**ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL**

**COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)**

**FOR THE**

**STP DITIGAL PROJECT - P177158**

**Project Preparation Advance(PPA)**

**October 26, 2021**

**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN**

1. The Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Principe (**the Recipient**)willimplement the STP Digital Project - P177158 (**the Project**), with the involvement of the following Ministries: Ministry of Finance, Trade and Blue Economyand The Ministry of Infrastructure and Natural Resources, for which it has requested a Project Preparation Advance (PPA).The Fiduciary Agency for Project Administration (AFAP) will be the agency within the Ministry of Finance and Blue Economy that shallcarry out the fiduciary and environmental and socialmanagement for this PPA. The International Development Association(*hereinafter* ***the* Association**)has agreed to providefinancingfor the PPA.
2. The Recipient shallimplementmaterial measures and actions in this ESCP so that the PPA is implemented in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (**ESSs**).This Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (**ESCP**) sets outmaterial measures and actions, anyspecific documents or plans, to be carried out or caused to be carried out by the Recipient, including the timeframes of the actions and measures, institutional, staffing, training, monitoring and reporting arrangements, grievance mechanism arrangements and the environmental and social instruments to be prepared or updated, consulted, disclosed or re-disclosed, adopted and implemented, all in a manner acceptable to the Association.The Recipientshallalso comply with the provisions of any other E&S documents required under the ESF and referred to in this ESCP, such as Labor Management Procedures (LMP) and the Stakeholder Engagement Plans (SEP), and the timelines specified in those E&S documents.
3. The Recipient is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the Ministries referenced in 1. above.
4. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP shallbe monitored and reported to the Associationby the Recipient as required by the ESCP and the conditions of the legal agreement, and the Association will monitor and assess progress and completion of the material measures and actions throughout implementation of the PPA.
5. As agreed by the Association and Recipient, this ESCP may be revised from time to time during PPA implementation, to reflect adaptive management of the PPA and unforeseen circumstances or in response to assessment of Project preparation andperformance conducted under the ESCP itself. In such circumstances, the Recipient through AFAP will agreeto the changes with the Association 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 Association and the Recipient. The Recipientshallpromptly disclose the updated ESCP.
6. WherePPA changes, unforeseen circumstances, or PPA performance result in changes to the risks and impacts during PPA implementation, The Recipientshall provide additional funds, if needed, to implement actions and measures to address such risks and impacts, which may include, among others, occupational health and safety impacts (transmission of communicable diseases e.g. COVID-19), gender-based violence (GBV), including sexual exploitation and abuse/sexual harassment (SEA/SH), and poor coordination among sector stakeholders.

