



Ministry of ICT and Innovation

RWANDA DIGITAL ACCELERATION PROJECT (P173373)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

June 2021

Revision Control

Revision:	Para /Sect	Change Description

The above section must be fully completed at each revision upon document approval. It should provide details on pages revised, date of the revision and paragraph with clear indication approval of known authority.

CLIENT: REPUBLIC OF RWANDA/ MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC PLANNING

IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: RWANDA INFORMATION SOCIETY AUTHORITY

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Rwanda will implement Rwanda Digital acceleration project (P173373), herein referred to as Project, through Rwanda Information Society Authority (RISA). The International Development Association (IDA) and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Republic of Rwanda shall implement material measures and actions so that the Project is implemented in accordance with 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 Republic of Rwanda shall also comply with the provisions of any other E&S documents required under the ESF and referred to in this ESCP, such as Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Labor Management Plan (LMP), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), and the timelines specified in those E&S documents.
4. The Republic of Rwanda is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by RISA or another entity, such as its contractors and sub-Contractors.
5. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP shall be monitored and reported to the WB by the Government as required by the ESCP and the conditions of the legal agreement, and the WB will monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout implementation of the Project.
6. As agreed by the WB and the Government, 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, RISA, or its delegate(s), on behalf of the Government of Rwanda, will agree to the changes with IDA and AIIB, and will update the ESCP to reflect such changes. Agreement on changes to the ESCP will be documented through the exchange of letters signed between IDA and RISA or its delegate(s), on behalf of the Government of Rwanda. The RISA or its delegate(s) will promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
7. Where Project changes, unforeseen circumstances, or Project performance result in changes to the risks and impacts during Project implementation, the Government of Rwanda shall provide additional funds, if needed, to implement actions and measures to address such risks and impacts, which may include environmental, health, and safety concerns or labor influx and gender-based violence incidents.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENTS

Material Measures and Actions		Timeframe	Responsible Entity /Authority/ Resources
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
1	<p>Regular Reporting: Prepare and submit regular monitoring reports to the WB 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, functioning of the grievance mechanism(s).</p>	Quarterly, throughout Project implementation	RISA
2	<p>Incidents and Accidents: Promptly notify the WB 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 fatalities or impact on physical and cultural resources. Provide sufficient details 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 contractor and supervising entity, as appropriate. A report of the incident shall be submitted, detailing summary findings of the Root Cause Analysis (RCA). An incident register shall be maintained at all work sites, throughout the duration of the project.</p>	<p>Notify the WB within 24 hours of becoming aware of the incident or accident</p> <p>A detailed report on such incidents or accidents shall be provided to the WB within a timeframe acceptable to WB.</p>	RISA
3	<p>Contractors Monthly reports: All contractors shall be required to provide monthly monitoring reports on ESMP, labor management procedure, occupational health and safety and GRM implementation. These reports shall be submitted by the contractors to RISA and by RISA to the WB.</p>	Monthly, within reports due to the WB within 5 days of receipt from contractors	RISA
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>Organizational structure: Establish and maintain an organizational structure with qualified staff and resources to support management of E&S risks including one environmental and social safeguards specialist and one environmental & social safeguards officer. Among other responsibilities, this team will spearhead environmental, health, social, security and safety risk management in the Project.</p>	<p>Not later than two months after project effectiveness</p> <p>The organizational structure, will be maintained throughout Project implementation.</p>	RISA
1.2	<p>Environment and Social Management Framework(ESMF): Prepare, Public disclosure and implement an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) consistent with ESS1.</p>	Prior Project approval	RISA
1.3	<p>Environmental and Social Assessment: RISA shall conduct and implement the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIAs) and ESMPs for subprojects in accordance with the Project ESMF, the ESSs and in a manner acceptable to the WB and the Rwanda Development Board (RDB).</p>	The assessment will be conducted prior to commencement of project activities and the ESMP contained in it will be implemented throughout the Project lifespan.	RISA

