

Belize

**Ministry of Economic Development
Belize Water Services**

Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project (P181064)

Draft

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

June 20, 2024

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. Belize, (hereafter, the Borrower) will implement the Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project (hereafter, the Project), with the involvement of the Ministry of Economic Development (MED) and the Belize Water Services (BWS) as set out in the Financing Agreement, the GEF Grant Agreement, and the GFDRR Grant Agreement (hereafter, the Agreements). The International Development Association (the Association) has agreed to provide financing for the Project on its own name and acting as the Implementing Agency of the Global Environment Facility and as the administrator of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery Trust Fund, as set out in the referred Agreements.
2. The Borrower 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 Agreements. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the referred Agreements.
3. Without limitation to the foregoing, this ESCP sets out material measures and actions that the Borrower 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 ESSs, 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 Borrower, 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 Borrower through the MED and the Association, shall agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Borrower through the Chief Executive Officer of the MED. The Borrower shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
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 instruments required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the grievance mechanisms.</p>	<p>Submit six-monthly reports to the Association throughout Project implementation commencing after the Effective Date. Submit each report to the Association no later than forty-five (45) days after the end of each reporting period.</p>	<p>Central Executing Unit within MED (CEU-MED), BWS</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, including, <i>inter alia</i>, cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH), acts of violence, discrimination or protest, 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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Notify the Association no later than forty-eight (48) hours after learning of the incident or accident.</p> <p>Provide a subsequent report to the Association within a timeframe acceptable to the Association.</p>	<p>CEU-MED, BWS</p>
C	<p>CONTRACTORS’ MONTHLY REPORTS</p> <p>Require contractors and supervising firms to provide monthly monitoring reports on ESHS performance in accordance with the metrics specified in the respective bidding documents and contracts and submit such reports to the Association.</p>	<p>Submit the monthly reports to the Association upon request, as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action A above.</p>	<p>CEU-MED, BWS</p>
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	<p>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</p> <p>Maintain the Central Executing Unit (CEU) within MED and the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) within BWS with qualified staff resources to support the management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project, including by maintaining the existing E&S specialist of the CEU, maintaining the appointed E&S specialist of the BWS, and hiring one (1) additional E&S staff in the CEU to support both the CEU and BWS.</p>	<p>Maintain the CEU and PIU as set out in the Agreements. Hire the one additional E&S staff for the CEU no later than sixty (60) days after the Effective Date of the Agreements. Thereafter maintain the existing E&S specialist of the CEU, the hired E&S specialist of the CEU and the appointed BWS E&S specialist throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>CEU-MED, BWS</p>
1.2	<p>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</p>		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	<p>a) Develop Terms of Reference (ToR) for an environmental and social assessment (ESA) for the Belize City wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) upgrade (Subcomponent 2.1) consisting of an environmental and social audit of the existing WWTP, environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA), an environmental and social management plan (ESMP) and a systematic assessment of BWS institutional capacity on E&S risk management. Submit the ToR for the Association’s review and once cleared, disclose it for consultations.</p> <p>b) Develop, submit for the Association’s review and clearance, disclose for consultations, update, adopt and implement the ESA in accordance with the approved ToR.</p> <p>c) Develop, submit for the Association’s review and clearance, disclose for consultations, update, adopt and implement an ESMP for the water network expansion to South San Pedro (Subcomponent 2.2).</p> <p>d) Develop, submit for the Association’s review and clearance, disclose for consultations, update, adopt and implement an ESMP for the waste management pilot in San Pedro (Subcomponent 2.3).</p>	<p>a) The draft ToR was developed during project preparation prior to Project Appraisal. Update and finalize the ESA ToR prior to finalizing the ToR for the detailed design of the WWTP.</p> <p>b) Develop, disclose, consult, update and adopt the ESA before finalizing the detailed designs for the WWTP upgrade. Once adopted, implement the ESA throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>c) Develop, submit for the Association’s review and clearance, disclose, consult, finalize and adopt the ESMP no later than sixty (60) days after the Effective Date. Once adopted, implement the ESMP throughout Project implementation. In case of retroactive financing for this Subcomponent, the Association will conduct an E&S audit before a decision on retroactive financing is made.</p> <p>d) Develop, submit for the Association’s review and clearance, disclose for consultations, update and adopt the ESMP before finalizing the tender documents for the pilot activity. Once adopted, implement the ESMP throughout Project implementation.</p>	<p>a) BWS</p> <p>b) BWS</p> <p>c) BWS</p> <p>d) CEU-MED</p>
1.3	MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS	As part of the preparation of procurement documents and respective contracts. Supervise contractors throughout Project implementation.	CEU-MED, BWS

