documents may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Association. As provided for under the referred Agreements, 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 Project changes or 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 Secretary DTCL. 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			
A	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE Establish and maintain an organizational structure with qualified staff and resources to support management of E&S risks including maintaining a Safeguards team comprised of, at a minimum, one international environmental specialist and one international social specialist in the Central Implementation Unit (CIU) to provide ongoing support, advice and monitoring to IAs. Recruitment of part time consultants as required to support the stakeholder engagement processes, technical advisory work and to supervise infrastructure installation.	The Safeguards team as part of their roles will be available to support the Project throughout project implementation. Part-time consultants to be hired and retained on an as-required basis.	DoFA through the CIU. IAs
B1	CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN/MEASURES IAs staff responsible for the Project to receive training on the Project safeguards instruments, the relevant requirements of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), and the roles and responsibilities of different key agencies in safeguards implementation.	Not later than three months after the Effective Date and as new project team members join the Project throughout implementation.	CIU.
B2	Project workers to receive training on local culture, occupational health and safety, prevention of gender-based violence, environmental incidents and emergency prevention and preparedness and responses to emergency situations.	As required, prior to work commencing, and throughout Project implementation as new staff / workers are recruited.	CIU.
B3	Contractors to receive training on the relevant aspects of the Project safeguards instruments and relevant ESHS requirements, including preparation of detailed ESHS management plans and procedures.	Prior to work commencing, throughout Project implementation.	CIU .
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
C	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 activities, Contractor's ESHS implementation, ESHS incidents, functioning of the grievance mechanism(s).	Six-monthly, starting from the first six months after the Effective Date, and throughout Project implementation.	CIU.
D	CONTRACTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS In contracts for works using the Bank's standard procurement documents (SPDs), contractors and supervising firms are required to provide monthly monitoring reports on E&S performance in accordance with the metrics specified in the respective bidding documents and contracts.	Submit the monthly reports to the Association as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action C above.	CIU
D	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. Provide sufficient detail regarding the incident or accident, indicating immediate measures taken or that are planned to be taken to address it, and any information provided by any		CIU.

	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. These activities are outlined in the Project Grievance Mechanism (GRM).	Notify the Association within 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident. A report would be provided to the Association, as requested.	
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENTS AND/OR PLANS Adopt, implement and update the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) in a manner acceptable to the Association. Specific risks and impacts relating to infrastructure installation include: managing sediment discharges, wet concrete and other waste discharges, vegetation clearances, securing land access for public infrastructure (government or private), Project workers OH&S, behaviors with host communities, and inadvertently disturbing graves or other cultural heritage sites. Specific opportunities relating to institutional strengthening include ensuring safeguards for internet users to understand, avoid, minimise, report and seek victim support for harmful and criminal online activities (bullying and harassment, security breaches, scams, etc.).	Prepare the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) not later than three months after the Effective Date and implement it throughout Project Implementation.	IAs supported by CIU
1.2	MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including the relevant aspects of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents with contractors responsible for installing internet infrastructure. Thereafter ensure that the contractors comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.	Prior to the preparation of procurement documents. Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation.	IAs supported by CIU.
1.3	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE Carry out the consultancies, studies (including feasibility studies, if applicable), capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Association, that are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter prepare and finalize the outputs of such activities in compliance with the terms of reference.	Throughout Project implementation.	IAs supported by CIU.
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES Prepare, implement and update the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) in a manner acceptable to the Association.	Prepare the LMP not more than three months after the Effective Date, and thereafter implement the LMP throughout Project implementation.	IAs supported by CIU.
2.2	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLAN Prepare and implement occupational, health and safety (OHS) measures specified in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) of the Project. Require contractors and subcontractors to prepare and implement OHS Management Plan, and supervise the implementation..	Prepare not more than three months after the Effective Date and implement it throughout Project Implementation.	IAs supported by CIU.

2.3	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS Establish, maintain, and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) and consistent with ESS2.	Establish grievance mechanism prior engaging Project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.	IAs supported by CIU.
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN Prepare, implement and update the waste management measures specified in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) in a manner acceptable to the Association.	Prepare the waste management plan as part of the contractor ESMP prior to commencement of works, and thereafter implement it throughout Project implementation.	Contractor, supervised by IAs supported by CIU.
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY Prepare, implement and update the traffic and road safety measures through the development of a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) as specified in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) in a manner acceptable to the Association. Specific issues relate to keeping motorists and pedestrians safe from work areas in road easements.	Prepare TMP prior to commencement of works, and implement it throughout Project Implementation.	Contractor, supervised by IAs supported by CIU..
4.2	COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY Prepare, implement and update the community health and safety measures specified in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) in a manner acceptable to the Association. Specific issues relate to safety around construction sites (particularly road easements), risks of violence and harassment behavior of Project workers during design and installation of infrastructure, and the awareness raising and institutional strengthening to manage the negative online influences and activities from improved internet connectivity.	Prepare community health and safety plan prior to commencement of works, and implement it throughout Project Implementation.	Contractor, IAs supported by CIU.
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	RESETTLEMENT FRAMEWORK Prepare, implement and update the Land Access Process in a manner acceptable to the Association.	Adopt agreed Land Access Process prior to commencing any Project activities that require access to land. Implement and update the Land Access Process throughout Project implementation.	IAs supported by CIU.
5.2	VOLUNTARY LAND ACCESS PROCESS Consult, negotiate, agree, document, and implement voluntary land donations for public infrastructure on private land in accordance with the objectives of ESS 5 and consistent with the requirements of the Land Access process that has been prepared for the Project, in a manner acceptable to the Association.	Negotiate, agree and implement Land access process prior to any activities involving access to, and / or use of, private land.	IAs supported by CIU

ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS Prepare, implement and update the biodiversity management measures specified in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) in a manner acceptable to the Association. Specific issues relate to surveying and avoiding natural habitats during infrastructure design and installation.	Prepare the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) not later than three months after the Effective Date and implement it throughout Project Implementation.	IAs supported by CIU.
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	CULTURAL HERITAGE RISKS AND IMPACTS Prepare, implement and update the cultural heritage management measures specified in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) in a manner acceptable to the Association. Specific issues relate to consultations with communities and surveying to avoid graves and other culturally significant sites during infrastructure design and installation.	Prepare the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) not later than three months after the Effective Date and implement it throughout Project Implementation.	IAs supported by CIU.
8.2	CHANCE FINDS Prepare, and implement the chance finds procedure described in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) developed for the Project.	Throughout Project implementation.	IAs supported by CIU.
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN Prepare, implement and update the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) throughout Project implementation. Specific issues relate to engaging fully with communities who may receive improved connectivity infrastructure under the Project, ensuring private land access is voluntary and involves all relevant land owners, ensuring all eligible households and businesses are aware of the opportunity to connect to the fibre network (particularly vulnerable households), and ensuring stakeholders are fully engaged in the various institutional strengthening activities.	Prepare the Environmental and Social Management Plan (SEP) including GRM not later than three months the Effective Date and implement it throughout Project Implementation.	IAs supported by CIU.
10.2	PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM Prepare, implement and update the Grievance Mechanism throughout Project implementation.	Establish the Grievance Mechanism as per SEP.	IAs supported by CIU.