
Royal Government of Bhutan

Gross National Happiness Commission
Thimphu Thromde (Municipality)



ENVIRONMENTAL and SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN (ESCP)

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

**Bhutan Green Transport Support
P171012**

February 2022

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN

1. The Royal Government of Bhutan will implement the Green Transport Project (the **Project**) in the Capital City of Thimphu and seeking a grant finance to the World Bank for preparation of the Project for securing finance also from the World Bank for its implementation involving the Thimphu Thromde (TT), the Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC) and the Ministry of Finance (MoF). The International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank Group (hereinafter the Bank) has provided a Grant finance for the preparation of the above referenced Project (PPG), through a trust fund secured from the Korea World Bank Group Partnership Facility (KWPF). The Bank is also securing a grant finance from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to supplement KWPF grant for preparation of the Project.
2. The Royal Government of Bhutan will implement material measures and actions through the TT, so that the Project preparation grant activities (“the **PPG Activities**”) are implemented in accordance with the Environmental and Social Standards (**ESSs**) of the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). This Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (**ESCP**) sets out material measures and actions, any specific documents, or plans, as well as the timing for each of these under implementation of the PPG Activities. The ESCP intends to be an early draft of an ESCP for the Project, and a more detailed ESCP will be prepared at project appraisal stage.
3. The Royal Government of Bhutan will also comply with the provisions of any other Environmental and Social (E&S) documents required under the ESF and referred to in this ESCP, including those instruments to be prepared for the investments in compliance with the requirements of the ESSs: the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs)/Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), Resettlement Action Plans (RAPs), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), Labor Management Procedures (LMP) and the timelines specified in those E&S documents.
4. The Royal Government of Bhutan is responsible for compliance with all requirements of the ESCP even when implementation of specific measures and actions is conducted by the Thimphu Thromde 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 the Royal Government of Bhutan 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 PPG Activities.
6. As agreed by the Bank and the Royal Government of Bhutan, this ESCP may be revised from time to time during implementation of the PPG Activities, to reflect adaptive management of PPG Activities’ changes and unforeseen circumstances or in response to assessment of PPG Activities’ performance conducted under the ESCP itself. In such circumstances, the Royal Government of Bhutan 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 Royal Government of Bhutan. The Royal Government of Bhutan will promptly disclose the updated ESCP.
7. Where PPG Activities’ changes, unforeseen circumstances, or PPG Activities’ performance result in changes to the risks and impacts during PPG Activities implementation, the Royal Government of Bhutan shall provide additional funds, if needed, to implement actions and measures to address such risks and impacts, which may include risks and impacts that are relevant to the PPG Activities.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY/AUTHORITY
ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS			
1.1	ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE Establish and maintain an organization for the PPG Activities under the Thromde with qualified staff and resources to support management of E&S risks associated with the PPG Activities, and with the project implementation including a health and safety specialist, an environmental specialist, a social development specialist and stakeholder engagement/outreach specialist, as appropriate.	<i>Thimphu Thromde has established a Project Implementation Team (PIT) for the PPG Activities with effect from October 14, 2019 and initiated consultant hiring for project preparation with the KWPF grant finance. Thromde has internally mobilized its Environmental Officer and Sociologist (staff) in the PIT to support management of E&S risks and impacts associated with the PPG Activities, also with GCF grant finance. The PIT, including the specialists, will be maintained throughout the PPG implementation and during the Project.</i>	Thimphu Thromde
1.2	ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ASSESSMENT Prepare the Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) in accordance with the ESS 1-10 of the World Bank ESF.	<i>ToRs for ESIAs has been prepared and cleared by the World Bank on July 15, 2020 and consultant hiring has been initiated following KWPF grant effectiveness. The ESIA consultant contract will be signed tentatively by mid-March 2022. The ESIAs/ESMPs should be prepared, cleared by the Bank and disclosed prior to Project appraisal.</i>	PIT/Independent Consultant for ESIA
ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT			

5.1	RESETTLEMENT PLANS: Prepare, consult upon, adopt, and disclose resettlement plans (RAPs) in accordance with ESS 5	<i>ToR for RAP preparation is included in the ESIA ToRs cleared by the Bank on July 15, 2020 after PPG(KWPF) effectiveness. No Resettlement Framework (RF) will be required as all civil works will be identified and designed before appraisal. One RAP will be prepared for the project disaggregated by types of contract packages for impacts. The RAP will be consulted with project affected persons, agreed with the Bank and disclosed prior to Project appraisal. Any subsequent changes to the RAP at implementation stage, will be agreed with the Bank prior to implementation. Once cleared, the RAP will be implemented before the commencement of any civil works.</i>	PIT/Independent Consultant
ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE			
10.1	STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN(SEP) PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION: Prepare and disclose Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP).Update, adopt, and implement.	<i>The ESIA consultant, upon its mobilization in mid-march 2022, will prepare the SEP in compliance with the ESS 10, consult with the stakeholders and the PIT will disclose it before project appraisal upon clearance from the Bank. The SEP will, however, be updated, as and when necessary throughout the Project life cycle and all updated versions of the SEP will be disclosed upon clearance from the Bank. Meaningful consultations with stakeholders will be undertaken during PPG activities per the requirements of ESS 10 and the SEP will be implemented during project implementation.</i>	PIT

10.2	PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM: Prepare, adopt, maintain and operate a grievance mechanism consistent with the requirements of ESS 10.	<i>GRM has been established with the TT for attending grievances associated with PPG activities upon setting up the PIT for the PPG implementation. The GRM will be strengthened and continued at project implementation stage.</i>	PIT
CAPACITY SUPPORT (TRAINING) – To be completed before Appraisal			
CS1	The need for capacity building will be assessed and training plan will be developed.	Training plan should be prepared during preparation.	PIT
CS2	Review the potentials of strengthening the existing Environmental Division of the Thromde into an Environmental and Social Division (ESD). Recommend feasible measures for establishment of the ESD with appropriate staff resources on environmental, social, gender and communications.	The recommendations will be included in the ESMP and pursued during the first year of the Project implementation.	Thimphu Thromde with assistance from the GNHC.