

**Ministry of
Finance /Ministry of Education, Science and
Technology
Nurturing Excellence in Higher Education
Project (NEHEP) P171516**

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

10 March 2021

Government of Nepal
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
Nurturing Excellence in Higher Education Project (NEHEP)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Government of Nepal (herein after the Recipient) will implement the Nurturing Excellence in Higher Education Project (the NEHEP *Project*) in all provinces of Nepal, with the involvement of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST) and the University Grants Commission, herein after called as “UGC” and Tribhuvan University, herein after called as “TU”. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/International Development Association hereinafter the Bank/the Association has agreed to provide financing for the Project.
2. The Recipient will implement material measures and actions so that the Project is implemented in accordance with the World Bank Environmental and Social Standards (**ESSs**). This Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (**ESCP**) sets out a summary of the material measures and actions.
3. The Recipient will also comply with the provisions of any other environmental and social (E&S) documents required under the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and referred to in this ESCP, such as the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Labor Management Procedures (LMPs) and the timelines specified in the E&S documents.
4. The table below summarizes the material measures and actions that are required as well as the timing of the material measures and actions. Recipient is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the Ministry, agency or unit referenced in 1. above.
5. Implementation of the material measures and actions set out in this ESCP will be monitored and reported to the **Bank** by Recipient 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 implementation of the Project.
6. As agreed by the **Bank** and Recipient, this ESCP may be updated from time to time during Project 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, the Recipient 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 Recipient. The Recipient will promptly disclose the updated ESCP. Depending on the project, the ESCP may also specify the funding necessary for completion of a measure or action.
7. Where Project changes, unforeseen circumstances, or Project performance result in changes to the risks and impacts during Project implementation, the Recipient shall provide additional funds, if needed, to implement actions and measures to address such risks and impacts.

Material Measures and Actions	Timeframe	Responsible Entity / Authority
ESCP Monitoring and Reporting		
<p>REGULAR REPORTING: Prepare and submit to the Bank 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, stakeholder engagement activities, and functioning of the Project's GRM.</p>	<p><i>Every 6 (six) months starting from the effectiveness date of the project throughout project implementation</i></p>	<p>MOEST/UGC</p>
<p>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS NOTIFICATION: Promptly notify any incident or accident related or having an impact on the Project 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 Bank's request, prepare a report on the incident or accident and propose any measures to prevent its recurrence.</p>	<p><i>Within 24 hours after learning of the incident or accident. A report on action taken to be provided on the same by 07 (Seven) days of notifying the Bank.</i></p>	<p>MOEST/UGC</p>
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS		
<p>1.1 ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE: Establish an E&S unit within organizational structure with qualified staff to carryout E&S actions outlined in this ESCP and oversee the implementation of LMP and SEP. They will also be trained on ES issues as illustrated in the Capacity Support (Training) section of this ESCP. The Unit to be capacitated by one Environmental and one Social Specialist with adequate budget.</p>	<p><i>PSS will allocate staff/staff time to support E&S management by June/July 2021 and will be maintained throughout Project implementation.</i></p>	<p>MOEST/UGC/TU</p>
<p>1.2 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MANAGEMENT TOOLS AND INSTRUMENTS: Ensure that the consultancies, studies, capacity building, training and any other technical assistance activities, including any environmental and social assessments and related environmental and social instruments, TORs, are carried out in accordance with terms of</p>	<p><i>Throughout project implementation.</i></p>	<p>MOEST/UGC</p>

Material Measures and Actions		Timeframe	Responsible Entity / Authority
	reference acceptable to the Bank and duly incorporate and take into consideration the requirements of the ESSs.		
1.3	<p>Management of Contractors and Consultants Incorporate the relevant aspects of this ESCP, including, the LMP, Code of Conduct and any other required ESHS measures, into the ESHS specifications of the procurement documents and contracts with contractors and consultants. There after ensuring that the contractors and consultants comply with ESHS specifications of their respective contracts.</p>	The relevant ESHS measures shall be incorporated into the procurement documents before launching the procurement process for the project activities and shall thereafter complied throughout the implementation period.	
ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS			
2.1	<p>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES: The activities shall be carried out in accordance with the applicable requirements of ESS2, in a manner acceptable to the Bank. A simple Labor Management Procedures (LMP) proportional to the project's labor and working conditions will be prepared.</p> <p>Existing worker's GRM will be adopted and strengthened to handle any grievances from staffs, consultants and contractors.</p>	<i>August 2021 And maintained throughout project implementation.</i>	UGC/TU
2.2	<p>OHS MEASURES: Considering the COVID, UGC/TU will adopt its existing occupational, health and safety (OHS) regulations/protocols to protect the Project staff and consultants.</p>	<i>August 2021 and maintained throughout Project implementation</i>	UGC
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	<p>MANAGEMENT OF WASTE AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS: Develop and implement SOPs and its Implementation Plan for e-waste and solid waste management adopting GIIP for the collection, storage, and safe disposal of waste generated by the Project during its lifetime.</p>	<i>Within 90 days of Project Effectiveness. Implementation throughout the Project</i>	UGC
ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY			
4.1	<p>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY: Develop and implement CoVID 19 specific Community and Health Safety Procedures.</p>	<i>August 2021 And maintained throughout Project implementation</i>	UGC/HEI

Material Measures and Actions		Timeframe	Responsible Entity / Authority
4.2	Management of SEA/SH risks: Develop and implement (i) sensitization and awareness program; (ii) Code of Conduct for UGC/HEIs; (iii) grievance redressal mechanism.	<i>June 2021 and maintained throughout Project implementation</i>	UGC/HEIs
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			
5.1	Not relevant		
ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES			
6.1	Not relevant		
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
7.1	Not relevant		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	Not relevant		
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES			
9.1	Not relevant		
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN (SEP): A simplified SEP consistent with ESS10, has been developed in a manner acceptable to the Bank and disclosed before appraisal to allow meaningful stakeholder consultation. Stakeholder engagement will be conducted in accordance with the SEP. The SEP will be updated, as necessary, during implementation.	<i>Prior to the Project appraisal and maintained throughout Project implementation</i>	MoEST/UGC
10.2	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: Existing program GRM will be strengthened and used for the project to receive and resolve any grievances submitted in relation to the program/project, in accordance with ESS10, and in a manner acceptable to the Bank.	<i>September 2021 and throughout the project implementation</i>	MoEST/UGC
CAPACITY SUPPORT			
	Capacity Development Activities under IPF Component (MoEST, UGC, TU, other universities, and provincial education offices) will include: - Orientation/training on working in COVID-19 environment (for all)	<i>Throughout project implementation.</i>	MOEST/UGC

Material Measures and Actions	Timeframe	Responsible Entity / Authority
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Training/orientation on Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) with special emphasis on Labor, SEA/SH, e-Waste and Community Health and Safety Issues, SEP, GRM (for all)- Knowledge sharing, regional and international exposures on good practices to higher education stakeholders (for all).		