**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN**



**Republic of South Sudan**

**Strengthening South Sudan’s Financial Sector Project (3SF) (P179278)**

 **Negotiated**

**ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL**

**COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)**

**25 August 2023**

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN**

1. The Republic of South Sudan (the Recipient) will implement the *Strengthening South Sudan’s Financial Sector Project* (the Project) with the involvement of the Bank of South Sudan (BoSS), as set out in the Financing Agreement. The International Development Association (the Association) has agreed to provide financing for the Project (P179278), 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 through the Bank of South Sudan 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 and Planning of the Republic of South Sudan, Dr Bak Barnaba Chol. The Recipient shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

| **MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS**  | **TIMEFRAME** | **RESPONSIBLE ENTITY** |
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| **MONITORING AND REPORTING** |
| A | **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 instruments required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the grievance mechanism. | Submit six-monthly reports to the Association throughout Project implementation, commencing after the Effective Date. Submit each report to the Association no later than fourteen (14) days after the end of each reporting period.  | BoSS PIU |
| B | **INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS** Promptly notify the Association of any incident or accident related to the Project that 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. 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.  | Notify the Association not later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident. Provide subsequent reports to the Association within a timeframe acceptable to the Association  | BoSS PIU |
| **ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS** |
| 1.1 | **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**Establish and maintain a PIU with qualified staff and resources to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project including an environmental specialist and social specialist. | Establish and maintain PIUs as set out in the Financing Agreement. Hire or appoint an environmental specialist and a social specialist no later than six (6) months after Effective Date, and thereafter maintain this position throughout Project implementation.  | BoSS PIU |
| 1.2 | **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS** Adopt and implement a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) for the Project, consistent with the relevant ESSs.  | Adopt and implement the SESA not later than three (3) months after Effective Date and thereafter implement the SESA throughout Project implementation. | BoSS PIU |
| 1.3 | **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA)**Ensure that the consultancies, studies (including financial sector development strategy, governance framework, institutional assessments, and HR policy developments), are carried out in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Association, that are consistent with the ESSs, and that include the analysis and recommendations on the downstream environmental and social impacts of the supported by the TA activities. Thereafter ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the terms of reference. | Throughout Project implementation.  | BoSS PIU |
| **ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS**  |
| 2.1 | **LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES**Adopt and implement the Labor Management Procedures for the Project as part of the SESA. The potential risks related to labor and working conditions including code of conduct relating to SEA and SH, forced labor, child labor, grievance arrangements for Project workers, and applicable requirements for project workers and supervising firms that are related to OHS aspects of project workers shall be covered under SESA. The SESA shall provide guidance and support to the institutional HR policy that would be developed under this project in accordance with the requirements of South Sudan’s national laws and the requirements of ESS2. | Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the SESA (point 1.2) | BoSS PIU |
| 2.2 | **GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS** Establish and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the SESA and consistent with ESS2.  | Establish grievance mechanism prior to engaging Project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation. | BoSS PIU |
| **ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT**  |
| 3.1 | **WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN**Adopt and implement waste management measures as per the guidance in the SESA, to manage hazardous and non-hazardous e- wastes, consistent with ESS3. | Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the SESA (point 1.2) | BoSS PIU |
| 3.2 | **RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT**Ensure that relevant aspects of this standard are included in any Terms of Reference. Outputs for TA activities shall be prepared and reviewed in accordance with ESS3. Thereafter ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the terms of reference | Throughout Project implementation | BoSS PIU |
| **ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY**  |
| 4.1 | **COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY**Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered in any Terms of Reference and the technical assistance activities of the Project. Thereafter ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the terms of reference.  | Throughout Project implementation | BoSS PIU |
| 4.2 | **SEA/SH ACTION PLAN**Adopt and implement a SEA/SH action plan proportionate to the E&S risks of the project as part of the SESA to assess and manage the risks of the SEA and SH | Same time frame as the adoption and implementation of the SESA (point 1.2) and thereafter implement the SEA/SH action plan throughout the Project Implementation | BoSS PIU |
| **ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE, AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT -This Standard is not relevant** |
| **ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES -This standard is not relevant**  |
| **ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES**  |
| 7.1 | **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PLANNING** Provide through the SEP adequate and culturally appropriate forms of meaningful consultations and linguistically relevant content on the Project | Throughout Project implementation | BoSS PIU |
| **ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE -This standard is not relevant**  |
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| **ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES** – This standard is not relevant |
| **ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE** |
| 10.1 | **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION**Adopt and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Project, consistent with ESS10, which shall include measures to, inter alia, provide stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable, and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, and intimidation.  | SEP shall be adopted and implemented not later than three (3) months after the Effective Date. Thereafter implement the SEP throughout Project implementation. | BoSS PIU |
| 10.2 | **PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM** Establish, publicize, maintain, and operate an accessible grievance mechanism, to receive and facilitate the 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 ESS10. The grievance mechanism shall be equipped to receive, register, and facilitate the resolution of SEA/SH complaints, including through the referral of survivors to relevant gender-based violence service providers, all in a safe, confidential, and survivor-centered manner.  | Establish the grievance mechanism no later than three (3) months after Effective Date, and thereafter maintain and operate the mechanism throughout Project implementation. | BoSS PIU |
| **CAPACITY SUPPORT**  |
| CS1 | Specify Training to be provided and targeted groups for PIU staff and Project workers on: * ESF in general, and the project’s ESHS risk management instruments
* Stakeholder mapping and engagement
* Specific aspects of environmental and social assessment
* Project SESA implementation
* Project GRMs and codes of conduct
* Additional trainings based on the outcome of SESA
 | Throughout Project implementation | BoSS PIU |