Material Measures and Actions		Timeframe	Responsible Entity /Authority/ Resources
1.4	<p>Management tools and instruments: Screen Project components and activities for E&S risks and impacts in accordance with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) and Labour Management Procedures(LMP) prepared for the Project, and, site specific instruments such as Environmental and Social impact Assessments/ Management plans (ESIAs/ ESMPs), Resettlement Action Plans (RAP), Labor Management Plans (LMP), Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEP), will be prepared, and implemented in compliance with the requirements of the applicable Environmental and Social Standards.</p>	<p>ESMP and ESIA shall be submitted to the WB for approval before launching the bidding process for the respective Project component.</p> <p>Once prepared, tools and instruments apply throughout Project implementation.</p>	RISA
1.5	<p>Management of Contractors: Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including the relevant E&S documents and/or plans, and the Labor Management Procedures, into the ESHS specifications (including GBV code of conduct) of the procurement documents with contractors and sub-contractors. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and sub-contractors—including contracted workers, community workers and primary supply workers, as appropriate—comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts and sub-contracts.</p> <p>All contractors and sub-contractors shall be required to prepare and submit to the project Implementation Unit for approval and subsequently implement the approved Contractor's Environmental and Social Management Plan (C-ESMPs).</p>	<p>Prior to the preparation of procurement documents.</p> <p>Contractors shall then be supervised throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>C-ESMP in place prior to commencement of Project works.</p>	RISA Contractors
1.6	<p>Permits, Approvals and Authorizations: The Project design shall avoid traversing ecological sensitive ecosystems National parks, Forests reserves, Parks, Protected wetlands, and buffer zone around water bodies. The project shall endeavor to utilize mainly road reserve for fiber optic cables and construction of antennae masts or towers. These permits shall include but not be limited to the following:</p> <p>Right of Way authorization from Rwanda Transport Development Agency (RTDA) and relevant Districts shall be obtained prior to commencement of Project implementation works.</p> <p>Environment and Social Impact assessment certificate from Rwanda Development Board (RDB)</p> <p>Permits to transport and manage hazardous waste like E-waste from Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Agency (RURA).</p>	<p>Permits, approval and authorization shall be acquired prior to Project commencement in affected areas.</p> <p>Monitor compliance with this obligation throughout Project implementation.</p>	RISA, RDB, RTDA RURA,

Material Measures and Actions		Timeframe	Responsible Entity /Authority/ Resources
1.7	<p>Environmental and Social Monitoring: RISA is responsible to monitor and report on implementation of the ESCP and Monitoring report will be sent as part of the project Implementation Progress report</p> <p>If needed, and in consultation with the WB, RISA will hire an independent E&S Consultant to conduct midterm and final project E&S performance and compliance audits</p>	<p>Annually, quarterly</p> <p>Mid-term review, Six months prior project closure</p>	RISA
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>Labour Management Procedures: Prepare, disclose, and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) consistently with the requirements of ESS2 Activities to be implemented by Implementing Entities will be implemented in line with the requirements of ESS2</p> <p>Workers employed/contracted by Private Companies will apply own policies provided they are consistent with ESS2. These policies shall be assessed for their consistency with ESS2 and adequacy with the Project Labor Management Procedures and national Labor laws prior to entering implementation contract or agreements.</p> <p>Project Consultants/contracted/sub-contracted staff (contracted workers, community workers and primary supply workers) will be managed in accordance with Contract terms and conditions provided they are consistent with ESS2. Contract terms and conditions shall be assessed for their compliance with the Project labor management procedures and ESS2.</p> <p>The Project shall establish a workers' GRM, including with elected workers' representatives. Overall Project labor management procedures will be integrated in the Project Implementation Manual.</p>	<p>Prepare the LMP prior to project appraisal, Incorporation of relevant provisions of Labor management procedures and incorporation of GBV risk mitigation measures into the bidding documents and maintained throughout Project implementation</p> <p>Constitute a worker's GRM prior to commencement of project works</p>	RISA
2.2	<p>Grievance Redress Mechanism for Project workers: Establish, maintain, and operate a grievance mechanism, as described in the Labour management procedures and consistent with ESS2 and Rwanda Labour law</p>	Grievance mechanism shall be operationalized prior to engaging Project workers and maintained throughout Project implementation.	RISA
2.3	<p>Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Measures: Prepare, adopt, and implement occupational, health and safety (OHS) measures specified in the ESMP.</p>	Contractor's OHS Measures in place as part of the C-ESMP before commencement of Works and enforced throughout Project implementation	RISA
2.4	<p>Emergency Preparedness and Response: As part of the OHS measures specified in 2.3, include measures on emergency response and preparedness and ensure coordination with measures under 4.5.</p>	Prior to commencement of construction and maintained throughout Project implementation.	RISA

