Lao People's Democratic Republic

Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

****

Ministry of Agriculture and Environment

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SUSTAINABILITY, EFFICIENCY, AND RESILIENCE PROJECT (WISER, P517530)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

DRAFT

[Draft Version for Appraisal]

[19 October 2026]

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

1. The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) (the Recipient) is implementing the Water Infrastructure for Sustainability, Efficiency, and Resilience (WISER) (the Project), with the involvement of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE), 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 World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF), including the applicable Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs), and this Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), in a manner acceptable to the Association. This ESCP forms an integral part of the Agreement. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used herein have the meanings ascribed to them in the Agreement.

3. Without limitation to the foregoing, this ESCP sets out the material measures and actions that the Recipient shall carry out or cause to be carried out, including, as applicable, the respective timeframes, institutional arrangements, staffing, capacity building, monitoring and reporting requirements, and grievance management arrangements. The ESCP also sets out the environmental and social (E&S) instruments that shall be prepared or updated, consulted upon, 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. Draft instruments shall be disclosed before consultation and final instruments shall be re-disclosed after finalization, in English and Lao.

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 Recipient and the Association agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and Recipient's Representative specified in the Agreement or the Director General of the Department of Irrigation (DOI) of MAE. 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.

DRAFT

	MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND CAPACITY SUPPORT			
A	**ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE** a. Establish and maintain the Project Management Unit (PMU) under Department of Irrigation (DOI) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE), the Component Management Unit (CMU) under Department of Water Resources (DWR/MAE), and Project Implementation Unit (PIU) under the Provincial Agriculture and Environment Office (PAEO) of Vientiane Capital, Vientiane Province, and Oudomxay Province, with adequate resources and qualified staff, including one (1) Environmental and Social Focal Point (ESFP) at PMU, one (1) at CMU and one (1) at each of the three (3) PIUs to manage Project E&S risks and impacts. b. Establish and maintain an E&S Monitoring Committee (ESMC), Provincial and District Resettlement Committees (PRC/DRC), and Grievance Redress Mechanism Committees (GRMC), in each of the three project provinces, to oversee the management of E&S-related activities. c. Appoint and maintain Implementation Support and Works Supervision Consultants (ISWS) with qualified International and Local E&S Specialists for civil work contracts to support the preparation, implementation, supervision, reporting of relevant Environmental and Social Risk Management instruments.	a. and b. Within 90 days after the Effective Date and thereafter maintain throughout Project implementation. c. Within six months after the Effective Date and, in any event, before commencement of any Project activity requiring its support; thereafter maintain throughout Project implementation.	MAE
B	**CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN/MEASURES** Prepare and implement a capacity-building plan for the PMU, CMU, PIUs, consultants, contractors, relevant authorities, communities, water user groups, and Project workers. Training and awareness activities shall cover the ESF and Project E&S instruments; screening, monitoring, reporting, incident response, stakeholder engagement and grievance management; site-specific ESHS measures, including labor, OHS, community safety, SEA/SH, biodiversity, waste, and cultural heritage; and dam safety, emergency preparedness, reservoir operations, and water resources management. Provide induction and refresher training and periodically document lessons learned.	Before commencement of the Project's activities and continue throughout Project implementation period.	MAE
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
C	**REGULAR REPORTING**	Submit biannual reports to the Association throughout Project	MAE

DRAFT

	MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	Prepare and submit regular ESHS monitoring reports covering implementation of the ESCP and required E&S instruments; stakeholder engagement and grievances; land acquisition, livelihood restoration, and ethnic-group measures; contractor and ISWS performance; dam safety and PoE recommendations; biodiversity, pollution prevention, OHS, community safety, and cultural heritage; incidents, corrective actions, monitoring results, capacity building, and priorities for the next reporting period.	implementation, commencing after the Effective Date. Submit each report to the Association no later than 45 days after the end of each reporting period.	
D	**CONTRACTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS** Require contractors to submit monthly E&S performance reports to the ISWS and relevant PIU and require the ISWS to submit consolidated quarterly reports to the PMU, in accordance with the metrics specified in their contracts.	Contractor to submit monthly report to ISWS and ISWS to submit quarterly report to PMU and to the Association upon request or as annexes to the reports under Action C.	MAE
E	**INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS** Notify the Association of any incident or accident relating 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 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. 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 becoming aware of the incident or accident. Provide available details upon request. Provide review report and Corrective Action Plan to the Association no later than 10 days following the submission of the initial notice, unless a different timeframe is agreed to in writing by the Association.	MAE
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENTS AND/OR PLANS**	(1) Prepare and disclose the ESMF, RPF, EGEF, SEP and LMP prior to	MAE

