

Outline Terms of Reference for Environmental Safeguards Specialist (National, 15 person-months)

A. Background

The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has launched Enhancing climate resilient ground water management approaches project and has requested funding from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), to implement the project.

To support the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic in implementing the above project, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) provided a grant under the SMALL EXPENDITURE FINANCING FACILITY (SEFF) activity no.6.

The goal of the project is to rehabilitate and construct on-farm tube wells (boreholes) in four districts as a long-lasting solution to adapt the agriculture sector to the climate change and provide uninterrupted supply of water to the farmlands, mainly in the lower end of the irrigation systems, to enhance food security, rural livelihoods and economic and social situations in these four districts.

Water Resources Service (WRS) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MA) of the Kyrgyz Republic is the executing agency of the project and intends to use part of the funds to engage an Environmental Safeguards Specialist for 15 person-months.

B. Objectives of the Assignment

The objective of the assignment is to assist the Water Resources Service (WRS) of the Ministry of Agriculture (MA) of the Kyrgyz Republic managing environmental and social risks of the project while maintaining compliance and reporting requirements.

C. Scope of Services

The specific tasks of Environmental Safeguards Specialist will include, but are not limited to:

- Ensure that the IEE is updated based on the latest DEDs of the project. SSEMPs to be prepared and discussed with the PIU to ensure common understanding of the supervision consultants and contractors.
- Develop effective environmental monitoring mechanisms (including scheduling of actual site visits and inspection during construction) to assess the progress of the project's environmental management plan as committed in the latest IEE reports disclosed and accepted both by the PIU and ADB.
- Assess potential health and safety issues relating to construction and commissioning activities.
- Provide guidance on the preparation and implementation of contractors' health and safety plans and Site-Specific EMPs.
- Maintain records related to environment health and safety.
- Ensure compliance with all health and safety permits/approvals.
- Support contractors and subcontractors in implementing SSEMP, health and safety measures.
- Ensure all applicable permits and clearances are in place prior to start of works.
- In coordination with the contractors, prepare all pertinent documents to secure all necessary environmental clearances, permits, consents, etc., before commencement of works and ensure compliance with the provisions and conditions during implementation.
- Verify contractor's pre-works photo-documentation and SSEMP.
- Ensure contractor has sufficient resources, staffing, and budget allocation to implement the SSEMP and subplans.

- Assist the PIU with the overall planning, implementation, and monitoring of the project during all stages of implementation including adherence to all environmental and social safeguards' requirements.
- Assist PIU with timely update of the IEE/EMP adhering to all environmental and social safeguards' requirements of the ADB SPS;
- Prepare quality feasibility studies, detailed engineering designs, safeguards documents and bid documents
- Provide effective construction supervision and contract management of all components implemented under the subproject.
- Assist the PIU with the overall planning, implementation, and monitoring of subprojects during all stages of implementation including adherence to all environmental and social safeguards requirements - work closely with the DDWR, to ensure that the citizens are aware of project benefits and their responsibilities.
- Assist and increase the capacity of the construction contractor for the implementation of EMP and SEMP.
- Report the implementation performance of EMP and SEMP, issue non-compliance notes for the mitigation measures not applied.
- Notify PIU on works to be completed and support in the preparation of the post-construction environmental audit report.
- Oversee implementation of EMP including environmental monitoring by contractor.
- Take corrective actions when necessary to ensure no environmental impacts.
- Prepare post-construction environmental audit report for completed works for each location prior to demobilization of the contractor.

D. Reports/Deliverables

- Environmental Safeguards Specialist will submit the following reports/deliverables: (i) a brief inception within 1 week of fielding; (ii) specific deliverables as per TORs (IEEs, SAEMRs), (iii) brief monthly report to PIU (iv) weekly site inspection reports (v) accident and incident reports (vi) Progress of mitigation implementation.

E. Minimum Qualification & Experience

Environmental Safeguards Specialist will have a degree in environmental sciences or a related field equivalent, with about 10 years' experience in supervising construction and civil works for environmental management and compliance, implementing environmental management plans in construction projects in Kyrgyz Republic. Knowledge and experience in climate change adaptation would be an asset.