Material Measures and Actions		Timeframe	Responsible Entity /Authority/ Resources
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	Management of waste and hazardous material: Establish working agreement with the E-waste Treatment Plant and recycling established by government and managed by Enviroserve. The agreement shall focus on supporting the E-waste through collection centers under establishment in every district for transport and treatment in alignment with national E-waste guidelines and requirements of E&S documents and ESS3.	Not later than six months from project effectiveness	RISA
3.2	Resource Efficiency and pollution prevention and management : Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures shall be covered under the ESMP prepared under 1.3. Further, all contractor contracts shall include requirements for proper disposal of all liquid and solid waste (including plastic trash) and construction waste, sanitation management, including management of any associated dust emission, and management of potential pollution of water sources, noise impacts during construction and operation.	Prior to signing contractor contracts and maintained throughout Project implementation	RISA
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	Traffic and Road Safety: Adopt and implement measures and actions to assess and manage traffic and road safety risks in the ESMPs to be developed under action 1.3 and in the site-specific traffic management plans (to be prepared as part of the C-ESMP) especially for fiber optic installation.	Measures to be included in the Project ESMP and C-ESMPs prior to the commencement of the Project works and implemented throughout Project implementation	RISA
4.2	Community Health and Safety: Prepare and implement measures and actions in the ESMPs prepared in accordance with the ESMF, in a manner acceptable to WB, to assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities including, potential misconduct by Project workers, risks of labor influx, response to emergency situations	General requirements shall be included in the ESMF and implemented throughout Project implementation	RISA
4.3	Gender Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Risks: Prepare and implement GBV action plan, as part of ESMPs in line with the Good Practice note on Gender Based Violence in a manner acceptable to the WB. This ESMP including GBV action Plan will be adapted in the Constructors CESMP, put in the bidding documents, budgeted and implemented	Prior to launching calls for bids, and shall be implemented throughout Project implementation	RISA
4.4	GBV and SEA Risks during project implementation: The GBV Risk mitigation measures shall be operationalized, including updating the SEP, prior to launching calls for bids, and shall be implemented throughout Project implementation	Throughout Project implementation	RISA
4.5	Security Personnel: Before any public or private security personnel becomes involved in the Project implementation, prepare a Security Management Plan consistent with ESS4 and acceptable to the WB.	Before involvement of public or private security personnel.	RISA