DRAFT

	MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	1. Prepare and disclose the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), Ethnic Group Engagement Framework (EGEF), Stakeholder Engagement Procedure (SEP) and Labor Management Procedure (LMP) consistent with the relevant ESSs. 2. Prepare, consult upon, disclose, adopt and implement site-specific Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (SS-ESIAs) and corresponding site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plan (SS-ESMP) for all civil work contracts consistent with the relevant ESSs including applicable consultation and disclosure steps, other than small works to which the ESCOP applies under Action 1.5. 3. Require each contractor to prepare and implement a Contractor's Environmental and Social Management Plan (C-ESMP), consistent with the approved SS-ESMP.	project appraisal and thereafter implement them throughout Project implementation. (2) Prepare, consult upon and disclose the SS-ESIA and SS-ESMP before issuing the civil works procurement documents of each contract; thereafter implement them throughout Project implementation. (3) The contractor to prepare the C-ESMP within 60 days after contract award; the PMU to approve it before the contractor mobilizes to site and in any event before commencement of civil works; implement it throughout the contract period.	
1.2	**MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS** Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia SS-ESMP, LMP, SEP, RP, EGEP, Codes of Conduct, dam-safety plans, and other site-specific measures, into the E&S specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and supervising firms. Thereafter ensure that the contractors and supervising firms comply and that they require their subcontractors to comply with the E&S specifications of their respective contracts. Provide copies of the relevant contracts with contractors/subcontractors and supervision firms to the Association.	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.	MAE
1.3	**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** Carry out the consultancies, studies, including feasibility studies, capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project, including, inter alia, SS-ESMP, C-ESMP in accordance with terms	Throughout Project implementation.	MAE

DRAFT

	MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	of reference acceptable to the Association, that are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter prepare and finalize the outputs of such activities in compliance with the terms of reference.		
1.4	**CONTINGENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE FINANCING** 1. Ensure that the CERC Manual includes a description of the environmental and social screening, assessment, management, and implementation arrangements, including a CERC-ESMF that will be prepared and become an addendum to the ESMF, for the implementation of the Contingent Emergency Response Part, in accordance with the ESSs. 2. Implement the E&S provisions of the CERC Manual, the CERC-ESMF/ESMF Addendum, and any assessments and plans required therein.	(1) The preparation of the CERC Manual and the Emergency Action Plan (EAP) in form and substance acceptable to the Association is a withdrawal condition for the Emergency Expenditures categories under the Agreements. (2) In accordance with the timeframes specified in the CERC Manual (including, if applicable, the CERC-ESMF/ESMF Addendum, and any assessments and plans required therein).	MAE
1.5	**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL CODE OF PRACTICE (ESCOP)** For small civil works that the environmental and social screening classifies as Low or Moderate risk, and that involve no land acquisition or restrictions on land use, no adverse impacts on ethnic groups or cultural heritage, and no location in a protected or sensitive area, apply the ESCOP included in the ESMF in lieu of a SS-ESIA. Require the contractor to prepare and implement an ESCOP implementation plan. Where screening finds any of the above triggers, prepare a SS-ESMP and apply the ESCOP only as a supplement.	Include the ESCOP in the procurement documents and contracts for the relevant works. Contractor to prepare the ESCOP implementation plan, approved by the PIU, before commencement of the relevant works, and implement it throughout the works.	MAE
1.6	**SCREENING** Screen each Project activity and subproject for environmental and social risks, using the screening form in the ESMF, to determine the risk classification and the E&S instruments required. Do not finance activities that meet	Before the terms of reference for the SS-ESIA or the procurement documents for the activity are	MAE

