

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL MANAGEMENT PLAN (ESMP) SUMMARY

Project Title: Support to Higher Education Development
Project No.: P-ER-IAD-001
Country: Eritrea
Environmental Category: 2
Department: OSHD Division: OSHD.2

a) Brief description of the project and key environmental and social components:

- Training for the junior faculty staff of higher education institutions
- Technical assistance for teaching and research
- New construction at two higher education institutions

b) Major environmental and social impacts

The main environmental and social impacts anticipated include the following:

Positive Impacts:

- Increased capacity for the teaching of and research in environmental sciences and natural resources management
- Improved sanitation facilities through the provision of toilets at two higher education institutions
- Better opportunity for female junior faculty staff to upgrade their qualifications
- Increased opportunity for female high school graduates to attend higher education institutions

Potential Negative Impacts

- Risk of soil disturbance, de-vegetation and erosion during construction;
- Degradation of land as result of harvesting of construction materials such as sand and stones;
- Dust and noise from construction activities;
- Occupational hazards to construction workers;
- Risks of pollution and accidents from laboratory wastes.

c) Enhancement and mitigation program

The enhancement and mitigation program to address environmental issues is summarized as follows:

The project team visited the two institutions at which the construction activities will take place and thoroughly reviewed with the institutions the designs of the buildings and provided advice as appropriate on environmental issues. The two institutions also submitted information on the likely environmental impacts of the works and the mitigation measures that will be put in place. The following mitigation measures represent the main outlines of the EMSP and will form an integral part of the project:

- Impact from construction activities is limited since the scope of construction is limited to 6 buildings within existing college premises. However, during construction, land cut and filled is to be reduced to minimum; steep slopes to be

grassed or lined; top soil to be preserved and affected areas re-vegetated; movement of construction trucks and equipment to be limited; use of sand and crushed stones to be regulated; and construction site to be boarded;

- To prevent any hazard from laboratory waste, incinerators and septic tanks shall be built for the disposal of laboratory waste; safety rules will also be enforced to minimize safety risks and pollution from laboratory;
- Sanitization facilities will be provided at the two colleges which will receive additional facilities to ensure an acceptable level of cleanliness and hygiene for students and staff;
- Efforts will be made to train and sensitize staff, college managers and students on environmental health hazards associated with infected water and poor drainage;
- Existing trees on both institutions will be preserved and students will be sensitized on the importance of tree planting and protection.

d) Monitoring program and complementary initiatives

- During the construction period, monthly site meetings will be held. These meetings will monitor the implementation of the environmental mitigation plans.
- The management of the institutions will lead the environmental monitoring activities and will provide regular reporting to project management and the National Board of Higher Education (NBHE); and
- Bank supervision missions will follow up on the implementation of the ESMP.

e) Institutional arrangements and capacity building requirements

- As the executing agency, the overall responsibility for the implementation of the project ESMP will rest with the NBHE. In addition, environmental education is provided by the institutions as part of the regular curriculum.
- The Project Coordinating Unit (PCU) will supervise the implementation of the ESMP.

f) Public consultations and disclosure requirements

- The project is designed to operate in a participatory manner where all activities will be implemented in close collaboration with the beneficiary institution to increase their sense of ownership of the improved facilities to be introduced under the project.

g) Estimated costs: Project environmental components

- The main environmental improvement falls under the civil works for construction of facilities with a budget of UA 4.95 million.
- Notably, waste management will be improved through the provision of toilets and septic tanks as part of the provision of the facilities.

h) Implementation schedule and reporting

- The environmental management and monitoring will be implemented following the same project schedule as all activities were mainstreamed in the project design. Achievements and problems will be reported in the project quarterly progress reports and should be timely addressed by the project management and the Bank.