

**ASEAN Center for Energy (ACE)**

**Accelerating Sustainable Energy Transition  
Multi-Phase Programmatic approach.**

**ASET MPA**

**P181555**

**&**

**Additional Financing**

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

**May 12, 2025**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT PLAN**

1. The ASEAN Center for Energy (the ACE) will implement the Accelerating Sustainable Energy Transition – Multi Phase Programmatic Approach (the Project) as set out in the Grant Agreement. The World Bank (the Bank), acting as the implementing agency, has agreed to provide financing for the Project, as set out in the referred agreement. This ESCP supersedes previous versions of the ESCP for the Project and shall apply both to the original and the additional financing for the Project referred to above.
2. The ACE 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 Bank. The ESCP is a part of the Grant Agreement. Unless otherwise defined in this ESCP, capitalized terms used in this ESCP have the meanings ascribed to them in the referred agreement(s).
3. Without limitation to the foregoing, this ESCP sets out material measures and actions that the ACE 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 ESS, and in form and substance, and in a manner acceptable to the Bank. Once adopted, said E&S instruments may be revised from time to time with prior written agreement by the Bank.
4. As agreed by the Bank and the ACE, 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 ACE and the Bank agree to update the ESCP to reflect these changes through an exchange of letters signed between the Bank and the ACE. The ACE shall promptly disclose the updated ESCP.

MATERIAL MEASURES AND ACTIONS		TIMEFRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
<b>MONITORING AND REPORTING</b>			
A	<p><b>REGULAR REPORTING</b></p> <p>Prepare and submit regular monitoring reports on the environmental and social performance of the project, and the implementation of the ESCP, including stakeholder engagement activities and functioning of the grievance mechanism.</p>	Six-monthly throughout the Project implementation.	ACE – Project Team
B	<p><b>INCIDENTS AND ACCIDENTS</b></p> <p>Promptly notify the World Bank 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, inter alia, cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH), 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 consultant firms or civil society organizations selected for the in-country consultation workshops, as appropriate.</p> <p>Subsequently, at the World Bank'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 World no later than 48 hours after learning of the incident or accident.</p> <p>Provide subsequent report to the World Bank within a timeframe acceptable to the Bank</p>	ACE – Project Team
<b>ESS 1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS</b>			
1.1	<p><b>ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE</b></p> <p>Establish and maintain a project management team including an environment, social, health, and safety (ESHS) Focal Point to support management of ESHS risks and impacts of the Project. The project management team may hire specialist E&amp;S consultants from time to time as required.</p>	Appoint the identified ESHS Focal Point within 90 days of project effectiveness, and thereafter maintain this position throughout Project implementation.	ACE – Project Team
1.2	<p><b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL INSTRUMENTS</b></p> <p>1. Prepare Terms of References (TORs) for all TA activities in line with provisions of the ESF and seek Bank clearance prior to procuring them. Submit all completed studies to the Bank for review and no-objection.</p> <p>2. Prepare, consult upon, and disclose a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) based on the approved SESA's Terms of Reference (TOR).</p> <p>3. Adopt and implement the outcome of SESA. Initiate the preparation of any plans, policies, programs, and strategies that may be recommended by the SESA.</p>	<p>1. Throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>2. SESA needs to be approved by the Bank prior to the implementation of TA activities</p> <p>3. Throughout Project implementation.</p> <p>4. Within 6 months after project grant effectiveness, and implemented throughout project implementation</p>	ACE – Project Team

