

Digital CASA - Uzbekistan (P166615)

Environmental and Social Management Framework

Detailed Terms of References (TORs)

1. ***Project Development Objective (PDO)***. Digital CASA – Regional Program PDO: The proposed regional program PDO is to increase access to more affordable internet, crowd-in private investment in the ICT sector, and improve participating government’s capacity to deliver digital government services in Central Asia and parts of South Asia, through the development of a regionally integrated digital infrastructure and enabling environment.

Digital CASA – Uzbekistan PDO: The proposed country-specific PDO for Uzbekistan is to increase access to more affordable internet, crowd-in private investment in the ICT sector, and improve the government’s capacity to deliver digital government services in Uzbekistan, by contributing to the development of a regionally integrated digital infrastructure and enabling environment.

2. ***Project concept and description***. The Government of Uzbekistan has requested financing towards the Digital CASA – Uzbekistan Project. The Project will be financed through a National IDA allocation, counterpart financing, and is expected to be eligible for financing from Regional IDA resources, as the project meets Regional IDA eligibility criteria to improve regional connectivity within the Central Asia region. A financing gap will require co-financing and potentially IBRD resources. A programmatic approach could also be considered. The Project will adopt a forward-looking approach which will help establish sound foundations for the growth of the digital economy in Uzbekistan. The Project components will be structured as follows:

Component 1. Regional Digital Connectivity Infrastructure: This component is designed to improve regional digital connectivity by supporting the establishment of redundant and resilient regional and national backbone networks. The activities included here are designed to maximize benefits for public institutions and to leverage the private sector to address bottlenecks within different parts of the internet value chain identified to have a large impact on costs, competitiveness and reliability of internet connectivity, including in rural areas.

This component consists of the following subcomponents:

- 1.1. Development of the main connectivity network of the regional connection with the countries of the Central Asia;
- 1.2. Development of the infrastructure of the national data network;
- 1.3. Development of broadband access in remote and border areas.

Component 2. Datacenters, Digital Platforms and Smart Solutions: This component will focus on establishing solid technology foundations for the digital economy and

digital government including regionally integrated shared datacenter infrastructure and digital platforms that can be reused at regional and national levels for improved service delivery in key sectors. By establishing a shared digital government infrastructure, the Government can significantly reduce the cost and time taken to develop and maintain new digital services by sectoral ministries and reduce overall costs of e-services delivery. This component consists of the following subcomponents:

2.1. Regional Datacenters;

2.2. Regional Digital Platforms, Shared Services and Smart Solutions;

Component 3. Enabling Environment for Digital Economy: The aim of this component is to strengthen and harmonize—at the regional and national levels—the enabling environment for the digital economy, in particular, the laws, regulations, institutional, and human capacity, to make Uzbekistan an attractive destination for digital economy investments. This will be accomplished by strengthening the many inter-related “analog” foundations that characterize a thriving digital ecosystem – creating and implementing forward-looking laws, regulations and policies; strengthening the capacity and accountability of institutions, including through citizen engagement approaches, and supporting digital leadership and strategic communications; and developing the necessary digital skills to take advantage of the benefits of the digital economy. Given the importance of the latter for the government of Uzbekistan, it has been highlighted as a separate component (component 4, below).

This component consists of the following subcomponents:

3.1. Legal, Regulatory and Institutional framework for Digital Transformation;

3.2. Digital Leadership and Capacity Building;

3.3. Public Awareness of Digital Transformation.

Component 4. Digital Innovations, Entrepreneurship and Skills: The aim of this component is to make Uzbekistan a more attractive and competitive place to invest and innovate while ensuring that the benefits of digital technology are reaching all citizens.

This component consists of the following subcomponents:

4.1. Digital Entrepreneurship (Technopark, Venture Financing, IT incubator);

4.2. Human Capital Development and Digital Skills;

4.3. Regional Center of Excellence for Digital Transformation.

Component 5. Project Management: This component will finance project management activities and associated institutional capacity building, including, among others, the establishment and operation of a Project Implementation Unit (PIU), as well as office equipment, various operating costs, training for PIU staff as well as funding for audits, logistics and operational overhead, as well as M&E activities.

