

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF INTERNATIONAL
FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA**

**Central Asia Water Efficiency Cooperation
REGIONAL Project**

(P515897)

**Multi-Phase Programmatic Approach (MPA)-
Phase 2**

**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL
COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)**

Negotiated-Version

August 1, 2026

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

- PIU — Project Implementation Unit
- EC-IFAS — Executive Committee of the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea
- IDA — International Development Association
- GRM — Grievance Redress Mechanism
- IFAS — International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea
- OHS — Occupational Health and Safety
- SEP — Stakeholder Engagement Plan
- LMP - Labor Management Procedures
- CHMP — Cultural Heritage Management Plan
- ESMP — Environmental and Social Management Plan
- ESCP — Environmental and Social Commitment Plan
- RPF — Resettlement Policy Framework
- POM — Project Operation Manual
- SH — Sexual Harassment
- SEA - Sexual Exploitation or Abuse
- SEA/SH — Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment
- ESS — Environmental and Social Standards
- ESS1–ESS10 – Numbered Environmental and Social Standards (ESS1 – ESS10)
- SESA—Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
- EHSG — Environmental, Social, Health and Safety

1. The **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE of the INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR SAVING THE ARAL SEA (EC IFAS)** (the Recipient) will implement the **Central Asia Water Efficiency Cooperation Project** (the Project), using the Multi-Phase Programmatic Approach (MPA)-Phase 3, with the involvement of the Executive Committee of IFAS (EC IFAS), as set out in the Financing Agreement (the Agreement). The International Development Association (IDA) (the Association) has agreed to provide financing for the Project, as set out in the 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 Agreement. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the 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 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 Agreement, 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 Recipient's Representative specified in the Agreement or Chairman of Executive Committee of IFAS. 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 A. Establish and maintain Project Implementation Units (PIU) within the Executive Committee of International Fund for Aral Sea (EC IFAS) with qualified staff and resources to support management of environmental, social, health, and safety (E&S) risks and impacts of the Project, including one environmental specialist, one social specialist responsible for implementation, supervision, compliance monitoring, and reporting of environmental, social, and safety risk management measures of the Project. <i>Provision until transition period: one specialist covering both environment and social aspects will be acceptable until the transfer of EC IFAS from Kazakhstan to Uzbekistan. Once the transition is completed the requirement for two specialist will be required for the ongoing project implementation.</i> B. Enter into cooperation / collaboration arrangements with applicable National Project implementing agencies/entities and PIUs to manage E&S risks and impacts of the Project within Sovereign States.	A. Establish the PIU, under hire an environmental and social specialist (one person), within thirty (30) days after the Effective Date. Once transfer to Uzbekistan is undertaken hire two specialists one environment and one social and, thereafter maintain the PIU and these positions throughout Project implementation. B. Enter into arrangements within thirty (30) days after the Effective Date and, thereafter, maintain the arrangements throughout Project implementation.	EC-IFAS EC-IFAS

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
B	CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN/MEASURES A. Project staff and other key stakeholders, including Project workers, must undergo training on the following topics, <i>inter alia</i>: • Specific aspects of Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), including preparation of environmental and social management plans (ESMPs); • Principles of International Water Law; • Principles of Ecological Flow and/or sanitary releases; • Health and safety risks to the community; • Measures to prevent and respond to GBV/SEA/SH risks and incidents • Stakeholder engagement including consultations on policies and functioning of Grievance Mechanism for Project activities and Project workers; • Incident including accidents reporting. B. As part of the capacity building for the irrigation and WRM sector, and guided by the SESA, the Project will prepare a guidance note on the integration of environmental and social risk management in irrigation planning and design decisions, recommendations for the incorporation of environment, social, and OHS policy changes, and meaningful engagement with non-governmental actors; and will include E&S risk management in the implementation of youth engagement initiatives, including faculty support, internships, and programs to attract and retain young professionals, taking into account gender balance in the irrigation sector.	A. Initial training shall commence no later than 60 days after Effective Date. Refresher trainings shall be provided as needed throughout Project implementation. B. Building capacity for the irrigation and WRM sector shall be initiated within the first year of the Effective Date of the Project and continue throughout project implementation.	PIU PIU
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
C	REGULAR REPORTING Prepare and submit to the Association regular monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health and safety (E&S) performance of the Project, including implementation of the ESCP and E&S instruments, on a bi-annual basis. The reports shall include, <i>inter alia</i>: - Status of preparation and implementation of E&S instruments required under the ESCP. - Summary of stakeholder engagement activities carried out as per the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. - Complaints submitted to the grievance mechanism(s), the grievance log, and progress made in resolving them. - E&S performance of contractors and subcontractors as reported through [monthly] contractors' and supervision firms' reports. - Number and status of resolution of incidents and accidents reported under action E below.	Submit bi-annual reports to the Association throughout Project implementation, commencing after the Effective Date. Submit each report to the Association no later than thirty (30) days after the end of each reporting period.	PIU