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, <i>inter alia</i> , the relevant E&S instruments (e.g., ESA, ESMPs), the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), and code of conduct, into the 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.		
1.4	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE Ensure that the consultancies, studies, including feasibility studies, capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project are carried out in accordance with ToR acceptable to the Association that are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the ToR.	Throughout Project implementation.	CEU-MED
1.5	CONTINGENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE FINANCING a) Ensure that the Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) Annex to the Project Operations Manual includes a description of the ESHS assessment and management arrangements in accordance with the ESSs. b) Adopt any E&S instruments which may be required for activities under the CERC component of the Project, in accordance with the CERC Annex and the ESSs, and thereafter implement the measures and actions required under said E&S instruments, within the timeframes specified in said E&S instruments.	a) The adoption of the CERC Annex to the Project Operations Manual in form and substance acceptable to the Association is a withdrawal condition under Section III.B.3 of Schedule 2 of the Financing Agreement for the Project. b) Adopt any required E&S instrument and include it as part of the respective bidding process, if applicable, and in any case, before the carrying out of the relevant Project activities for which the E&S instrument is required. Implement the E&S instruments in accordance with their terms, throughout Project implementation.	CEU-MED
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES Develop, adopt and implement LMP for the Project, including, <i>inter alia</i> , provisions on working conditions, management of workers relationships, occupational health and safety (OHS) (including personal protective equipment, and emergency preparedness and response), code of conduct (including relating to SEA and SH, and sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI)), forced labor, child labor, grievance arrangements for Project workers, and applicable requirements for contractors, subcontractors, and supervising firms.	Develop and adopt the LMP no later than sixty (60) days after the Effective Date, and thereafter implement the LMP throughout Project implementation.	CEU-MED, BWS
2.2	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	Establish and operate a grievance mechanism (GM) for Project workers, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2.	Establish the GM prior to engaging Project workers and thereafter maintain and operate it throughout Project implementation.	CEU-MED, BWS
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN Adopt and implement measures to manage hazardous and non-hazardous waste, as part of the ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.2.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.	CEU-MED, BWS
3.2	RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.2.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.	CEU-MED, BWS
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	TRAFFIC AND ROAD SAFETY Incorporate measures to manage traffic and road safety risks as part of the ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.2.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.	CEU-MED, BWS
4.2	COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY Assess and manage specific risks and impacts to the community arising from Project activities, including, <i>inter alia</i> , behavior of Project workers, risks of labor influx, response to emergency situations, and include mitigation measures in the ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.2.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.	CEU-MED, BWS
4.3	SEA AND SH RISKS Adopt and implement SEA/SH measures as part of the ESMPs, to assess and manage the risks of SEA and SH.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.	CEU-MED, BWS
4.4	SECURITY MANAGEMENT As part of the ESMPs, assess and implement measures to manage the security risks of the Project, including the risks of engaging security personnel to safeguard project workers, sites, assets, and activities. Measures will be guided by the principles of proportionality and Good International Industry Practice (GIIP), and by applicable law, in relation to hiring, rules of conduct, training, equipping, and monitoring of such personnel.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.	CEU-MED, BWS
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT Not currently relevant			
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS Adopt and implement biodiversity management measures as part of the ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.2.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.	CEU-MED, BWS
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
7.1	INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PLAN.		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	As part of the SEP, implement the requirements of meaningful consultation in the context of indigenous people (IPs), and regarding the implementation of Component 1 of the project: “Policy Development and Capacity Building” that could have national reach, including IPs communities.	Adopt the SEP to include meaningful consultation requirements in the context of IPs, prior to the carrying out of any consultation activities with IPs. Once adopted, implement the respective requirements throughout the Project implementation.	CEU-MED
7.2	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM The grievance mechanism to address complaints submitted by IPs will be the same as that of the SEP, and for which it will be culturally appropriate and accessible to IPs.	Same timeframe as action 7.2.	CEU-MED
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	CHANCE FINDS Adopt and implement chance finds procedures, as part of the ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.2.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.	CEU-MED, BWS
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES: Not currently 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 and ESS7, which shall include measures to, <i>inter alia</i> , provide stakeholders, including IPs, 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.	Develop, disclose, and consult draft SEP before the Project Appraisal. Update and adopt the SEP no later than sixty (60) days after the Effective Date. Implement throughout the Project implementation.	CEU-MED, BWS
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 and ESS7. The grievance mechanism shall be equipped to receive, register, and facilitate the resolution of SEA/SH, SOGI complaints, including through the referral of survivors to relevant gender-based violence service providers, all in a safe, confidential, and survivor-centered manner.	Same timeframe as action 10.1, and thereafter maintain and operate the mechanism throughout Project implementation.	CEU-MED, BWS
CAPACITY SUPPORT			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
CS1	<p>Develop and implement an Environmental and Social Training Plan to ensure the required capacity for environmental and social implementation of the Project. The training shall focus on PIUs staff, project workers, contractors, and nearby communities, if any, and will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing the environmental and social performance of the Project • Stakeholder mapping and engagement • Waste management • Occupation Health and safety for the workforce • Community health and safety • GBV risk mitigation and related measures. • Inclusion training to ensure non-discrimination of socially vulnerable populations including poor, illiterate, persons with disabilities, sexual and gender minorities • Grievance Management 	<p>Training plan to be developed no later than ninety (90) days after the Effective Date . Implement the training plan throughout the implementation of the Project.</p>	<p>CEU-MED, BWS</p>