

**Republic of Kiribati
Kiribati Digital Government Project
(P176108)**

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

23 November 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Republic of Kiribati (hereinafter the Recipient) will implement the Kiribati Digital Government Project (the Project), with the involvement of the Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport and Tourism Development (MICTTD) and other government ministries/agencies/units on Project implementation as may be necessary. The International Development Association (hereinafter the Association) has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Recipient will implement material measures and actions so that the Project is implemented in accordance with the 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 Recipient will 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 Plans (ESMP), Labor Management Procedures (LMP) and Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEP), and the timelines specified in those E&S documents.
4. The Recipient is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the Ministry, agency or unit referenced in 1. above.
5. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP will be monitored and reported to the Association by the Recipient as required by the ESCP and the conditions of the legal agreement, and the Association will monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout implementation of the Project.
6. As agreed by the Association and the Recipient, 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, the MICTTD will agree to the changes with the Association 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 the Association and the Recipient. The MICTTD 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 Republic of Kiribati shall provide additional funds, if needed, to implement actions and measures to address such risks and impacts.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME/DATE OF COMPLETION	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	<p>REGULAR REPORTING</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, status of preparation and implementation of E&S documents required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, functioning of the grievance mechanism(s).</p>	<p>Six-monthly throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development Project Management Unit (PMU)</p>
B	<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</p> <p>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 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.</p>	<p>Minor incidents will be reflected in the six-monthly reports to the Association, major incidents will be reported to the Association within 48 hours.¹</p> <p>A report would be provided to the Association, as requested.</p>	<p>Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development PMU</p>

¹ Major incidents/accidents must be reported in accordance with the World Bank Safeguards Incident Response Toolkit' (SIRT). The SIRT outlines the requirements for reporting GBV cases and has a protocol that defines incident severity and reporting requirements.

ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>a. The MICTTD shall continue to engage a project manager based in the PMU, supported by at least two international and national environmental, social and health and safety specialists within the Kiribati Fiduciary Services Unit (KFSU) (as engaged by Ministry of Finance and Economic Development) to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project.</p> <p>b. The MICTTD will assign a grievance mechanism focal point to coordinate and manage the grievance mechanism.</p>	<p>a. The two ESHS Specialists shall be appointed no later than 60 days after the Effective Date and before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities. Procurement of goods and consultancy activities can be initiated as soon as the project is effective, however construction works should not commence prior to the finalization of the ESMP.</p> <p>b. The grievance mechanism focal point should be assigned no later than 30 days after the Effective Date.</p>	<p>Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development PMU</p> <p>Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (KFSU)</p>
1.2	<p>EXCLUSION LIST</p> <p>The MICTTD shall exclude the following types of activities as ineligible for financing under the Project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities that may cause long term, permanent and/or irreversible (e.g. loss of major natural habitat) adverse impacts; • Activities that have high probability of causing serious adverse effects to human health and/or the environment; • Activities that may have significant adverse social impacts and may give rise to significant social conflict; • Activities that may affect lands or rights of indigenous people or other vulnerable minorities; and • Activities that may involve resettlement or land acquisition/use restriction or adverse impacts on cultural heritage. 	<p>Prior to completion of final ESMP and commencement of relevant Project activities, and after completion of land due diligence referenced in 5.1 of the ESCP.</p>	<p>Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development PMU</p>

1.3	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS</p> <p>a. A preliminary ESMP has been prepared for the Project and must be updated, adopted, and implemented as a Final ESMP, in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p> <p>b. Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including, inter alia, any environmental and social management plans or other instruments, ESS2 requirements, and any other required ESHS measures, into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p> <p>c. Based on the Final ESMP, revise, adopt, and implement a revised Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p>	<p>a. Final ESMP to be prepared, disclosed and adopted on completion of design works and prior to commencement of relevant Project activities and after completion in land due diligence referenced in 5.1 of the ESCP.</p> <p>b. Before launching the procurement process for the relevant Project activities, and thereafter throughout the civil works/construction activities.</p> <p>c. SEP to be revised, disclosed and adopted on completion of the Final ESMP and prior to commencement of relevant Project activities.</p>	<p>Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development PMU</p>
1.4	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</p> <p>The MICTTD, with support from the KFSU ESHS specialists, will screen technical assistance activities, terms of reference and outputs to ensure compliance with ESF and relevant local legal and GIIP requirements, in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p>	<p>Before launching the procurement process for Project Technical Assistance activities, and thereafter throughout the implementation and completion of technical assistance outputs.</p>	<p>Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development PMU</p> <p>Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development</p> <p>Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (KFSU)</p>
<p>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</p>			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</p> <p>Adopt, and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) that have been developed for the Project.</p>	<p>Labor Management Procedures shall be finalized, disclosed and adopted no later than 60 days after the Effective Date and before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities.</p> <p>All measures specified in this action 2.1 shall be implemented throughout the Project implementation period.</p>	<p>Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development PMU</p>