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
D	CONTRACTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS Require contractors and consulting firms to provide monthly monitoring reports on E&S performance in accordance with the metrics specified in the respective bidding documents and contracts and submit such reports to the Association.	Submit the monthly reports to the Association upon request or as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action C above.	PIU
E	INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS Notify the Association of any incident or accident relating 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 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 Association upon request in accordance with ESS1. Arrange for an appropriate review of the incident or accident to establish its immediate, underlying, and root causes. Prepare, agree with the Association, 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.	Notify the Association no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident. Provide available details upon request. Provide a review report and Corrective Action Plan to the Association no later than 15 days following the submission of the initial notice, unless a different timeframe is agreed upon in writing by the Association.	PIU

ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENTS AND/OR PLANS A. Update the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for a Regional Sector Strategic Environment and Social Assessment (SESA) for the irrigation, bulk conveyance, and water resources management sector in accordance with the consultations carried out at appraisal and in a manner satisfactory to the Association. Thereafter prepare [and implement] the SESA in accordance with the terms of reference satisfactory to the Association. Develop Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) template, as part of the SESA for the development of site specific ESMPs for installation of monitoring equipment, and other potential arising low risk refurbishment, in a manner satisfactory to the Association, consistent with the relevant ESSs. B. Thereafter, ensure that site-Specific ESMPs are consistent with the ESMP template mentioned above and relevant national project ESMFs under the MPA.	A. Update the ToRs no later than negotiations and thereafter prepare the SESA including ESMP template no later than one year after Effectiveness and thereafter implement the SESA and template ESMP throughout Project implementation. B. Prepare, submit a sample for the Association's no-objection site specific ESMPs prior to implementing site specific works, and including in bidding documents for the respective works.	PIU PIU in coordination with National PIUs
1.2	MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the relevant E&S instruments into the Environment, Social, Health and Safety (ESHS) specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. Thereafter, ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply and cause subcontractors to comply with the ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.	As part of the preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts. Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation. Copies of relevant contracts provided to the Association upon request.	PIU
1.3	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE Carry out the consultancies, studies (including preliminary studies and pre- and feasibility studies, if applicable), capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project, ESAs in accordance with terms of reference complying with the ESF and acceptable to the Association. Thereafter prepare and finalize the outputs of such activities in compliance with the terms of reference.	Throughout Project implementation.	PIU
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES		

	Implement the Labor Management Procedures for the Project and include the relevant labor management procedures in SESA Annexures and Project Operation Manual (POM), consistent with ESS2.	Prepare LMP by Effective date. Implement the LMP for the Project throughout Project implementation. Include relevant labor management procedures in the SESA in the same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the SESA under action 1.1, and implement throughout Project implementation.	PIU
2.2	OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OHS) MANAGEMENT PLAN A. Assess and manage site-specific OHS risks and impacts on communities and Project workers and include mitigation measures, including emergency prevention, preparedness and response measures, in the SESA and site-specific ESMPs to be prepared in accordance with the National Project ESMF, consistent with the SESA and ESS4. B. Require contractors and subcontractors to prepare and implement OHS Management Measures or Plans as part of their site specific ESMPs for installation of monitoring equipment, consistent with the SESA, the National Project ESMF under the MPA and the relevant ESSs.	Prepare the OHS Management Plan at the same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the SESA, and site-specific ESMPs under action 1.1 above and thereafter implement the plan throughout Project implementation.	PIU, in coordination with National PIUs
2.3	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS Establish and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and POM, and consistent with ESS2.	Establish grievance mechanism prior engaging project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.	PIU, in coordination with National PIUs

ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	WASTE MANAGEMENT A. Ensure that E&S Risk Screening incorporates hazardous and non-hazardous waste generation and management actions and measures for the Project and TA activities consistent with the requirements of ESS3. a. Include ESS3 waste management requirements in the scope of the SESA to be prepared under action 1.1. b. Include waste management assessment under ESS 3 in the TORs of all preliminary studies and Technical Assistance. B. Assess and manage site-specific waste and hazardous substances management in accordance with ESS3 and relevant National Project ESMF, and include mitigation measures in the site specific ESMPs to be prepared for installation of monitoring equipment.	A. Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the SESA and TA under actions 1.1 and 1.3 respectively, and implement throughout Project implementation. B. Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the ESMPs under action 1.1 and thereafter implement throughout Project implementation.	PIU, in coordination with National PIUs PIU, in coordination with National PIUs
3.2	RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT A. Ensure that E&S Risk Screening incorporates resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures for the Project and TA activities, consistent with ESS3. a. Include ESS 3 resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the scope of the SESA to be prepared under action 1.1, including <i>inter alia</i> impacts on water quality. b. Include resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management assessment under ESS 3 in the TORs of all preliminary studies and Technical Assistance. B. Assess and manage site-specific resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management in accordance with ESS3 and relevant National Project ESMF, and include mitigation measures in the site specific ESMPs to be prepared for installation of monitoring equipment.	A. Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the SESA and TA under sections 1.1 and 1.3 respectively, and implement throughout Project implementation. B. Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the ESMPs under action 1.1 and thereafter implement throughout Project implementation.	PIU, in coordination with National PIUs PIU, in coordination with National PIUs
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY A. Ensure that E&S Risk Screening incorporates measures to manage traffic and road safety risks, consistent with ESS4. a. Include ESS 4 measures to manage traffic and road safety risks in the scope of the SESA and TA activities.	A. Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the SESA and TA under actions 1.1 and 1.3 respectively, and implement throughout Project implementation.	PIU, in coordination with National PIUs

	b. Include traffic and road safety assessment under ESS 4 in the TORs of all preliminary studies and Technical Assistance. B. Assess and manage site-specific Traffic and Road Safety risks and impacts accordance with ESS4 and relevant National Project ESMF, and include mitigation measures in the site specific ESMPs to be prepared for installation of monitoring equipment.	B. Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the ESMPs under action 1.1 and thereafter implement throughout Project implementation.	PIU, in coordination with National PIUs
4.2	COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY A. Ensure E&S Risk Screening incorporates measures to manage specific risks and impacts to community health and safety arising from Project and TA activities consistent with ESS 4. a. Include ESS 4 health and safety measures in the scope of the SESA prepared under action 1.1. b. Include assessment of risks and impacts to community health and safety, including potential impacts of linear infrastructure, in the TORs for any preliminary studies and Technical Assistance. B. Assess and manage site-specific risks and impacts on communities' health and safety in accordance with ESS4 and relevant National Project ESMF, and include mitigation measures in the site specific ESMPs to be prepared for installation of monitoring equipment under Component 2. The ESMP shall include consideration and mitigation measures of work-related health risks; handling and disposal of hazardous materials; excessive noise and dust levels, site safety awareness and access restrictions; etc.	A. Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the SESA and TA under actions 1.1 and 1.3 respectively, and apply throughout Project implementation. B. Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the ESMPs under action 1.1 and thereafter implement throughout Project implementation.	PIU, in coordination with National PIUs PIU, in coordination with National PIUs
4.3	SEA AND SH RISKS Ensure that SESA, and site-specific ESMPs include actions to prevent and mitigate risks of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEA/SH) in line with LMP (section 2.1) and enforce their implementation. This includes but is not limited to: development and adherence to Code of Conduct for all employees, SEA/SH-sensitized grievance mechanism, carry out GBV service providers mapping (as appropriate), awareness raising of all employees and community members on SEA/SH risks and mitigation measures.	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the SESA/ ESMPs under action 1.1 and implement throughout Project implementation.	PIU, in coordination with National PIUs
4.4	EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE DIALOGUE	To be drafted, consulted and updated by mid-term of the Project implementation, and applicable thereafter.	PIU