Material Measures and Actions		Timeframe	Responsible Entity /Authority/ Resources
4.6	Emergency Preparedness and response: Develop and implement measures as part of ESMPs to address emergency events and ensure consistency with measures under 2.4	Prior to commencement of Project works and maintained throughout Project implementation.	RISA
4.7	Community Sensitization: Raise public awareness of the Project, the risks involved, especially on E-waste collection, transport, and disposal and recycling, and the Project risk management plan through stakeholder engagements, public hearings, radio talk shows and community meetings in accordance with ESS4 and ESS10.	Prior and throughout Project implementation	RISA, RURA, Enviroserve, REMA
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1.	Resettlement Policy Framework: Prepare and implement the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), consistent with ESS5 and in a manner acceptable to the WB.	Prior to the WB approval of the Project. The RPF will be implemented throughout Project.	RISA
5.2	Resettlement Plans: Before carrying out activities that involve land acquisition and resettlement, prepare, adopt, and implement resettlement action plans (RAPs) in accordance with ESS5 and consistent with the requirements of the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) that has been prepared for the Project. Thereafter adopt and implement the respective RAPs, in a manner acceptable to the WB.	The required RAPs shall be submitted for the WB approval prior to commencing Project activities that involve land acquisition and resettlement.	RISA
5.3.	Monitoring and Reporting: Ensure that monitoring and reporting on land acquisition and resettlement activities as well as on restoration of livelihoods and vulnerable households are carried out separately or are covered in regular reports.	As necessary, prior to Commencement of resettlement activities and throughout the entire implementation period of these activities.	RISA/SPIU
5.4	Grievance Redress Mechanism: Establish and maintain a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GM) to address community related complaints in accordance with the RPF, RAP, ESMF and SEP.	GRM to be established prior to commencement of any Project activities GM and maintained throughout Project implementation.	RISA/Districts
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	Biodiversity Risk and Impacts: Screen Project activities (including civil works) to avoid any significant loss or degradation of natural habitats and to avoid damaging any protected areas or critical habitats, in accordance with the Program ESMF and ESS6. Biodiversity-related risks and impacts shall be comprehensively assessed and managed as part of the ESIA to be conducted in the Project sites.	The ESIA shall be conducted and submitted with an ESMP for the WB approval, prior to commencement of Project works and implemented throughout Project implementation.	RISA
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
Not applicable in the context of Rwanda			
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	Chance finds Chance finds procedure shall be included in the ESMP and ESMF for the Project and implemented in accordance with ESS8 and in a manner acceptable to the WB.	Throughout Project implementation	RISA

Material Measures and Actions		Timeframe	Responsible Entity /Authority/ Resources
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
9.1	Environmental and Social Management System(ESMS): Review, update, adopt, and maintain Existing Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) to address project related risks and Management	The review and update of existing ESMS is ongoing and is expected to be completed before project effective date. Once established, the ESMS is maintained and operated throughout Project implementation.	BRD
9.2	FI organizational Capacity: Establish and maintain an organizational capacity and competency for implementing the ESMS with clearly defined roles and responsibilities. The E&S specialist will be assigned for E&S management.	Two Environment and Social Specialists will be responsible for day to day E&S management. The structure will be maintained and operated throughout Project implementation.	BRD
9.3	Senior management Representative: Designate a senior management representative to have overall accountability for environmental and social performance of FI subprojects.	Senior management representative for E&S accountability is already designated and will be maintained throughout project implementation	BRD
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	Stakeholder Engagement Plan preparation and Implementation: Prepare, disclose, and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan before project appraisal (SEP) and on confirmation of project design develop and disclose the stakeholder engagement plan	Prior to appraisal Throughout Project implementation.	RISA
10.2	Project Grievance Redress Mechanism: Adopt, maintain, and operate a grievance mechanism consistent with ESS10 and in a manner acceptable to the WB.	Prior to start of implementation of activities. Throughout Project implementation	RISA
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
CS1	PIU and contractor will be inducted on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder mapping and engagement - Specific aspects of environmental and social assessment and ESMP implementation - Emergency Preparedness and Response - Workers and community health and safety - Information on World Bank's Safeguards Incidents Reporting requirements - Implementation of Labor Management Plans - Risk assessment and management; - GBV and SEA 	At the beginning of the Project and upon selection of contractors and sub-contractors	RISA
CS2	Project workers: Project workers will be trained on occupational health and safety including on use of PPEs and emergency prevention, COVID-19 prevention, and preparedness and response arrangements to emergency situations.	After recruitment	RISA