



ORGANIZATION OF THE BLACK SEA ECONOMIC COOPERATION

**Global Environment Facility (GEF) Grant for the
Preparation of
Blueing the Black Sea GEF Regional Project
(P173890)**

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

January 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Organization of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (hereinafter the BSEC) is planning to implement the preparatory activities for Blueing the Black Sea GEF Regional Project (P173890) (hereinafter the Project) with the involvement of the participating countries (i.e. Georgia, Moldova, Turkey and Ukraine). The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (hereinafter the Bank) has agreed to provide financing for the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) through the Global Environment Facility grant.
2. The PPG will be used to support the BSEC conduct the technical studies, environmental and social assessments, fiduciary assessments and consultations that are key for preparation of **Blueing the Black Sea Regional Project**. The PPG will enhance capacities of the implementing agency for project preparation and readiness to implement and will ensure a timely and solid preparation before the Project is approved.
3. The BSEC will implement material measures and actions so that the PPG is implemented in accordance with the World Bank Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs). This Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) sets out material measures and actions.
4. Where the ESCP refers to specific plans or other documents, whether they have already been prepared or are to be developed, the ESCP requires compliance with all provisions of such plans or other documents. In particular, the ESCP requires compliance with the provisions of the ESSs relevant to the PPG as well as the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) instruments being prepared under the PPG including the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Labor Management Procedures (LMP) and Stakeholder Engagement Framework (SEF) being prepared for the Project.
5. The table below summarizes the material measures and actions that are required as well as the timing of the material measures and actions. The BSEC is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP.
6. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP will be monitored and reported to the Bank by the BSEC as required by the ESCP and the conditions of the legal agreement, and the Bank will monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout the implementation of the PPG.
7. As agreed by the Bank and BSEC, this ESCP may be revised from time to time during PPG 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, BSEC will agree to the changes with the Bank 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 Bank and the BSEC. BSEC will promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
8. Where PPG changes, unforeseen circumstances, or PPG performance result in changes to the risks and impacts during PPG implementation, BSEC shall provide additional funds, if needed, to implement actions and measures to address such risks and impacts.
9. Funding for ESSs application within the scope of the present ESCP comes from the PPG budget, and is managed by BSEC.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
A	REGULAR REPORTING Prepare and submit to the Bank regular monitoring reports on the implementation of the ESCP, including but not limited to, stakeholder engagement activities.	Starting 60 days after the Effective Date and then bi-monthly (every 2 months) throughout the PPG implementation.	BSEC
B	INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS Promptly notify any incident or accident related or having an impact on the PPG 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 to address it, and include information provided by any contractor and supervising entity, as appropriate. Subsequently, as per the Bank’s request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to prevent its recurrence.	Promptly after taking notice of the incident or accident, not later than 48 hours. <i>A subsequent report would be provided within a timeframe acceptable to the Bank, as requested</i>	BSEC
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE Establish and maintain PPG team with qualified staff and resources to manage day-to-day implementation of the PPG activities, including environment and social specialists, responsible for ensuring full compliance with the ESF.	Fifteen (15) days after the Effective Date Retain qualified staff throughout PPG implementation	BSEC
1.2	ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT: Under the PPG, the BSEC will prepare the ESMF, LMP, SEF and SESA ToR, based on the final project design also being financed by the PPG. The ESMF, LMP, SEF and SESA ToR will be developed under the PPG and be of quality and content acceptable to the Bank, and consistent with the Terms of Reference (TOR), which will integrate Environmental and Social Standards requirements and will be agreed with the Bank.	TOR approved by the Bank prior to commencement of work on the preparation of ESMF, LMP and SEF. ESMF, SEF, LMP of content and quality acceptable to the Bank will be disclosed prior to commencement of the appraisal of the Project. Consultations on these documents will be carried out by the conclusion of the Project appraisal. TOR for SESA, of content and quality acceptable to the Bank will be disclosed prior to commencement of Project appraisal.	BSEC
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES: BSEC will maintain and implement human resources (HR) policies and procedures consistent with ESS2 requirements, and ensure that Project workers are informed of and have access to these policies.</p> <p>BSEC will follow the Bank’s guideline on the employment of consultants. BSEC will be required to include in the ToRs and contracts for consultants measures to ensure compliance with the ESS2, satisfactory to the Bank.</p> <p>Prepare, disclose and adopt the LMP for the Project, acceptable to the Bank.</p>	<p>Implement and monitor HR policies and procedures starting on the Effective Date and throughout PPG, and report through semi-annual progress reports.</p> <p>Hire consultants in compliance with Bank’s guideline on the employment of consultants prior to commencement of PPG activities.</p> <p>LMP, of content and quality acceptable to the Bank, will be prepared, disclosed prior to commencement of Project appraisal.</p>	BSEC
2.2	<p>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS: Maintain, and operate an accessible grievance mechanism (GM) for PPG workers as described in the HR policies and procedures, consistent with ESS2 requirements.</p> <p>Develop GM for Project workers within LMP to be applicable to the Project.</p>	<p>Throughout PPG implementation.</p> <p>Prior to Project appraisal and implement throughout the Project implementation.</p>	BSEC
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
	ESS 3 is relevant and the issues related to ESS 3 will be included in the ESMF which will be prepared under the PPG.	Within prepared ESMF	BSEC
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
	ESS 4 is relevant and the issues related to ESS 4 will be included in the ESMF which will be prepared under the PPG.	Within prepared ESMF	BSEC
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
	Not Relevant to the Project		
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
	ESS 6 is relevant and the issues related to ESS 6 will be included in the ESMF which will be prepared under the PPG.	Within the prepared ESMF	BSEC
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
Not Relevant to the Project		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE		
Not Relevant to the Project		
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES		
Not Relevant to the Project		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE		

