

Ministry of Transport and Roads of the Kyrgyz Republic

Third phase of the Central Asia Road Links Project, financed by World Bank

Environmental Specialist (with experience in Disaster Risk Management)

TERMS of REFERENCE

Background

1. The Central Asia Road Links (CARs) program is the result of a collaborative effort initiated by client governments in the Central Asia region and is financed by the International Development Association (IDA). The overall objective of the program is to increase cross-border connectivity and enhance regional integrated development to revitalize historically active economic exchanges in Central Asia and beyond along the Silk Route. In an effort to bring transformational impact in the region, the program's projects builds synergies with other regional initiatives by multilateral or bilateral development partners such as the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) program, the EEU, the Belt and Road initiative, as well as others.

The objectives of the First Phase of the program (CARs-1), which was implemented in Kyrgyz Republic and completed in 2019, was to increase transport connectivity between Kyrgyz Republic and Tajikistan along priority cross-border road links in Batken Oblast whilst supporting improvements in road operations and maintenance practices. The road sections to be financed under CARs-1 prioritize connectivity between the Osh and Batken Oblast in the Kyrgyz Republic and Sugd Oblast in Tajikistan as they build lateral spurs from the Osh-Isfana axis to the Tajik border.

2. Third Phase (CARs-3) strives to address regional integration in a more comprehensive approach encompassing both physical and economic connectivity among neighboring countries, also unlocking economic opportunities through promoting local integrated development in a spatially identified area. It was declared effective by IDA on January 30, 2020 and the objective is to increase regional connectivity and support sustainable tourism development in Issyk-Kul Oblast.. It will finance activities related to removing physical bottlenecks with neighboring countries, in particular the Republic of Kazakhstan, and addressing sector specific constraints to create market opportunities for the development of regional trade (agriculture) and tourism in Issyk-Kul Oblast. It shall be implemented by the IPIG under following parts, (a) Regional Connections, Associated Facilities and Equipment in Issyk-Kul Oblast; (b) Aviation Safety and Service Provision, and (c) Sustainable Tourism development in Issyk-Kul Oblast.

The Ministry of Transport and Roads (MOTR) of the Kyrgyz Republic as the Implementing Agency has established an Investment Projects Implementation Group (IPIG) which is responsible for the day-to-day administration of project activities for the Central Asia Road Links Program (CARs Program) financed by the World Bank (WB IPIG). WB IPIG's responsibility include, *inter alia*: (i) the management of designated accounts; (ii) financial management and reporting on the overall project; (iii) ensuring the execution of the audit of the project; (iv) preparation of quarterly financial and bi-annual progress reports; (v) the management of the environmental and social safeguards aspects; and (vi) undertaking all procurement and contract management activities for all components.

The Implementing Agency requires to hire the services of an **Environmental Specialist**, who will be responsible for the compliance with the national laws on environment as well as with the World Bank safeguard policies. The Environmental Specialist will also ensure that all environmental commitments and disaster risk management (DRM) issues outlined in the ESIA/ESMP are incorporated and implemented into the construction activities and work processes.

Objective of the assignment

The key objective of the assignment is to supervise and assist the project in implementation of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment/Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESIA/ESMP) during the implementation of the Third Central Asia Road Links Project and other projects implemented by the WB IPIG.

Scope of services and responsibilities

1. Ensure compliance with the ESIA/ESMP by all contractors and supervising engineers involved in delivering the works financed by CARS 3;
2. Supervising, providing oversight for and supporting contractors in achieving their responsibilities as outlined in the ESIA/ESMP;
3. Carrying out frequent field visits and conduct monitoring for ESIA/ESMP implementation.
4. Identifying and preparing environmental induction and training materials; training calendar and conduct/manage ESIA/ESMP training for the IPIG personnel, supervision consultant and contractors' staff;
5. Preparing quarterly progress reports for submission to World Bank and other stakeholders as defined in the ESIA/ESMP and other documents;
6. Conduct environmental surveys and preparation of reports on project environmental impacts and disaster risk management during implementation;
7. Analysis and identification of disaster risk management issues during preparation and implementation of the projects;
8. To write ToRs for the EIAs, Third Party Monitoring and/or environmental audits for works that might be assigned in future to IPIG for implementation;
9. Cooperation, requesting, collecting and analyzing information on environmental/DRM issues received from all parties involved in project implementation;
10. To ensure that the contractors prepares site-specific environmental management plan and gets it approved from 'The Engineer'/Client before the start of physical works.
11. Responding to and documenting environmental incidents/accidents and DRM issues based on the field reports;
12. To ensure and help contractors and supervision consultant in documenting and maintaining record (written, photographic) for the environmental safeguards and DRM issues including occupational and community related accidents during the project implementation;
13. Assistance to consultants in project monitoring, assessment of ecological and DRM impacts, in preparing project monitoring reports on all key indicators;
14. Submission of regular information on project implementation progress and its outcomes to IPIG, MOTC and other stakeholders;
15. Identification of problems and obstacles encountered during project implementation in relation to environment and DRM;
16. Project implementation in compliance with the regulative documents (grant agreement, financing agreement, operational guidelines and etc.);
17. Daily monitoring of consultants' and contractors' performance under the project regarding timeliness of environmental reports submission and compliance of these reports with TOR;
18. Participation in all project meetings between Employer and Contractor, and representation of environmental and DRM issues at such meetings (this is crucial to keep safeguards in the daily information flow and decision-making processes); and

19. Liaison with environmental and DRM authorities.

Reporting Relationship:

Environmental Specialist shall operate under the general supervision of WB IPIG Director and the Deputy Minister in charge

Qualifications and Experience:

- Bachelors or advanced degree in ecology, environmental sciences, allied sciences, or related field;
- Work experience:
 - At least 3 years working with international organizations or projects financed by international donors as environmental or safeguards specialist;
 - At least an additional 3 years of similar experience with national or private sector organizations;
- Work experience in the implementation and preparation of ESIA/ESMPs;
- Demonstrated knowledge and experience in the area of Disaster Risk Management;
- Fluency in Russian and Kyrgyz;
- Advanced written and spoken English; and
- Good computer skills, all Microsoft Windows office applications.

Duration of the assignment

The probation period is 3 (three) months. The duration of assignment is 12-months. The term of engagement may be extended by mutual agreement of the parties involved.