	4. Prepare, consult upon, disclose, and implement a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for each participating country, following requirements set in the Stakeholder Engagement Framework (SEF).		
1.3	<p><b>TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE</b></p> <p>Ensure that the consultancies, studies (including feasibility studies, if applicable), capacity building, training, and any other technical assistance activities under the Project are carried out in accordance with terms of reference acceptable to the World Bank, that are consistent with the ESSs. Thereafter ensure that the outputs of such activities comply with the terms of reference.</p>	Throughout Project implementation.	ACE – Project Team
<b>ESS 2: LABOR AND WORKING CONDITIONS</b>			
2.1	<p><b>LABOR MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES</b></p> <p>The project will implement TA activities in accordance with ESS2 and with the labor-related policies and procedures of beneficiary countries. Relevant labor management policies and procedures will be incorporated into the Project Operations Manual.</p> <p>One member of the project management team will be assigned to take up the responsibility for managing labor-related issues, such as sexual exploitation and abuse/sexual harassment (SEA/SH) and discrimination, to ensure compliance with their governing policies and procedures.</p> <p>For SEA and SH risks, the project will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Hold training to raise awareness among its staff on the risks and the policy requirements.</li> <li>ii. Maintain an accountability and response framework to address any incidents of SEA/SH.</li> <li>iii. Address any incidents of SEA/SH through its assigned staff.</li> </ol> <p>For consultant firms and/or individuals to be engaged for the in-country consultation workshops and for other TA activities, the Project team will ensure that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The relevant requirements in compliance with ESS2, including SEA/SH risk mitigation, will be included in their consultancy contracts.</li> <li>b. Contract workers will agree to comply with a code of conduct that prohibits SEA/SH prior to carrying out the activities they are engaged to perform; and specific mitigation actions are included in their contractors' assignment implementation action plans.</li> </ol>	Before the engagement of project workers and throughout the project implementation	ACE – Project Team

2.2	<b>GRIEVANCE MECHANISM FOR PROJECT WORKERS</b>  Establish, maintain, and operate a grievance mechanism for consultancy workers, consistent with ESS2.	Within 6 months after project grant effectiveness and implemented throughout project implementation.	ACE – Project Team
2.3	<b>WORKER CODE OF CONDUCT</b> Ensure that all contracted workers adhere to the Code of Conduct.  Provisions to prevent Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) shall be included in the Code of Conduct (CoC) for Project staff and consultants, in line with relevant national laws and legislation and ESS2 and adopted and applied under the Project.	Throughout Project implementation	ACE – Project Team
<b>ESS 3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>			
3.1	<b>WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>  Relevant aspects of this standard shall be considered, as needed including measures to follow “Green Protocol” to avoid and minimize using plastics, manage all solid waste (from training and capacity building activities including packaging waste) and e-waste from developing, training and use of management information systems, and the use of energy efficient equipment (e.g., lights, Air Conditioners, etc.) in accordance with ESS3.	Throughout project implementation	ACE – Project Team
3.2	<b>RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION AND MANAGEMENT</b>  The TA activities are not expected to have material risks and impacts on resources nor create pollution. Assessment of potential downstream risks and impacts (from the implementation of TA activities) related to resource efficiency such as the use of energy efficient equipment and pollution prevention and management will be incorporated in the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and reflected in the planning documents developed under the Project. The results of the assessment shall be prepared in accordance with the Bank’s ESF and are subject to WB’s review and clearance.	Throughout project implementation	ACE – Project Team
<b>ESS 4: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>			
4.1	<b>COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>  The TA activities are not expected to result in direct risks and impacts on community health and safety. Assessment of potential downstream risks and impacts (from the implementation of TA activities) related to community health and safety will be incorporated in the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and the project level Environmental and Social Assessment and reflected in the planning documents	Throughout project implementation	ACE – Project Team

