

INTERNATIONAL EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SPECIALIST TERMS OF REFERENCE

I. OBJECTIVE AND PURPOSE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

1. The Government of the Kyrgyz Republic with the support of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is implementing the Issyk-Kul Ring Road Improvement Project (the project) that covers the rehabilitation of the existing 75.2 km of the ring road from Barskoon Village (km 140+600) to Karakol City (km 215+827) in Issyk-Kul Oblast in the Kyrgyz Republic. The road rehabilitation will widen the existing two-lane road to four 3.5 m lanes road, with a total asphalted width of 17.6 meters, with median and paved shoulders and with design speeds of 120 km/hour in rural area and 60 km/hour in urban area. It also include the replacement or repair of existing bridges and culverts and the construction of a new bridge, culverts, rest areas, bus stops, and pedestrian walkways and installation of streetlights, safety islands, cattle underpasses, retaining walls, shoulders, sidewalks and drainage systems.

2. The Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Kyrgyz Republic (MOTC) serves as the executing agency, with its Project Implementation Unit (PIU) acting as the implementing agency. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved the contract on 5 May 2025. The Construction Supervision Consultant (CSC) commenced its services on 3 June 2025. Civil works commenced on 14 June 2025.

3. An important aspect of the implementation of the project is ensuring the prevention, and where prevention is not possible, the minimization, mitigation and/or offsetting adverse environmental impacts of the project. In addition, the safety and health of the residents in nearby settlements and of the project personnel need to be protected. To ensure these concerns, a project-specific environmental impact assessment (EIA) that includes an environmental management plan (EMP) identifying management and control measures that should be undertaken during the different phases of the road project implementation has been prepared. The EIA/EMP includes mitigation and management measures that need to be implemented, including necessary monitoring to ensure the proper and effective implementation of these measures. The Supplementary EIA, which evaluates the potential cumulative effects of the project and other projects in the Issyk-Kul Lake region, was also prepared, approved and disclosed in February 2025. The SSEMP, which aligns with the EMP, was approved by PIU on 21 July 2025.

4. In compliance with the requirement of ADB SPS, the project, as a Category A undertaking with significant impacts and risks, shall retain external environment experts that at the minimum will include: (i) one (1) International Environment expert; and one (ii) National Environment Expert. These experts shall have expertise in road project construction and operation and experience in management and monitoring of environmental impacts of such kind of infrastructure projects. The environment experts shall be hired on an intermittent but regular basis (i.e., for one month every four months) starting from the time of their appointment up to the defects notification period (DNP). The environment experts will coordinate and work closely with PIU, CSC and the Contractor when planning or fielding monitoring activities, including requests for information or documents that will facilitate the task. Per ADB SPS, the environment experts shall not be involved in day-to-day project implementation or supervision of the project and will report directly to ADB.

II. SCOPE OF WORK

6. The main scope of work of the International Environment Expert is to monitor project compliance with the requirements of the project's EIA/EMP, Supplementary EIA, SSEMP, ADB SPS environmental safeguard, relevant regulations of the Kyrgyz Republic are implemented, including health and safety and labor standards. Part of the scope of work is to assess the effectiveness of control measures in preventing and/or minimizing the environmental impacts of project activities. He/she shall be responsible for preparing the annual external environmental monitoring reports and environmental compliance audit reports and verifying the quarterly environmental monitoring reports where the findings on compliance will be detailed, including

corrective actions, lists of responsible parties and target completion dates and action tracking matrix.

III. DETAILED TASKS AND/OR EXPECTED OUTPUTS

7. The detailed tasks and/or expected output are as follows:

- (i) Carry out and lead the annual external environmental monitoring and environmental compliance audit of the project during construction and defect notification phases.
- (ii) Carry out monitoring and audit scoping before the actual monitoring or audit, which at the minimum should identify aspects to be monitored/audited, monitoring/audit objectives, duration and timing of monitoring/audit, composition of the monitoring/audit team, monitoring/audit methodology and a monitoring/audit checklist.
- (iii) Lead the conduct of the on-site monitoring or audit that at the minimum should include: (a) opening meeting with the construction contractor's management and relevant site personnel; (b) review of environmental records and monitoring reports; (c) inspection of all construction work sites, laydown area, borrow pits, worker's camp, etc.; (d) interview of relevant personnel and relevant stakeholders; (e) completion and finalization of the monitoring/audit checklist; (f) monitoring/audit close out meeting, where the highlight the good points and the deficiencies (non-compliances) are discussed, including the action plan for close out of the non-compliances.
- (iv) Verify project's quarterly environmental monitoring reports during construction phase and semiannual environmental monitoring reports during defects notification phase, provide recommendations to address non-compliances, and identify further actions to improve compliance with environment, health and safety requirements per ADB SPS and applicable national laws and regulations.
- (v) Prepare, finalize and submit to ADB the annual external environmental monitoring reports and environmental compliance audit reports.
- (vi) Prepare, finalize and submit to ADB review and recommendations on the project's post-construction audit report that include the close out action plan for non-compliances.
- (vii) Report on overall environmental compliance of the project per ADB SPS 2009 requirements.

IV. MINIMUM QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

8. The minimum qualification requirements are as follows:

- (i) **Education:** Master's Degree in Environmental Engineering or other appropriate qualifications.
- (ii) **Experience:** At least 10 years of experience in environment monitoring/audit related to EIA implementation. Proven practical experience in leading environmental monitoring/audit of construction projects. Part of this experience should preferably have been in institutional and physical environments similar to those prevailing in the Kyrgyz Republic or similar geographical conditions. Expertise in road project construction and operation and experience in management and monitoring of environmental impacts of such kind of infrastructure projects. Familiar with international financing institution (IFI) financed projects.
- (iii) **Minimum general experience:** 10 years
- (iv) **Minimum specific experience (relevant to assignment):** 10 years
- (v) **Regional/country experience:** required

V. SCHEDULE AND PLACES OF ASSIGNMENT

- (i) Schedule type: intermittent
- (ii) Duration: Total: 14 months in 8 years (3 months/year for 3 years during construction phase and 1 month/year for 5 years during the project defect notification period).
- (iii) Place of assignment: Kyrgyz Republic (Bishkek and Project Site)