



**BCC2025-007 - REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST – ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS AND COMPLIANCE CONSULTANT.**

1. The Islamic Development Bank hereby invites individual consultants to indicate their interests in becoming an Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) consultant.
2. The services to be provided under the assignment, the eligibility criteria and additional details are included in the enclosed Terms of Reference (TOR).
3. The eligibility criteria, the establishment of a short list and the selection procedures shall be in conformity with the Bank's procedures for the acquisition of consulting services funded by the administrative budget. Please note that interest expressed by the consultant does not imply any obligation to recruit on the part of the Bank.
4. Interested individual consultants may obtain further information during the period of the publication of this notice at the address below during the Bank's working hours from: 09.00 am to 17:00 PM Jeddah Time.
5. Expressions of interest must be received at the address below no later than Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 17:00 PM Jeddah Time.
  - Submissions should be sent to EOI Submission - EOI submission - BCC2025-007 Consultancy Services for the Development of ESS Standards for IsDB [123a6414.isdb.org@emea.teams.ms](mailto:123a6414.isdb.org@emea.teams.ms) PDF, Word file.
  - For further details or clarification, please contact CSP - BCC2025-007 Consultancy Services for the Development of ESS Standards for IsDB [5abaa3c8.isdb.org@emea.teams.ms](mailto:5abaa3c8.isdb.org@emea.teams.ms) before the submission deadline.
  - All Consultant requested to complete their registration within IsDB Supplier a management system, SAP ARIBA for current and future opportunities: <http://isdb.supplier.mn2.ariba.com/ad/selfRegistration/>

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) - ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS CONSULTANT**

### **1. Introduction**

The Bank approved an Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy (ESSP) in 2020, to better address emerging environmental and social development challenges. The ESSP promotes best practices and encourages greater transparency and accountability to the Bank's stakeholders including project host communities. It also sets out the Bank's aspirations to build a robust internal capacity and contribute to strengthening country systems in the pursuit of sustainable development.

The adoption and implementation of the ESSP is in response to the vision of the Bank and its Member Countries to broaden and deepen economic transformation in Member Countries by ensuring that growth is socially inclusive and pursued in a manner that is not only environmentally and socially sustainable, but also economically empowering. The ESS is thus a cornerstone of this vision and a powerful tool for identifying and managing ESS risks, reducing development costs, improving project sustainability, and ensuring benefits to project host communities while safeguarding the Bank's reputation and preserving natural resources for economic growth. As part of the operationalization process, the Bank is benchmarking its policy against the policies, practices and procedures of its comparators to ensure alignment, harmonization with the standards of potential co-financiers and best industry practices.

### **2. Justification**

The challenges of achieving the principles of environmental and social sustainability are ever changing and include, among others, such issues as how the Bank's operations interact with the global climate, the environmental and social benefits of the Bank-financed operations, stakeholder involvement, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services, workers' safety at the workplace, cumulative impacts of operations, compensation for resettlement, cultural heritage and evolving safeguards capacity in regional member countries.

Implementation of any policy, including those that have been designed with high level of due diligence, often has challenges that can hamper effective attainment of the desired objectives. Experience has shown that safeguards systems to manage environmental and social risks in project origination and implementation are among such policies that need to be developed and updated to ensure that timely corrective action is taken to respond to such challenges. international best practice.

### **3. The Assignment**

The consultancy services to be accomplished under this assignment will be undertaken by a Lead Environmental and Social mainstreaming and Safeguards Expert for an estimated 80 man-days. The specific responsibility of the Consultant is to draft detailed Environmental and Social Norms that are benchmarked, aligned and harmonized with the policies and practices of the IsDB's comparators, particularly the African Development Bank, World Bank Group and the Asian Development Bank. This also include incorporating "Sharia Compliance Requirements" as well as new and evolving thematic areas such as GBV/SEAH; Child Labour, Forced Labour and Slave Labour; and Human Rights within the project context.

The scope of the assignment includes the development of the following standards:

1. Environmental and Social Norm 2 (ESN.2): Labour and Working Conditions
2. Environmental and Social Norm 3 (ESN. 3): Resources Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management
3. Environmental and Social Norm 4 (ESN.4): Community Health, Safety and Security
4. Environmental and Social Norm 5 (ESN.5): Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Access to Land and Land Use, and Involuntary Resettlement
5. Environmental and Social Norm 6 (ESN.6): Habitat and Biodiversity Conservation, and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources, and Climate Change
6. Environmental and Social Norm 7 (ESN.7): Vulnerable Groups
7. Environmental and Social Norm 8 (ESN.8) Cultural Heritage
8. Environmental and Social Norm 9 (ESN.9): Financial Intermediation
9. Development of guidance notes and templates for ESN 2-9

To achieve these, the Consultant will have to explore areas of harmonization with the policies of other Multilateral Development banks, international best practice, stakeholder priorities and Board opinion. To that end, he/she will carry out the following minimum tasks:

- (i) Review the Bank's current ESSP as well as recently developed ESN1 (Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risk and Impact) and ESN10 (Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure) with a view to identifying strengths to be retained and any gaps to be updated
- (ii) Conduct consultations focusing on the key issues/themes identified during the internal Bank scoping consultations
- (iii) Review and identify knowledge gaps that may constrain the Bank's from conforming to international best practice
- (iv) Review existing Bank institutional capacity related to ESS application and support to clients and operations departments, in order to assess any capacity gaps in the operationalization of the ESS bank-wide
- (v) Review the safeguard systems of other MDBs, their lessons learned and recent updates and suggest opportunities to improve harmonization, to adopt international best practice more effectively, and to improve cooperation and alignment, in the case of co-financed operations

- (vi) Propose the most flexible approach that would enable the IsDB to maintain its catalytic role in ensuring sustainable development in all 57 Member Countries, and to help clients ensure that the outcomes of development projects are sustainable.
- (vii) Draft the priority policies ESNs 2 to 9 proving objectives, scope of application, general requirements, and detailed implementation guidelines for IsDB's financing in 57 MCs; Revise the ESNs 1 & 10 if there is any gap.
- (viii) Finalize the ESNs 1- 10 incorporating IsDB ESS team and other stakeholders feedback on the draft.