2.2	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS Establish, maintain, and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.	Adopt, implement and update the Grievance Redress Mechanism no later than 60 days after the Effective Date and throughout Project Implementation.	Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development PMU
2.3	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OHS) MEASURES Adopt, implement and update the occupational, health and safety (OHS) measures specified in the ESMP and LMP in a manner acceptable to the Association.	Final ESMP to be prepared, disclosed and adopted on completion of design works and prior to commencement of civil works/construction activities. All measures specified in this action 2.3 shall be implemented throughout the Project implementation period.	Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development PMU
2.4	WORKER CODE OF CONDUCT Ensure that all construction workers adhere to the Code of Conduct. Provisions to prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) shall be included in the Code of Conduct (CoC) for Project staff and for contracted workers in line with relevant national laws and legislation and ESS2 and adopted and applied under the Project.	Throughout Project implementation	Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development PMU
2.5	RETRENCHMENT PLAN Prepare, adopt and implement a Retrenchment Plan in consultation with workers that will be made redundant as a result of digitization, following the guidelines in the LMP.	Before redundancies go into effect for any civil servants as a result of digitization of public services.	Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development PMU
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	E-WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN: Update, adopt, and implement the Waste Management Plan prepared for the Project.	Waste Management Plan shall updated, disclosed and adopted as part of the Final ESMP on completion of design works and prior to commencement of relevant Project activities.	Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development PMU

3.2	RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures are covered under the Preliminary ESMP prepared under Action 1.2 above.	Final ESMP to be prepared, disclosed and adopted on completion of design works and prior to commencement of relevant Project activities.	Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development PMU
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed, under action 1.2 above including, inter alia, measures to: minimize community exposure to noise and dust from construction and demolition activities; ensure that individuals or groups who, because of their particular circumstances, may be disadvantaged or vulnerable, have access to the development benefits resulting from the Project; and prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse, and sexual harassment		
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	Once the National Data Centre (NDC) location is confirmed, ensure and provide documentation satisfactory to the Association that it is wholly situated on already Government-leased land and that the lease has been done through voluntarily negotiated agreement, including due diligence that there will be no involuntary land acquisition; physical or economic displacement; or impact on any vulnerable groups.	Due diligence completed and documentation provided prior to finalization of NDC location and commencement of contractor procurement process.	Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development PMU
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
	Not relevant		
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
	Not relevant		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	Adopt and implement the chance finds procedures included in the ESMP developed for the Project.	Prior to commencement of contractor procurement process and throughout Project implementation	Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development PMU
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
	Not relevant		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			

10.1	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN:</p> <p>a. Adopt and implement the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p> <p>b. Based on the Final ESMP, revise, adopt, and implement a revised Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) consistent with ESS10, in a manner acceptable to the Association.</p>	<p>a. Adopt SEP no later than 30 days after the Effective Date, and implement the SEP throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>b. SEP to be revised, disclosed and adopted on completion of the Final ESMP and prior to commencement of relevant Project activities.</p>	Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development PMU
10.2	<p>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM:</p> <p>Adopt, maintain and operate the grievance mechanism, as described in the SEP.</p>	No later than 60 days after the Effective Date and throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development PMU
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)			
CS1	The MICTTD and other relevant implementing support staff responsible for the Project to receive training on the Project’s ESF instruments, CoC and provisions to prevent SEA/SH, the relevant requirements of the ESMP, LMP, SEP and WMP, and the roles and responsibilities of key agencies in the ESF implementation.	Within 60 days of the Effective Date and as new Project team members join the Project throughout implementation.	Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development PMU
CS2	Contractors to receive training on the relevant aspects of the Project ESF instruments and relevant ESHS requirements.	Prior to work commencing and throughout Project implementation.	Ministry of Information, Communication, Transport & Tourism Development PMU