

Belize

**Ministry of Finance, Economic Development,
and Investment
Belize Water Services**

Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project (P181064)

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

**Negotiated
December 9, 2024**

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. Belize, (hereafter, the Recipient) will implement the Belize Blue Cities and Beyond Project (hereafter, the Project), with the involvement of the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development, and Investment (MFEDI) and the Belize Water Services (BWS) as set out in the Financing Agreement, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Grant Agreement, the Global Program for the Blue Economy Multi-Donor Trust Fund (PROBLUE) Grant Agreement and the Global Facility for Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) Grant Agreement (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 GEF and as the administrator of the PROBLUE and of the GFDRR Trust Funds, as set out in the referred Agreements.
2. The Recipient 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 Recipient shall carry out or cause to be carried out, including, as applicable, their respective timeframes; institutional, staffing, training, monitoring, and reporting arrangements; and grievance management. The ESCP also sets out the environmental and social (E&S) documents that shall be prepared or updated, consulted, 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 Agreements, the Recipient shall ensure that there are sufficient funds available to cover the costs of implementing the ESCP.
4. As agreed by the Association and the Recipient, this ESCP will be revised from time to time if necessary, during Project implementation, to reflect adaptive management of Project changes or unforeseen circumstances or in response to Project performance. In such circumstances, the Association and the Recipient agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Association and the Recipient's Representative specified in the Agreements or the Chief Executive Officer of the MEFDI. 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.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS AND CAPACITY SUPPORT			
A	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE Maintain the Central Executing Unit (CEU) within MFEDI and the Project Implementation Unit (PIU) within BWS with qualified staff resources to support the management of environmental, social, health and safety (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.	Maintain the CEU and BWS PIU as set out in the Agreements. Hire the one additional E&S staff for the CEU no later than one hundred and twenty (120) 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.	CEU-MFEDI, BWS
B	CAPACITY BUILDING PLAN/MEASURES Prepare and implement the following capacity building measures for PIU staff, project workers, contractors, and communities, as relevant: • Managing the environmental and social performance of the Project • Stakeholder mapping and engagement • Pollution prevention and waste management • Occupation Health and safety • Community health and safety • Gender-based Violence (GBV) risk mitigation and related measures. • Inclusion training to ensure non-discrimination of socially vulnerable populations • Grievance Management	Implement the training throughout the implementation of the Project.	CEU-MFEDI, BWS
MONITORING AND REPORTING			
C	REGULAR REPORTING Prepare and submit to the Association regular monitoring reports on the ESHS performance of the Project. The report shall include: • Status of preparation and implementation of E&S instruments required under the ESCP. • Summary of stakeholder engagement activities carried out as per the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. • Complaints submitted to the grievance mechanisms, the grievance log, and progress made in resolving them.	Submit quarterly 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.	Central Executing Unit within MFEDI (CEU-MFEDI), BWS

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	- E&S performance of contractors and subcontractors as reported through monthly contractors' and supervision firms' reports. - Number and status of resolution of incidents and accidents reported under action E below.		
D	CONTRACTORS' MONTHLY REPORTS Require contractors and supervising firms to provide monthly monitoring reports on E&S performance in accordance with the metrics specified in the respective bidding documents and contracts and submit such reports to the Association.	Submit the monthly reports to the Association upon request, as annexes to the reports to be submitted under action C above.	CEU-MFEDI, BWS
B	INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS 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, those resulting in death or significant injury to workers or the public; acts of violence, discrimination or protest; unforeseen impacts to biodiversity resources; pollution of the environment; 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 address the incident or accident and prevent its recurrence.	Notify the Association no later than forty-eight (48) hours after learning 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.	CEU-MFEDI, BWS
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENTS AND/OR PLANS a) Update the cleared 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, an 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 updated ToR for the Association's review and finalize it once cleared.	a) Update and finalize the ESA ToR prior to finalizing the ToR for the detailed design of the WWTP.	a) BWS