#### 4. Key methodological aspects

In executing the assignment, the Consultant will be expected to employ a mix of the following: (i) desk review of existing documentations (ESSP, Sector policies; IsDB evaluations reports/findings etc); (ii) Benchmarking the ESSP with comparators; (iii) conducting technical discussion with RCA and consultations with stakeholders to inform/adapt/harmonize with the Bank's comparators; (iv) prepare the updated version including annexes; (v) incorporate findings into the 10 standards for internal validation; and (vi) deliver the final report for management / Board approval.

The Consultant will carry out all required consultations, with both internal and external stakeholders, and participate in the consultations organized by the Bank for the review/approval of his deliveries.

#### 5. Workplan and Deliverables

The consultant work schedule will be aligned to the whole ESS updating plan and timeline, as detailed in this ToR.

The draft final report of the Consultant will include:

- Updated and harmonized ESNs (1 – 10)
- Roadmap for full operationalization of the ESSP
- ESS Guidance Notes, Templates and other toolkits
- Recommendations of capacity building for both Bank and Clients, and including where feasible indicative time frame, staffing and budget.

	Deliverable	Payment Schedule (Man days)	Due date
1	Inception Report, including detailed methodology and plan for data collection and stakeholder consultation, and identification of key topics/issues for in-depth focus (e.g. indigenous peoples, Vulnerable groups, gender- based violence, human	10 Man days	30 May 2025

	rights etc.) and any other proposals for harmonization.		
2	1 <sup>st</sup> draft ESNs and their Guidance Notes	30 Man days	20 June 2025
3	2 <sup>nd</sup> Version incorporating IsDB feedback	20 Man days	10 July 2025
4	Final Version (incorporating IsDB feedback	20 Man days	30 July 2025

**Table 1: Deliverables, payment schedule and Timeline**

## 6. Required expertise

To execute this assignment, the Consultant must have extensive experience in formulation environmental and social safeguards policy and procedures and must have substantial knowledge of the environment and social safeguards systems in general and in the Africa, MENA, Central Europe, Asia and South America Regions in particular. He/She must understand the specificity of “Sharia” in ESS mainstreaming and at a minimum, have expertise in environment and social safeguards application requirements throughout the project cycle. Knowledge and experience with safeguards systems of other Multilateral Development Banks and other International Organizations would be an added advantage.

## 7. Qualifications

- (i) At least a Master’s Degree or its equivalent in Environmental Management or Social Science, International Development studies or related discipline
- (ii) A minimum of 20 years of practical experience (10 of which must be at a managerial level) of environmental and social safeguards implementation of MDB’s investments in various sectors and countries, both public and private
- (iii) Demonstrable experience in policy work (developing the design and content of Environmental and Social Safeguards systems in the MDB context), including knowledge of the current ESS emerging issues
- (iv) In-depth understanding of the system, process and tools associated to Environmental and Social Safeguards systems in the MDB context
- (v) A strong understanding of environmental and social safeguards’ issues, challenges and practices relating to countries in the Global South
- (vi) Experience in Development arena.

## 8. Duration of the assignment

The assignment will be for 80 man days (Eighty man days) effective 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and expected to end by 30<sup>st</sup> July, 2025.

### **9.Contract Supervision**

The Consultant shall report to the CCED Manager who will provide overall guidance and administrative oversight. The work of the Consultant will be managed and supported by the ESS Team of the IsDB, coordinated by the Global ESS Lead who will provide technical oversight for the assignment, and with technical support from the Senior ESS Specialist.

### **10. Consultant Selection method**

The selection of the individual consultant for this assignment will follow a Quality-Based Selection (QBS) approach, ensuring that the most technically qualified candidate is selected based on merit and expertise.

The evaluation will be conducted in the following steps:

**Call for Expression of Interest (EOI):** Interested individual consultants will be invited to submit their EOIs, highlighting their relevant qualifications and experience.

**Technical Evaluation:** Shortlisted candidates will be assessed based on predefined criteria, including academic background, relevant experience, technical expertise, and understanding of the assignment.

**Ranking and Negotiation:** The highest-ranked consultant based on technical merit will be invited for contract negotiations. Since QBS prioritizes quality, financial proposals will only be requested from the top-ranked consultant to ensure alignment with the available budget.

The maximum budget for this assignment is USD 96,000, with the final contract value subject to negotiation based on the scope and required inputs.

### **11. Study and related material property**

All data and information received for the purpose of this assignment are to be treated confidentially and are only to be used in connection with the execution of the assignment. The Islamic Development Bank will have copyrights to the materials arising from the execution of this assignment. The contents of written materials obtained and used in the assignment may not be disclosed to any third parties without the expressed advance written authorization of the Islamic Development Bank.