	developed under the Project. The results of the assessments shall be prepared in accordance with Bank's ESF and are subject to WB's review and clearance.		
4.2	<p><b>SEA AND SH RISKS</b></p> <p>Adopt and implement the following SEA/SH risks mitigation measures:  (1) Insertion of clause related to compliance with the relevant employment laws of beneficiary countries in contract documents for consulting firms or civil society organizations selected for the in-country consultation workshops and other TA activities.  (2) Monitor the consulting firms' compliance with their contractual commitments,  (3) Awareness building and sensitization of Project workers/staffs and trainees on GBV/SEA/SH prevention and response.</p>	Throughout project implementation	ACE – Project Team
<b>ESS 5: LAND ACQUISITION, RESTRICTIONS ON LAND USE AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT</b>			
5.1	<p><b>RESETTLEMENT POLICY FRAMEWORK</b></p> <p>TA activities may involve assessment or planning of land and resettlement impacts. While TA work will not involve land acquisition during the project implementation, TORs for upstream feasibility and assessment work will stipulate the need to identify land requirements with scope to avoid displacement through design.</p>	Throughout project implementation	ACE – Project Team
<b>ESS 6: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES</b>			
6.1	<p><b>BIODIVERSITY RISKS AND IMPACTS</b></p> <p>The project will not support preparation of investment that will cause significant conversion and degradation to modified, natural and critical habitats. Assessment of potential downstream risks and impacts related to biodiversity will be incorporated in the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) and project level Environmental and Social Assessment and reflected in the planning documents developed under the Project. The results of the assessments shall be prepared in accordance with Bank's ESF and are subject to WB's review and clearance.</p>	Throughout project implementation	ACE – Project Team
<b>ESS 7: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES/SUB-SAHARAN AFRICAN HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED TRADITIONAL LOCAL COMMUNITIES</b>			
7.1	<p><b>INDIGENOUS PEOPLES PLANNING FRAMEWORK</b></p> <p>The TA activities are not expected to have material risks and impacts on indigenous peoples and IPP hence IPP is not required. Assessment of potential risks and impacts to Indigenous peoples will be incorporated in the relevant studies such as SESA and project level</p>	Throughout project implementation	ACE – Project Team

	environmental and social assessment and reflected in the planning documents developed under the Project.		
<b>ESS 8: CULTURAL HERITAGE</b>			
8.1	ESS8 is relevant. Inclusion of requirement for appropriate cultural heritage assessments to be incorporated into the ToRs for the SESA and for individual studies as appropriate. ToRs to be forwarded to the World Bank for clearance prior to consultant procurement.	Prior to procurement of consultants for analytical work.	ACE – Project Team
<b>ESS 9: FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES</b>			
Not Relevant, as no financial intermediaries are involved.			
<b>ESS 10: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION DISCLOSURE</b>			
10.1	<b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION</b>  1. Update, adopt and implement Stakeholder Engagement Framework (SEF)  2. Ensure that the consultant firms or civil society organizations selected for the in-country consultation workshops or for the implementation of other TA activities of ASET MPA will follow the process and procedure described in the SEF in conducting their assignments in country. These requirements will be included in their assignment contracts and specific actions will be developed and included in their assignment implementation plan.	1. SEF is to be updated within 1 year after Project Effectiveness and implemented throughout project implementation.  2. Implement stakeholder engagement and information disclosure activities on an ongoing basis throughout project implementation.	ACE – Project Team
10.2	<b>PROJECT GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</b>  Establish project's grievance mechanism to receive and facilitate resolution of concerns and grievances in relation to the TA activities (including SEA/SH/GBV related grievances), promptly and effectively, in a transparent manner that is sensitive, culturally appropriate, and readily accessible to all parties affected by the activities, at no cost and without retribution, including concerns and grievances filed anonymously, in a manner consistent with ESS10.	GRM shall be established within 6 months after project grant effectiveness and implemented throughout project implementation.	ACE – Project Team
<b>CAPACITY SUPPORT</b>			
CS1	Develop Capacity Building Plan that includes list of topics, target beneficiaries (staffs, consultant firms, etc.), method of delivery, and estimated budget. The Plan is to be submitted to the Bank for clearance and no objection prior to commencement capacity building activities.	During the first six months of project effectiveness	ACE – Project Team

	<p>Training topics will among others include (for ACE officials, administrative and operational personnel, communication personnel and consultants):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) with special emphasis on Labor, Gender-Based Violence, and community health and safety issues.</li><li>b. Training in handling SEA/SH GRM cases in survivor-centric manner and as per WB GBV GRM guidelines for those responsible for handling GRM.</li><li>c. Occupational health and safety including on emergency prevention and preparedness and response arrangements to emergency situations (e.g. pandemic, etc.).</li></ul>		
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