4. Project Institutional and Implementation Arrangements. The Ministry for Development of Information Technologies and Communications will be the implementing agency for the proposed Project. For day to day project implementation it is agreed that a dedicated focal point from PIU will be assigned. As this PIU is a new institution, it does not have necessary capacity to ensure complying with the Bank's environmental and social safeguard policies. Within this PIU currently there are not yet hired or appointed neither

Environmental or Social Safeguards Specialist who to oversee the preparation and implementation of the ESMF and RPF and its instruments as well as conduct trainings on various safeguards topics to the staff of the project, and contractors. The Bank will also discuss with the client potential citizen engagement tools to be used in this project.

5. Project location. The project will be implemented country wide. It will connect the domestic fiber optic backbone of the country with other countries in the region and will also further develop the domestic fiber optic backbone. Although the exact locations are unknown at this stage, the client plans to use existing rights of way of the Government including roads and power transmission lines for fiber optic networks. Also the exact location of the premises for datacenters, for servers, and other e-infrastructure will be known only during the first stage of project implementation.

6. Project potential impacts. Component 1 and 2 of the project will include physical works that may lead to adverse environmental and social impacts including occupational health and safety issues. Such works include, but are not limited to (a) completion of the regional backbone consisting of the existing regional fiber optic networks, newly laid backbone, and newly established cross-border fiber optic links; and (b) construction and rehabilitation of facilities needed for various purposes: datacenter (which includes servers, data storage equipment, power, and conditioning/cooling systems), junction centers, and hub stations. The expected temporary environmental and social impacts are limited and typical to small/medium scale construction works, such as generation of dust, noise and vibration; movement of the construction vehicles and machinery; piling of construction materials; and accumulation of demolition/construction waste. Some associated risks may also include improper disposal of construction waste; asbestos; minor operational or accidental spills of fuel and lubricants from the construction machinery; improper reinstatement of construction sites upon completion of works; and labor safety issues. These risks can be managed by following good construction practices and site-specific environmental management plans.

7. World Bank Operational Policies (WB OP). The project might trigger only two of WB OPs. OP 4.01 is clearly triggered as the Project may generate a series of environmental and social impacts. Regarding OP 4.12 on Involuntary Resettlement, some could require lands resulting in physical and/or economic displacement. Given this, OP 4.12 is triggered to address the land related issues. .).

8. Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). Component 1 and 2 of the project will include physical works that may lead to adverse environmental and social impacts including occupational health and safety issues – as specified in point 6 above. These risks can be managed by following good construction practices and site-specific environmental management plans. As the project locations will be not known before project appraisal the borrower will develop an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) which will include: (a) generic guidelines and procedures to avoid, mitigate, or minimize adverse environmental and social impacts of the potential activities; (b) description of the environmental and social screening process that will help to define the environmental category of site-specific activities; and (c) the requirements

for site-specific environmental assessment and management plans. The ESMF will also include consideration of potential associated facilities, particularly related to installation of dedicated power generation (including back-up power generation), electrical transmission and distribution (including substations). Although it is not expected, any potential Category A-type activities/subprojects, including associated facilities, will be excluded. The ESMF will be disclosed and publicly consulted with all stakeholders.

9. Resettlement Policy Framework. As the project locations and the related details will be not known before project appraisal the borrower will develop a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) to be adopted, as appropriate, during implementation and prepare resettlement action plans (RAP).

10. Subprojects Environmental and Social Impacts Assessment. Based on the ESMF each of selected subproject should be assessed from environmental and social point of views and, based on that will be prepared an ESMP and/or an ESMP Checklist that will be disclosed in consulted in the selected localities as well as submitted to the State Ecological Expertise for its approval, when needed.

The overall objective of the assignment is to assist the Government of Uzbekistan to identify, assess, and implement environmental and social management measures in respect of the proposed project's interventions. In order to achieve this objective, it is proposed to conduct comprehensive social and environmental assessments so as to enable the preparation of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) as well as Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs). These will guide the project to ensure that the project activities do not cause any harm and are in compliance with the applicable national and local regulations, as well as World Bank safeguards policies. The outline of the ESMF is presented in Annex 1.

The ESMF will cover the following: rules and procedures for environmental and social screening of investments/subprojects; guidance for conducting subprojects Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) and/or preparing Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs) as well as the related ESMP Checklists; mitigation measures for possible impacts of different proposed activities and subprojects to be supported by the project; requirements for monitoring and supervision of implementing of ESIA/ESMPs, and implementation arrangements. It will also draft a negative list to enable exclude sub-projects with environmental or social safeguards high risks.