| **MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS** | | **TIMEFRAME** | **RESPONSIBILE ENTITY/AUTHORITY** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **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 PPA, including but not limited to the implementation of the ESCP, status of preparation and implementation of E&S documents required under the ESCP, stakeholder engagement activities, functioning of the grievance mechanism(s). | Every 3 months starting from the Advance AgreementEffective Date and throughout the PPA implementation. | AFAP |
| B | **INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS**   * Promptly notify the Association of any incident or accident related to the PPA activities 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 or that are planned to be taken to address it, and any information provided by any contractor and supervising entity, as appropriate. Subsequently, as per the Association’s request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to prevent its recurrence. * For SEA/SH incidents, reports to the Bank regarding these claims must adhere to international norms and best practices regarding the management and sharing of survivor data (WHO Ethical and safety recommendations, 2007; GBVIMS Best Practices). As such, confidentiality should be ensured for the survivor as well as the accused, with no identifying information for either provided. The details regarding SEA/SH incidents shall include only the following: date of incident; type of GBV; survivor age/sex; whether the incident is linked to the Project (if known); whether the survivor was referred for services; whether the accused signed a Code of Conduct (CoC) and, once the GM verification process is complete, any sanctions taken against the accused. * For SEA/SH-related incidents, the survivor should be referred immediately to services following a survivor-centered protocol to be developed as part of the PPA Grievance Mechanism (GM), which will be adapted to manage SEA/SH claims ethically and confidentially. | Immediately, and in any case no later than 48 hours after the Recipient or any of the participating agencies or units becomes aware of such accidents or incidents.AFAP shall provide an incident and accident report within a period acceptable to the Association. | AFAP |
| **ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS** | | | |
| 1.1 | **ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**  Establish and maintain an organizational structure with qualified staff and resources to support management of E&S risks identification, management and supervision. Specifically, the project will recruit at the PIU level: One (1) Environmental specialist; one (1) Social Development specialist. | Recruitment of one Environment and one Social specialist at PIU level no later than 60 days after PPA approval. Environmental and Social Development specialists maintained throughout Project implementation. | AFAP |
| 1.2 | **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT**  Carry out, adopt, and disclose environmental and social risk management instruments, including an Environmental and Social Framework (ESMF),Labour Management Procedures (including a Project workers-specific GRM), Codes of Practice for e-Waste and Biodiversity Management Plan, a GBV/SEA/SH Assessment and potentiallyrelated GBV/SE/ASH Action Plan. |  |  |
| 1.3 | **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND STUDIES**  The Recipient shall ensure that (i) the consultancies, studies, and any other technical assistance activities under the PPA are carried out in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the Association, that incorporate the relevant requirements of the ESSs;and(ii) outputs of the PPA, including, but not limited to, the preparation of environmental and social instruments for the Project, are prepared and/or delivered in a manner acceptable to the Association and duly incorporate and take into consideration the relevant requirements of the ESSs. Such terms of reference shall be submitted to the Association for prior review and no objection. | Prior to procurement of service providers/consultant services. Throughout the PPA implementation*.* | AFAP |
| **ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS** | | | |
| 2.1 | **LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES**  Labor management procedures, including Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) measures taking into account COVID-19 provisions, will be developed and adopted for the PPA.Ensure that: (a) the relevant aspects of ESS2 apply to the PPA workers, consultants and PIU staff as appropriate, in accordance with the type of workers involved in the PPA; (b) the Labor Management Procedures for the Project are developed; all in a manner acceptable to the Association and in accordance to the local laws; and (c) All Project workers shall sign a code of conduct. | (a) Throughout PPA implementation  (b) Develop and adopt before Commencement of PPA Activities and within 30 days after Advance Agreement Effective Date. Maintained throughout PPA implementation.  (c) Before engaging project workers. Maintained throughout Project preparation. | AFAP |
| 2.2 | **GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS**  Establish, maintain, and operate a grievance mechanism for Project workers, and for workers hired/appointed for PPA activities, as described in the LMP and consistent with ESS2. This workers’ grievance mechanism should be sensitive to SEA/SH-related complaints and equipped to manage these complaints ethically and confidentially. | As part of the LMP. The grievance mechanism shall be operational before the recruitment of workers for the PPA, and maintained throughout the implementation of the PPA. | AFAP |
| 2.3 | **OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY (OHS) MEASURES**  The Recipient shall develop, adopt, and implement occupational, health and safety (OHS) measures, including emergency preparedness and response measures for PPA workers, in line with applicable national legislation and ESS2, as part of the PPA LMP and as described in item 2.1.  A COVID 19 protocol shall be prepared and implemented to ensure that all PPA activities minimize the spread of infections. | Develop before commencement of PPA activities and within 30 days after Advance Agreement Effective Date and maintained throughout PPA implementation. | AFAP |
| **ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT** | | | |
| 3.1 | The requirements of the ESS3 will be taken into account as relevant as part of the action 1.2 above. | Not applicable. | Not applicable. |
| **ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY** | | | |
| 4.1 | The requirements of the ESS4 will be taken into account as relevant as part of the action 1.2 above. | Not applicable. | Not applicable. |
| **ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT** | | | |
| 5.1 | The requirements of the ESS5 will be taken into account as relevant as part of the action 1.2 above. | Not applicable. | Not applicable. |
| **ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES** | | | |
| 6.1 | The requirements of the ESS6 will be taken into account as relevant as part of the action 1.2 above. | Not applicable. | Not applicable. |
| **ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES** | | | |
| 7.1 | This standard is not relevant currently as there are no distinct social and cultural groups have been identified in accordance with ESS7 and in the national context in the project area. | Not applicable. | Not applicable. |
| **ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE** | | | |
| 8.1 | The requirements of the ESS8 will be taken into account as relevant as part of the action 1.2 above. | Not applicable. | Not applicable. |
| **ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES** | | | |
| 9.1 | This standard is not relevant currently as there are no actions under the PPA related to Financial Intermediaries, therefore there are no mitigation measures to be undertaken under ESS9. | Not applicable. | Not applicable. |
| **ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE** | | | |
| 10.1 | **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION**  Prepare, consult upon, disclose and implement PPA’s Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP).The SEP will include a GBV/SEA/SH-sensitive grievance mechanism to provide project-affected parties with accessible and inclusive means to raise issues and grievances. Ensure that technical assistance activities carried out under the PPA incorporate stakeholder engagement and information disclosure in a manner consistent with the ESS10 including the preparation of a Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the Project. This SEP will guide the stakeholder engagement of the project during preparation and will be regularly updated to reflect new stakeholders identified and appropriate ways to consult them. The SEP will include a Grievance Mechanism to provide project-affected parties with accessible and inclusive means to raise issues and grievances. | PPA’s SEP finalized and disclosed by Advance Agreement Effective Date and maintained throughout PPA implementation. | AFAP |
| 10.2 | **PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM**:  a) Support the establishment, strengthening and operation of a grievance mechanism for the Project; b)Receive and resolve any complaints submitted in relation to the PPA, in accordance with ESS10, and in a manner acceptable to the Association. | Two months after effectiveness of the PPA. | AFAP |
| **CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING)** | | | |
|  | Prepare and submit to the Bank an annual capacity building plan. The trainings may include the following among others:   * Assessment, management and supervision of the PPA’s risks and impacts; * Development, implementation and supervision of the SEP; * Labour management procedures; * OHS; * Grievance Mechanisms; * Environmental and social monitoring and reporting | Annual capacity building plan will be developed before commencement of PPA activities and within 30 days after PPA effectiveness.  Throughout PPA implementation. | AFAP |