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	b) Prepare, submit for the Association's review and clearance, disclose for consultations, update, adopt and implement the ESA in accordance with the approved ToR developed under action 1.1(a) above, consistent with the relevant ESSs. c) Prepare, 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). d) Prepare, 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).	b) Prepare the ESA before finalizing the detailed designs for the WWTP upgrade, and thereafter implement the ESA throughout Project implementation. c) Prepare and submit the draft ESMP for the Association's review and clearance no later than sixty (60) days after the Effective Date. Thereafter, disclose, consult, update and adopt the ESMP. Once adopted, implement the ESMP throughout Project implementation. d) Prepare, submit for the Association's review and clearance, disclose for consultations and update the ESMP before finalizing the tender documents for civil works under the activity. Adopt the ESMP prior to commencing any physical works. Once adopted, implement the ESMP throughout Project implementation.	b) BWS c) BWS d) CEU-MFEDI
1.2	MANAGEMENT OF CONTRACTORS Incorporate the relevant aspects of the ESCP, including, inter alia, the ESA for Subcomponent 2.1, the respective ESMPs for Subcomponent 2.2 and 2.3, the Labor Management Procedures (LMP), and code of conduct, 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.	CEU-MFEDI, BWS
1.3	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE Carry out the consultancies, studies, including feasibility studies, capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project in accordance with terms 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.	Throughout Project implementation.	CEU-MFEDI
1.4	CONTINGENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE FINANCING		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	a) Ensure that the Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC) Annex to the Project Operations Manual (POM) includes a description of the E&S assessment and management arrangements for the implementation of the CERC Component 4, in accordance with the ESSs. b) Implement the E&S provisions in the CERC Annex of the POM.	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) In accordance with the timeframes specified in the CERC Annex of the POM.	CEU-MFEDI
1.5	ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO RETROACTIVE FINANCING Evaluate and ensure that activities under components 1 and 2 of the Project, financed retroactively, comply with the requirements of the ESCP and other relevant E&S instruments. If necessary, conduct an amendment to existing work contracts, an E&S audit, or a corrective action plan. The respective due diligence shall be completed within a timeframe acceptable to the Association, and before withdrawal for retroactive financing is made, as set out in the Financing Agreement	Respective due diligence shall be completed within a timeframe acceptable to the Association, and before withdrawal for retroactive financing is made, as set out in the Financing Agreement	CEU-MFEDI, BWS
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 one hundred and twenty (120) days after the Effective Date, and thereafter implement the LMP throughout Project implementation.	CEU-MFEDI, BWS
2.2	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS 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-MFEDI, BWS
ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT			
3.1	WASTE MANAGEMENT Prepare and implement measures to manage hazardous and non-hazardous waste, as part of the ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.1.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.	CEU-MFEDI, BWS
3.2	RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT		

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	Incorporate resource efficiency and pollution prevention and management measures in the ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.1.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.	CEU-MFEDI, 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 1.1.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.	CEU-MFEDI, 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 1.1.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.	CEU-MFEDI, BWS
4.3	SEA AND SH RISKS Prepare 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-MFEDI, 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-MFEDI, 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 Prepare and implement biodiversity management measures as part of the ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.1.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.	CEU-MFEDI, BWS
ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES			
7.1	INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PLAN. 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-MFEDI
7.2	GRIEVANCE MECHANISM	Same timeframe as action 10.1.	CEU-MFEDI

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
	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.		
ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE			
8.1	CHANCE FINDS Prepare and implement chance finds procedures, as part of the ESMPs to be prepared under action 1.1.	Same timeframe as for the adoption and implementation of the ESMPs.	CEU-MFEDI, BWS
ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES: Not currently relevant			
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN Update 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.	Update and adopt the SEP no later than one hundred and twenty (120) days after the Effective Date. Implement throughout the Project implementation.	CEU-MFEDI, 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-MFEDI, BWS
INDICATORS FOR IMPLEMENTATION READINESS			
The following actions are indicators for implementation readiness: - Action A: Hire the one additional E&S staff for the CEU no later than one hundred and twenty (120) days after the Effective Date of the Agreements. - Action 1.1 (c): Prepare and implement an ESMP for the water network expansion to South San Pedro (Subcomponent 2.2) no later than sixty (60) days after the Effective Date.			

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
• Action 2.1: Develop and adopt the LMP no later than one hundred and twenty (120) days after the Effective Date. • Action 10.1: Update and adopt the SEP no later than one hundred and twenty (120) days after the Effective Date.		