	Develop, formerly and informally, Regional Emergency Preparedness and Response Procedures to address emergency events relative to the irrigation and bulk conveyance sector, consistent with the recommendations in the risk hazard assessment to be carried out under the SESA. Including situations where an emergency event is an unanticipated incident, arising from both natural and man-made hazards, typically in the form of fire, explosions, leaks or spills, seismic events, extreme weather events, epidemics, conflicts, or lack of early warning. The measures will be designed to address the emergency event in a coordinated and expeditious manner, to prevent it from injuring the health and safety of the immediate community and those downstream, and to minimize, and mitigate for any impacts that may occur.		
4.5	DAM SAFETY (FOR ANNEX 1 ESS4) The project does not include any Dam Safety activities. However, consideration of ESS4 for Dam Safety should be included in applicable TORs for Technical Assistance and applicable preliminary assessments.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the SESA and TA under actions 1.3 and apply throughout Project implementation.	PIU
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	RESETTLEMENT FRAMEWORK Ensure that E&S Risk Screening incorporates measures to address Project risks and impacts related to land acquisition, resettlement, and restrictions on land use arising from Project and TA activities, consistent with ESS5. Include resettlement aspects, including physical and economic displacement, in the TORs for any preliminary studies and other Technical Assistance, consistent with the SESA, ESS5 and National Project RPF procedures.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of TA under sections 1.3 and apply throughout Project implementation.	PIU, in coordination with National PIUs
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS A. Ensure that E&S Risk Screening incorporates biodiversity management measures, consistent with ESS6. a. Include ESS 6 measures to protect and conserve biodiversity and habitats in the scope of the SESA prepared under action 1.1. b. Include assessment of biodiversity risks and impacts, especially impacts of linear infrastructure, in the TOR for any preliminary studies and Technical Assistance. B. Develop a Regional Sector Guidance note on mitigating impacts of linear infrastructure on ecosystems.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the SESA and TA under actions 1.1 and 1.3 respectively, and implement throughout Project implementation.	PIU

6.2	ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS AND/OR SANITARY RELEASES As part of SESA recommendations, develop a coordinated approach for determining environmental flow /sanitary release requirements for the transboundary Basins, including monitoring thereof.	To be drafted and consulted and updated during Project implementation, no later than the Closing Date.	PIU
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
Not relevant to the Project			
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	CULTURAL HERITAGE RISKS AND IMPACTS AND CHANCE FINDS Describe and implement the chance finds procedures as part of the SESA and template ESMP to be developed under action 1.1 above, and where applicable the National Project ESMFs. c. Include ESS8 measures and requirements in the scope of the SESA (ESS 1). d. Include a “Chance Finds Procedures” in the SESA ESMP template and contractor agreements, including the requirement that should any heritage, tangible and non-tangible be identified, a Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) will be prepared and implemented, consistent with ESS8. e. National Project ESMFs also include a “Chance Finds Procedure” for activities within the Sovereign States.	SESA, and all ESMPs prepared shall include Chance Finds Procedures and shall be approved prior to commencement of the procurement process for relevant works and shall be implemented throughout Project implementation.	PIU, in coordination with National PIUs
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
Not Relevant to the Project.			
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN Prepare, consult upon, adopt, disclose and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for the Project, consistent with ESS10, which shall include measures to provide all 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. Information related to the SEP should be included in bi-annual reports and posted on the Project website.	Prepare and adopt draft SEP by Project Appraisal. Consult, update, and disclose final SEP by start of Project implementation and thereafter, implement throughout Project implementation.	PIU, in coordination with National PIUs
10.2	PROJECT GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM		

	Establish, publicize, maintain, and operate an accessible grievance mechanism, to receive and facilitate 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 and publicize GRM, including SEA/SH requirements, within 30 days after Effective Date and operate and maintain GRM at both EC IFAS and National Projects levels, throughout Project implementation.	PIU, in coordination with National PIUs
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INDICATORS FOR IMPLEMENTATION READINESS

The following actions are indicators for implementation readiness:

- A. Terms of References for the Strategic Regional Environment and Social Assessment of the irrigation and water resources management sector in Central Asia, must be consulted, finalized and engaging with relevant consultants by commencement of project implementation.
- B. The Stakeholder Engagement Plan must be consulted, finalized and disclosed by commencement of project implementation.
- C. Establishment of the Project Implementation Units and hiring of the ESS staff within thirty (30) days after the Effective Date
- D. Initial training for PIU and National Projects PIUs E&S staff and other key stakeholders, in SESA. Initial training shall commence no later than 60 days after Effective Date.