<p>10.1</p>	<p>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION</p> <p>Prepare, disclose, formally approve, and implement the Stakeholder Engagement Framework (SEF) for the Project consistent with ESS10 requirements.</p> <p>Contents of the SEF will include: (i) Introduction/Project Description, (ii) Stakeholder Identification and Analysis, including identification of project affected parties, other interested parties and vulnerable groups; (iii) Stakeholder engagement program including information disclosure and actions to ensure meaningful consultations, with differentiated measures to allow effective participation of vulnerable groups, as needed; (iv) Resources and Responsibilities for implementing stakeholder engagement activities, (v) Grievance Mechanism and (vi) Monitoring and Reporting.</p> <p>Upon preparation of the draft ESMF, LMP, SEF and SESA ToR, BSEC will provide a notice on its website, and directly share the documents with stakeholders, and disclose the documents calling for either public comments in written format or will hold a public consultations to seek public input to further develop the project’s environmental and social instruments.</p> <p>Key stakeholders to be engaged include, but are not limited to relevant national ministries, local governments, scientific institutions dealing with marine research and innovation, business associations and financial intermediaries investing in the Black Sea region, NGOs dealing with maritime and climate change issues, regional development agencies.</p> <p>SEF preparation activities under the PPG will be implemented in a manner consistent with ESS10 requirements and under close supervision by the Bank. SEF will include a summary of stakeholder engagement activities carried out during Project preparation.</p>	<p>SEF of content and quality acceptable to the Bank will be disclosed prior to commencement of appraisal of the Project and will be consulted on prior to appraisal conclusion.</p> <p>Throughout the SEF preparation.</p> <p>ESF instruments of content and quality acceptable to the Bank will be disclosed prior to commencement of the appraisal of the Project. Consultations on these documents will be carried out by the conclusion of the Project appraisal.</p>	<p>BSEC</p> <p>BSEC</p>
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MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
10.3	<p>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM Develop, adopt, maintain and operate a grievance mechanism consistent with ESS10 requirements, which will be described in SEF.</p>	No later than the commencement date of the Project appraisal.	BSEC
10.5	<p>CONSULTATION ON ESF INSTRUMENTS: All ESF Instruments (ESMF, SEF, LMP, SESA TOR) will be disclosed and consulted upon in a manner consistent with ESS10 requirements and acceptable to the Bank.</p> <p>Finalized ESF instruments, acceptable to the Bank will include the minutes of consultations and response to stakeholders.</p>	<p>ESF instruments of content and quality acceptable to the Bank will be disclosed prior to commencement of the appraisal of the Project. Consultations on these documents will be carried out by the conclusion of the Project appraisal.</p> <p>Finalized ESF instruments, acceptable to the Bank will be disclosed prior to the Project approval date by the World Bank Board.</p>	BSEC