DRAFT

	MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	the exclusion criteria in the ESMF. Keep screening forms on file and update them when the scope, design or location changes.	finalized. Update as needed throughout Project implementation.	
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	**LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES** Adopt and implement the Labor Management Procedures (LMP) as part of SS-ESMP and C-ESMP.	Adopt the LMP before engaging Project workers and thereafter implement it throughout Project implementation.	MAE
2.2	**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLAN** Require contractors and subcontractors to prepare and implement OHS Management Measures as part of SS-ESMP and C-ESMP in accordance with the provision in the ESMF.	Prepare the OHS Management Plan prior to commencement of relevant civil works and thereafter implement the plan throughout Project implementation.	MAE
2.3	**GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS** Establish and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.	Establish grievance mechanism prior to engaging Project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.	MAE
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	**WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN** Prepare and implement a Waste Management Plan (WMP), as part of the SS-ESMPs and C-ESMPs prepared for the Project, to manage hazardous and non-hazardous wastes, consistent with ESS3.	Prepare the WMP as part of the SS-ESMPs and C-ESMPs prior to commencement of relevant activities and thereafter implement the WMP throughout Project implementation.	MAE
3.2	**RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT**		MAE

DRAFT

	MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures into the SS-ESMP and C-ESMP, to be prepared under Action 1.1 above.	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the SS-ESMPs and C-ESMPs.	
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	**TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY** Incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks as required in the SS-ESMPs and C-ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.1 above.	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the SS-ESMP and C-ESMP.	MAE
4.2	**COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY** Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities, including, inter alia, the behavior of Project workers, risks of labor influx , response to emergency situations and include mitigation measures in the SS-ESMP and C-ESMP to be prepared in accordance with the ESMF.	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the SS-ESMP and C-ESMP.	MAE
4.3	**SEA AND SH RISKS** Prepare and implement a SEA/SH Action Plan as part of the SS-ESMP and C-ESMPs, to assess and manage the risks of SEA and SH.	Prepare the SEA/SH Action Plan prior to commencement of relevant civil works and thereafter implement the SEA/SH Action Plan throughout Project implementation.	MAE
4.4	**UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE (UXO)** Screen Project sites for UXO risk. At sites identified as at risk, carry out technical survey and clearance by authorized organizations and obtain the clearance certificate from the National Regulatory Authority. Include UXO risk management measures, awareness training and the unexpected-discovery procedure in the SS-ESMP and C-ESMP, in accordance with Annex 8 of the ESMF.	Screen as part of the environmental and social screening of each subproject. Complete survey and clearance and obtain certification before any ground disturbance or civil works at an at-risk site.	MAE

DRAFT

	MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
4.5	**DAM SAFETY (ESS4, ANNEX 1)** 1. Establish and maintain an independent Panel of Experts (PoE) for Nam Houm, Nam Suang, and Nam Hin, with terms of reference and composition acceptable to the Association. The PoE shall comprise at least three independent members, including at least one internationally recognized dam safety expert, with collective expertise in dam and geotechnical engineering, hydrology and hydraulics, and seismic safety. Inform the Association in advance of PoE meetings; require the PoE to review preliminary and detailed designs, bidding documents, construction at least annually and at key milestones, and pre-impoundment and initial reservoir filling; submit signed PoE reports to the Recipient and the Association within 30 days of each review; and implement PoE recommendations unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Association. 2. For any additional Project dam that the Association agrees in writing does not require a PoE, engage one or more independent dam safety specialists, under terms of reference acceptable to the Association, to inspect and evaluate the dam and its appurtenances, performance history, and operation and maintenance procedures, and to recommend and verify completion of required remedial and safety measures. 3. Engage qualified professionals to supervise dam design and rehabilitation and require the dam owner to adopt and implement, as applicable: (i) a Construction Supervision and Quality Assurance Plan; (ii) an Instrumentation Plan; (iii) an Operation and Maintenance Plan (O&MP); (iv) an Emergency Preparedness Plan (EPP); (v) a Reservoir Refilling Plan; (vi) a Potential Failure Modes Analysis; (vii) a Dam Breach Analysis and downstream inundation mapping; and (viii) a Water Allocation Plan aligned with the O&MP and (ix) where reservoir drawdown is required, a Reservoir Drawdown Management Plan, prepared as part of the SS-ESMP. Timeframe addition: Prepare and approve the Reservoir Drawdown Management Plan before any drawdown begins.. Before any reservoir filling or re-impoundment, obtain written PoE clearance confirming satisfactory completion of rehabilitation works; operational instrumentation; adoption of the O&MP, EPP, and Reservoir Refilling Plan; and operational downstream warning and notification arrangements.	1. Establish the PoE before detailed engineering design and maintain it through construction and initial reservoir filling. Complete reviews and submit reports at the milestones specified in Action 1. 2. Engage independent specialist(s) before the relevant dam safety assessment or design and retain them through completion of the required measures. 3. Incorporate the Construction Supervision and Quality Assurance Plan into bidding documents and the Instrumentation Plan into the design before tendering; complete the PFMA before final design; complete the DBA before finalizing the EPP; prepare preliminary O&MP and framework EPP before appraisal; adopt the final O&MP, Instrumentation Plan and CSQAP at least six months before completion of works, and the final EPP at least twelve months before completion of works. Obtain PoE endorsement of the Reservoir Refilling Plan and written pre-	MAE (who is also the dam owner)