11. Specific tasks. The consultant shall conduct the following:

- an assessment of national ESIA policy, legal and administrative conditions in terms of completeness and appropriateness regarding the proposed project activities;
- conduct analysis of social diversity and overall gender analysis;
- examine opportunities and conditions for participation by stakeholders – particularly the poor and vulnerable – in the development process (e.g. contributing to

project design, implementation and/or monitoring; influencing public choices and decision-making; etc.). Propose stakeholder consultation timeline;

- identify and describe the various groups and stakeholders who are likely to be affected by the project, as well as those that may influence the project's outcomes and explain any particular effects the project may have on the poor.
- a general assessment of the environmental and social impacts that might be associated with the different types of subprojects that will be supported;
- prepare draft ESMF for setting the safeguard procedures for potential subprojects yet to be identified, including screening criteria of proposed subprojects for identifying those that require a detailed ESIA study and/or a simple ESIA and/or an ESMP. Propose guidance and criteria for subprojects screening on WB OPs which might be triggered;
- prepare Environmental Guidelines for proposed subprojects that would provide an assessment of potential impacts and generic mitigation measures to be undertaken for identified subprojects in all stages, - from identification and selection, through the design and implementation phase, to the monitoring and evaluation of results;
- prepare a generic social management framework which will, among others, include aspects related to: gender, citizen engagement, forced labor, and GRM.
- provide description and recommendations for Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM). Identify and describe the roles of institutions that will be responsible for establishing and maintaining a grievance redress mechanism for grievances that may arise from members of the communities who are dissatisfied with the project activities;
- prepare the RPF in accordance with OP/BP 4.12, the World Bank Policy on Involuntary Resettlement.;
- prepare of the summary of the ESMF and RPF and disseminate it to other involved state and local institutions, municipalities, and academia, for review and comment;
- organize ESMF and RPF public access (disclosure) in the Internet by providing hard copies of the document to the interested parties and public briefing (s) and consultation on the draft document. The place, time and purpose of the consultations shall be announced at least two weeks in advance of the meeting. Prepare a summary of the consultation meeting(s) in the following format:

Consultation with interested parties should be reported in the following format:

<i>Location</i>	<i>Objective</i>	<i>Invitees</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Summary conclusions and Comments</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>
Tashkent	To describe the project activities, including ESMF, RPF and Environmental Guidelines and solicit feedback				

- Revise the ESMF and RPF after the meetings to consider inputs from the consultations as appropriate.

The final version of the ESMF and RPF will be made publicly available in the country on the PIU website, provided to the World Bank for the disclosure on its external website, and used during project implementation.

12. Basic documents for conducting Environmental Assessment. In preparing the ESMF the consultant should take into consideration the following national and World Bank documents:

- Law on Ecological Expertise (2000);
- Law on environmental inspection (2013)
- Regulation on State Ecological Expertise (2001; 2018 r.);
- World Bank Operational Policies: 4.01 "Environmental Assessment"; OP/BP 4.12 Involuntary Resettlement (OP/BP 4.12).
- World Bank Disclosure Handbook (December 2002);
- IFC Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines.
- ESMF for Kyrgyzstan Digital CASA project;

13. Implementation. The ESMF and RPF will be prepared by a consultant with qualification in environmental and social impact assessment and experience in preparing ESMF for projects funded by the World Bank or any other donors with similar environmental and social safeguards policies.

14. Timing and phases for designing the ESMF and RPF. The total duration of the assignment is estimated to require 60 days and could be carried out in two several stages: (i) conducting the analysis of national ESIA regulatory and institutional framework and identifying the gaps with the WB safeguards policies; (ii) assessing the potential adverse impacts of the Project, identifying mitigation measures and elaborating the draft ESMF; (iii) refining institutional framework and implementation arrangements for the ESMF and costing capacity building activities; and, (iv) ESMF disclosure and public consultation.

15. Services, Facilities and Materials to be provided by the project beneficiary. The project beneficiary will provide the following services to the Consultant:

- All relevant documents relevant to the project (PCN; Feasibility studies);
- All available and relevant background documentation and studies (e.g. regional, sectoral);
- Making all necessary arrangements for supporting the work of the Consultant(s), by e.g. facilitating access to national/regional and other Project stakeholders;
- Disclosure of draft documents on its website, sending out of invitations, organization of venues for public hearings, and being present as discussant at all public hearings.

