

Republic of Azerbaijan

Preparation Grant for Climate Resilient Efficient Water Supply (CREWS) (P516198)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

**Appraisal Version
July 2026 (draft)**

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Azerbaijan (the "Recipient") is planning to implement certain activities (the "Activities") for the preparation of the proposed Climate Resilient Efficient Water Supply (CREWS) Project (the "Project") with the involvement of the Azerbaijan State Water Resources Agency (ASWRA), for which it has requested a preparation grant, as set out in the Letter Agreement ("Agreement"). The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (hereinafter the Bank), acting as the trustee of the Grant Facility for Project Preparation, has agreed to provide the grant to finance the Activities, as set out in the referred Agreement.
2. The Recipient shall ensure that the Activities are 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 Bank. 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 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 for the Activities, 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 Bank. As provided for under the referred Agreement, the Recipient shall ensure that there are sufficient funds available to cover the costs of implementing the ESCP.
4. As agreed by the Bank and the Recipient, this ESCP will be revised from time to time if necessary, during the implementation of the Activities, to reflect adaptive management of changes and unforeseen circumstances related to the Activities or in response to assessment of performance of the Activities. In such circumstances, the Bank and the Recipient agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Bank and the Recipient's Representative specified in the Agreement. The Recipient shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS			
A.	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE Appoint and maintain a unit assigned for the Activities within ASWRA with relevant qualified staff and resources to support management of environmental, social, health and safety (E&S) risks and impacts and stakeholder engagement of the Activities, including at a minimum one environmental specialist and one social specialist with appropriate qualifications acceptable to the Bank. Hire and retain additional specialists based on the Activities' needs.	Appoint one environmental specialist and one social specialist no later than one month after the Effective Date and thereafter maintain throughout implementation of the Activities.	ASWRA
B	REGULAR REPORTING Prepare and submit to the Bank monitoring reports on the E&S performance of the Activities, including but not limited to the implementation of the ESCP, status of E&S assessments and instruments under preparation, stakeholder engagement activities, log and status of any complaints received.	Submit to the Bank quarterly reports on E&S performance as part of Activities Reports during implementation of the Activities or as otherwise requested by the Bank, commencing after the Effective Date. Submit each report to the Bank no later than 30 days after the end of each reporting period.	ASWRA
C	INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS Notify the Bank of any incident or accident relating to the Activities 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.	Notify the Bank no later than 24 hours after learning of the incident or accident. Provide available details upon request. Provide review report and Corrective Action Plan to the Bank no later than 10 days following the submission of the initial notice, unless a different timeframe is agreed to in writing by the Bank.	ASWRA

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	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.		
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE Ensure that the consultancies and studies financed under the GFPP Grant, including (i) feasibility and technical studies; (ii) Project-level E&S instruments such as Environmental and Social Management Framework, Resettlement Policy Framework, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, and contribution to Project Operations Manual on Labor Management Procedures, as well as (iii) capacity building, training and stakeholder consultations under the Activities are carried out in accordance with the terms of reference as agreed with the Bank, incorporate climate resilience and green infrastructure considerations, and are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter, ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the approved terms of reference.	Throughout implementation of the Activities.	ASWRA
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2	LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES Ensure that workers are engaged in the implementation of the Activities consistent with ESS2 and in compliance with the requirements of national legislation. To this end, ensure that the following measures are carried out: a) Provide workers with information and documentation that is clear and understandable regarding their terms and conditions of employment through written contracts setting out their rights, including, inter alia, rights related to hours of work, wages, overtime, compensation and benefits, as well as written notice of termination of employment, and details of severance payments, as applicable;	Develop a code of conduct for workers and establish a WGM (Workers' Grievance Mechanism) prior to hiring workers to be financed by the GFPP Grant and carry out the measures throughout the implementation of the Activities.	ASWRA

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	b) Implement occupational health and safety (including personal protective equipment, and emergency preparedness and response) measures, taking into account the General Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines (EHSGs), and other relevant Good International Industry Practice (GIIP) and, as appropriate, the industry-specific EHSGs and other Good International Industry Practice (GIIP); c) Implement measures, as applicable, to, inter alia: (i) prevent the use of all forms of forced labor and child labor; (ii) enable workers to benefit from, inter alia, access to grievance and redress mechanisms without fear of retaliation; and effective freedom to form and join workers organizations or alternative mechanisms for expressing their concerns and protect their rights related to labor and working conditions; d) Develop a code of conduct for workers, which shall include measures to prevent and respond to SEA and SH cases; e) Incorporate the relevant requirements above in the E&S specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with third parties that engage workers in the implementation of the Activities; f) Establish an accessible and functioning Workers' Grievance Mechanism (WGM).		
ESS 3, ESS 4, ESS5, ESS6, ESS8			
3	Relevant aspects of these standards will be considered in the technical assistance activities under action 1.2. above, as relevant.	Same timeframe as for action 1.2.	ASWRA
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE Incorporate stakeholder engagement and information disclosure measures in the implementation of the Activities, in a manner consistent with ESS10. To this end, ensure that the following measures are implemented:	Implement the stakeholder engagement activities throughout the implementation of the Activities.	ASWRA

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	a) Provide stakeholders with information about the environmental and social risks and impacts of the Activities in a timely, understandable, accessible and appropriate manner and format, including but not limited to any environmental and social instruments prepared as part of the Activities; b) Consult stakeholders in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation, including with regards to any environmental and social instruments prepared as part of the Activities; c) Document the stakeholder engagement activities, including: (i) stakeholder mapping; (ii) description of consultations and participation mechanisms utilized, and records of meetings held; (iii) feedback received and responses to said feedback; and (iv) measures to engage stakeholders who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable.		
10.2	GRIEVANCE MANAGEMENT Establish, maintain, and operate a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) for the Activities. Receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the Activities promptly and effectively, in a transparent manner that is culturally appropriate and readily accessible to all parties affected by the Activities, at no cost and without retribution, including concerns and grievances filed anonymously, in a manner consistent with ESS10. Equip GRM to receive, register, and facilitate the resolution of SEA/SH complaints in a safe, confidential, and survivor-centered manner.	Establish GRM for the Activities' stakeholders prior to engaging with them and undertaking any studies and maintain it throughout implementation of the Activities.	ASWRA