

State Institute “Agriculture Entrepreneurship Development” Project Management Unit
One Health for Pandemic Prevention Food Systems Resilience and Ecosystem Health in
Central Asia Project (OHP)

Terms of reference for Environment Specialist

I. BACKGROUND

The One Health approach is an integrated and unifying framework that aims to achieve optimal health for people, animals, and ecosystems. It recognizes the interdependence between human, animal, plant, and environmental health, and it mobilizes various sectors and communities to address global challenges, such as pandemic prevention, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), food safety, and environmental sustainability. This approach is essential for fostering well-being and tackling complex health issues in interconnected systems.

Phase 1 of the One Health for Pandemic Prevention Food Systems Resilience and Ecosystem Health in Central Asia Program for Tajikistan is funded from US\$31.79 million grant, with US\$30 million sourced from the International Development Association (IDA) and an additional US\$1.79 million from the Pandemic Fund. This initiative, part of the World Bank's Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA), aims to support the five Central Asian countries (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan) in addressing prevalent challenges related to zoonotic diseases, AMR, and food safety.

The One Health Program in Tajikistan, implemented as part of Phase 1 under the World Bank's Multiphase Programmatic Approach (MPA), is designed to strengthen the country's capacities for preventing, detecting, and responding to zoonotic diseases, AMR, and food safety risks. It supports investments across national and regional One Health coordination, communication, information sharing, regulatory frameworks, knowledge development, workforce capacity, risk-based surveillance, prevention and response systems, laboratory capacity, and data systems.

The project includes four key components:

1. **Strengthening One Health Governance** – Establishing a cross-sectoral governance structure to enhance coordination and policy alignment.
2. **Enhancing One Health Knowledge and Workforce Capacity** – Developing and implementing workforce training programs and research initiatives.
3. **Improving One Health Prevention, Detection, and Response Systems** – Strengthening national and regional laboratory networks, enhancing risk-based surveillance, and supporting digital information systems.
4. **Project Management, Monitoring & Evaluation, and Learning** – Establishing systems to manage and track project progress, ensure compliance, and facilitate knowledge dissemination.

The One Health Program in Tajikistan is implemented by the State Institute “Agriculture Entrepreneurship Development” Project Management Unit (SI AED PMU). The implementing agency works closely with national and regional stakeholders to ensure effective and sustainable implementation of the One Health approach.

The Project primarily focuses on technical assistance, capacity building, procurement of laboratory equipment, construction of research centers and laboratories, and One Health risks related to the laboratory civil works.

II. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

To strengthen the capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to priority zoonotic diseases, antimicrobial resistance, and food safety issues in Asia Tajikistan through a regional One Health approach.

III. SCOPE OF WORK

The following agencies are engaged in implementing the project: the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Ministry of Health and Social Population Protection (MoHSPP), the Committee on Food Security (CFS), and the Committee on Environmental Protection (CEP).

The Environment Specialist will support the implementation of the environmental aspect of all project components which will be implemented by four governmental agencies and the guidance of the OHP Coordinator. The Environment Specialist in close collaboration with the project staff and implementing agencies responsible for developing environmental documents, providing environmental monitoring and advice to project beneficiaries and partners according to WB regulations and the Project Operation Manual.

The Environment Specialist's duties and responsibilities

His/her key functions will be to:

- Provide overall policy and technical direction for environmental risk management under the Project (as defined by the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF));
- Ensure the environmental commitments as outlined in the project's Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) are completed in timely and regular manner; and
- Ensure the project's compliance with the National and World Bank ESF standards and procedures.

His/her job responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

- With support of qualified international and national consultants organize capacity building activities delivered on relevant ESHS aspects under the Project as required in the ESCP and outlined in the ESMF to PIU staff, key beneficiary agencies, consultants, contractors, communities, and Project workers.
- Conduct E&S technical screening to assess environmental risks and potential impacts and to determine the site-specific E&S instruments to be prepared for activities under Components 2 and 3 of the Project, based on the guidance for E&S screening, as provided in Appendix 1 of the ESMF.
- Closely co-ordinate with the PMU team for review and endorsement of the environmental screening decisions and recommendations and ensure the recommendations to address environmental issues;
- For each subproject, ensure timely preparation, consultation and implementation of site - specific Environmental and Social Assessments and corresponding Environmental and Social management Plans (ESMPs), and/or a standalone ESMP or checklist-based ESMP, as set out in the ESMF project;
- Review draft and final ESIAs for quality and obtain necessary clearances (i.e. state environmental expertise, permits and licenses, etc.);
- Ensure that applicable measures of the Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Plans (ESMMPs), are included in the bidding documents; Also ensure that Contractors prepare, adopt, and implement site-specific contractors' Environmental and Social Management Plans (C-ESMP), as set out in the respective ESMPs and their respective contracts.
- Carry out regular field visits and monitor the implementation of environmental prevention and mitigation measures to be properly undertaken during the project implementation;

- Record and investigate all environmental and health and safety incidents, if any;
- Organize consultations with project stakeholders on the environmental instruments (ESIAs/ESMP), provide clarifications on environmental provisions and procedures, and maintain consultation minutes including disclosure of public consultations and environmental instruments;
- Provide necessary technical assistance to facilitate the implementation, management and monitoring of environmental risks and impacts and implementation of environmental mitigation and monitoring plans;
- Organize periodic induction and refresher training programs/toolbox talks/briefings to develop and improve the skills and abilities of employees involved in the implementation of the project on environmental risk management in compliance with site-specific ESMPs
- Familiarize employees with ESF requirements and provide them with the necessary information (local, national, or international environmental standards and requirements) to obtain permits/licenses, contracts and others. Jointly with Social Development Specialist, prepare and submit regular monitoring reports to AED PMU on environmental, social, health and safety (E&S) performance of the project as part of the 6-months progress reporting.
- Ensure that all relevant documents and records relating to the environmental aspects will be stored in the AED PMU.

IV. REPORTING

The **Environment Specialist** will report to and work under the direct supervision of the AED PMU Director/Deputy Director.

V. LANGUAGES

The **Environment Specialist** shall work in the Tajik and Russian languages. The Reports/Documents shall be prepared in Russian and English languages. Translation into Tajik languages shall also be ensured.

VI. QUALIFICATIONS

- A university degree in environmental science (Environment management, Ecology, Geology, Geography, Biology, or related expertise);
- Having at least 5 years of working experience with projects funded by International Financial Institutions (eg. the World Bank, ADB, AIIB, etc.) and/or international donors or governmental agencies in the field of environmental assessment, risk management, and monitoring procedures;
- Good knowledge of environmental legislation of the Republic of Tajikistan and World Bank Environmental and Social Frameworks;
- Experience in developing documents on environmental and social risk management including Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs), Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), Environmental Social Standard (ESS), and Environmental Management Plans (EMP).
- Working experience in interacting with local and national authorities and communities;
- High sense of responsibility, willingness to take initiative, excellent communication skills and team spirit are important assets;
- Proficiency in Tajik and Russian is required. English language skills will be considered an advantage;

- Excellent communication and computer skills.

VII. DURATION OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The assignment will start in _____ and will initially be for a duration of one year, including a three-month probation period. The SI AED PMU will decide on the extension of the contract with the approval of the World Bank.