16. Schedule of Deliverables. This assignment is expected to be completed within 60 days, with an anticipated starting date on December 1, 2019. An inception report outlining the methodology and schedule for completion of the assignment will be expected within 7 days of contract signing. The Inception Report should contain a draft

Content Sheet. First draft ESMF and RPF will be expected within 30 days of contract signature. The final ESMF and RPF report that has been updated based on the comments received during consultations will be delivered after 50 days from the contractual mobilization date.

17. *Payment Schedule.*

15% upon signature of contract;

25% upon submission of on an inception report, outlining the methodology and schedule for completion of the assignment and including an annotated outline of the deliverables;

50% upon submission of a draft ESMF and RPF;

10% on submission of a final ESMF and RPF and final proceedings of the required disclosure workshops, documenting outcomes of discussions and list of participants

Annex 1. The outline of the ESMF

Executive Summary

Project Description. It will provide description of the project development objective along with its components and proposed activities.

Policy and Regulatory Framework. This section will identify the country's regulatory base for environmental and social impacts assessment. The Consultant will analyze the existing national environmental policies and legislation, including regulations for ESIA, and assess needs for compliance with the WB safeguards requirements. The Consultant will also analyze sector-specific policies, laws and regulations that have environmental implications for the project.

EA Institutional Framework. The Consultant should also analyze the institutional EA design and capacity and the distribution of responsibilities on both the national and local levels for the project implementation.

Baseline analysis. Provide a short general description of the geographical conditions along with the social and economic baseline for the country.

Analysis of social diversity and gender issues. Describe the most significant social and cultural features that differentiate social groups in the project area. Provide their different interests in the project, and their levels of influence and explain any effects the project may have on the poor and excluded.

Opportunities and conditions for participation by stakeholders in the development process. Identification of the various groups who have an interest or a stake in the project. Stakeholder consultation timeline.

Analysis of Environmental and Social Impacts for the proposed types of subprojects. This section will identify and assess the major environmental issues of potential types of projects.

Rules and Procedures for Environmental and Social Screening and Assessment. This would cover: (a) Procedures for Environmental and Social screening of sub-projects and criteria for categorization, including in terms of triggering WB OPs on Involuntary Resettlement; (b) Procedures for conducting Environmental and Social Impact Assessment and/or preparing ESMP for selected sub-projects; and (c) Roles and responsibilities for ESIA and/or ESMP reviewing and approval as well as for monitoring and enforcement.

Environmental guidelines. The Consultant will provide information on existing environmental and social regulations and guiding materials which are being followed in the identified sector activities. Based on the existing documents and international

experience the consultant will prepare the environmental guidelines to be followed in preparing individual ESMPs for selected subprojects. The guidelines will cover: (a) the stages of project implementation and concrete construction/operational activities; (b) potential environmental and social impacts associated with the proposed activities; (c) suggested mitigation measures, based on the most advanced international practice; (d) proposed supervision, monitoring and reporting activities.

Social Management Plan. This will include measures to address issues identified in the social assessment. Among others, this will include gender action plans as well as citizen engagement plans. It will also have a reference to resettlement, though, RPF will be a stand alone document.

Environmental and Social TA activities. This would include curricular for PIU capacity building activities, as well as and main environment and social issues to be covered under these activities.

Institutional arrangements for ESMF implementation. This section describes all involved actors in the ESMF implementation as well as their roles and responsibilities. It covers also an assessment of their capacities to perform their duties. Based on that it might be necessary to propose a set of concrete capacity building and strengthening of involved institutions to assess and control the environmental and social impacts of the potential types of subprojects.

Monitoring and reporting activities. The ESMF should include specifications for supervision of its implementation. It will cover also the basic environmental performance indicators, timeframe and responsibilities for proposed monitoring activities. Furthermore, it will specify the reporting requirements for ESMF implementation.

Description and recommendations for Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM). Identify and describe the roles of institutions that will be responsible for establishing and maintaining a grievance redress mechanism for grievances that may arise from members of the communities who are dissatisfied with the project activities.

Budget. The Consultant will provide a budget proposal covering implementation of the ESMF and regarding EA capacity building, and PIU strengthening.

ESMF disclosure and consultation. This section will contain details about the conducted public consultation of the document, as well as about the timing and means of disclosure and received comments and how they have been addressed.