DRAFT

	MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
		impoundment clearance before any filling begins. Implement the plans throughout the applicable design, construction, operation, and maintenance phases.	
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	**RESETTLEMENT FRAMEWORK PLAN or PLANS** 1. Prepare and implement the Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF), consistent with ESS5. 2. Prepare and implement a Resettlement Plan (RP), including a simplified RP where appropriate, for each activity requiring one under the RF, consistent with ESS5.	1. Prepare and disclose the RPF by appraisal and thereafter adopt and implement it throughout Project implementation. 2. Prepare, consult upon, disclose, and adopt the relevant RP before commencing the associated works. Complete compensation, resettlement, moving allowances, and other required assistance before taking possession of land or related assets, and thereafter implement the RP throughout the relevant activity.	MAE
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	**BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS** Prepare and implement biodiversity management measures as part of the SS-ESMP and C-ESMP, and/or a standalone Biodiversity Management Plan based on SS-ESIA prepared for the project consistent with ESS6. Where	Same timeframe as for the preparation and implementation of the relevant SS-ESMP and C-ESMP.	MAE

DRAFT

	MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	a standalone Biodiversity Management Plan is required, prepare, consult upon and disclose it together with the SS-ESIA.		
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
7.1	**ETHNIC GROUP ENGAGEMENT FRAMEWORK AND PLANS** 1. Prepare, disclose, adopt and implement the Ethnic Group Engagement Framework (EGEF), consistent with ESS7. 2. Prepare, consult upon, disclose, adopt and implement an Ethnic Group Engagement Plan (EGEP) for each activity requiring one under the EGEF, consistent with ESS7.	1. Prepare and disclose the EGEF by appraisal and thereafter adopt and implement it throughout Project implementation. 2. Prepare, consult upon, disclose and adopt the EGEP before carrying out the relevant activity that requires such an EGEP. Once adopted, implement the EGEP throughout Project implementation.	MAE
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	**CULTURAL HERITAGE RISKS AND IMPACTS** Prepare and implement Cultural Heritage Management Measures as part of the SS-ESMP and C-ESMP, in accordance with SS-ESIA consistent with ESS8.	Prepare the measures or CHMP prior to commencement of project activities and thereafter implement the measures or CHMP throughout Project implementation.	MAE
8.2	**CHANCE FINDS** Describe and implement the chance finds procedures as part of the SS-ESMP and C-ESMP to be prepared for the project.	Describe the chance find procedures in the SS-ESMP and C-ESMP prior to commencement of project activities. Implement the procedures throughout Project implementation	MAE

DRAFT

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	**STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN** Adopt and implement the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), consistent with ESS10, including measures to provide timely, relevant, understandable, and accessible information and to consult stakeholders in a culturally appropriate manner free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination, and intimidation.	Adopt and implement the SEP throughout Project implementation.	MAE
10.2	**PROJECT GRIEVANCE 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 the grievance mechanism prior to commencement of Project activities and thereafter maintain and operate the mechanism throughout Project implementation.	MAE
INDICATORS FOR IMPLEMENTATION READINESS			
The following actions are indicators for implementation readiness: • **Institutional capacity:** established the PMU under DOI, the CMU under DWR, and PIU under the PAEO of Vientiane Capital, Vientiane Province, and Oudomxay Province; appointed one (1) ESFP at PMU, one (1) at CMU and one (1) at each of the three (3) PIUs to manage Project E&S risks and impacts. • Established E&S Monitoring Committee (ESMC), Provincial and District Resettlement Committee (PRC/DRC), Grievance Redress Mechanism Committee (GRMC) at each provincial level to oversee the management of E&S-related activities. • **Core E&S instruments:** The ESMF, SEP, LMP, RPF, and EGEF are prepared and disclosed.			

DRAFT