**MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNICAL SUPERVISION OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

**KYRGYZ REPUBLIC AIR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**Environmental Specialist**

**I. Background**

The Kyrgyz Republic (hereinafter the "Recipient") is implementing the "Air Quality Improvement Project" (hereinafter the "Project"), with the involvement of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Technical Supervision (MNRETS) and the Ministry of Finance (MOF) as set out in the Financing Agreement. The International Development Association (hereinafter referred to as IDA) (i) has agreed to provide financing for the Project as set out in the Financing Agreement.

The project aims to strengthen the air quality management system in the Kyrgyz Republic and contribute to the improvement of air quality and expansion of green spaces in and around Bishkek by introducing cleaner heating options and energy efficiency measures in the residential heating sector and pilot landscaping in selected areas of Bishkek city.

This project will assist the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic to apply a multi-sectoral approach through continued engagement in air quality management in the country, and provide investment support to improve air quality and reduce health risks in Bishkek through investments in the following three areas: (i) strengthening the country's air quality management system (component 1); (ii) introducing cleaner heating systems in Bishkek (component 2); and (iii) implementing greening measures in the city (component 3). Overall, these three components aim to reduce PM2.5 and CO2, emissions, which will contribute to reducinghealth risks. The project will contribute to both climate change mitigation and adaptation in the long term.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Technical Supervision of the Kyrgyz Republic (MNRETS KR) is the main implementing agency for the project. The PIU established under MNRETN will be responsible for project management, reporting, procurement, financial and fiduciary management, environmental and social standards (ESS) compliance and technical supervision. The PIU will work closely with the PIU of the Ministry of Finance, Bishkek City Municipality, especially for components 2 and 3, as well as with MNRETS, and the Hydrometeorological Service for component 1.

1. **Objectives**

The purpose of this assignment is to support the implementation of Project activities y and ensure compliance with environmental protection requirements, implementation of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), development of the necessary tools, monitoring of facilities and contractors for the implementation of environmental safety measures.

The basis for the assignments will be the relevant World Bank standards and procedures, as well as the current legislative and other regulatory acts of the Kyrgyz Republic, the state social and environmental policy.

On this basis, the Consultant's tasks include:

1. **Scope of services**

Responsibilities of the Specialist will include but not limited to:

* Providing assistance and support to the MNRETS management and PIU director in fulfilling the environmental obligations of the project;
* Ensuring compliance with the requirements of the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of environmental protection and in accordance with the environmental social standards of the World Bank (ESS), based on the developed instruments for environmental protection: Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP);
* Updating the relevant environmental safety sections of the Project Operational Manual as necessary;
* Ensuring that requirements for environmental protection measures are included in tender documents for the provision of services and in contracts for the implementation of construction works;
* Ensuring the implementation of environmental activities and measures of the project in compliance with the Project’s Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) and Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).
* Preparation, approval, disclosure, adoption and implementation of subprojects’ Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMP) in accordance with World Bank principles, Project ESMF and other relevant Good International Industry Practices (GIIP).
* Assist the Social specialist to implement Labor Management Procedures (LMP) for the Project, including, inter alia, provisions for working conditions, occupational health and safety (including personal protective equipment, OHS trainings and emergency preparedness and response);
* Preliminary screening of anticipated socio-environmental impacts of the subprojects being implemented, based on the results of which the status of protective measures documents required for further development for each subproject is determined (environmental checklist or environmental and social management plan; Resettlement Action Plan, Environmental and Social Protection section of the DED or Environmental and Social Impact Statement);
* Conducting public consultations on developed documents on environmental and social measures (ESMPs) for subprojects (disclosing subproject information, announcements, discussion with public).
* Develop requirements for the Contractor's reporting and monitoring of the environmental mitigation and conservation measures implementation plan, the contractor's monitoring plan and analysis of the reports provided.
* Ensuring monitoring of contractors' compliance with environmental protection, health and safety measures according to WB E&S standards.
* Conducting trainings on environmental protection, health and safety measures of the construction works for PIU specialists, Supervision Consultants and Contractors prior the start of the works and later provision of refreshment trainings on regular basis.
* Reporting on the fulfilment of environmental obligations, documents on environmental safety measures, and monitoring results of the project.
* Prepare and submit to the World Bank semi-annual monitoring reports on the environmental, social, health, and safety (ESHS) performance of the Project.
* Regularly visit project sites to monitor the ’implementation of the subprojects environmental and social management plans.
* Ensuring the implementation of the project in accordance with the environmental standards documents developed for the project, if necessary, implement corrective measures for identified non-compliances of the subprojects.
* Close interaction with Communications and social development specialist of the PIU on the issue of access to project’s environmental information and achieving maximum information openness, publicity and transparency of the project activities.
* Participation in ensuring the disclosure of environmental information, development and implementation of a mechanism for redressing complaints on environmental issues.
* Responding to and documenting environmental incidents/accidents, which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public, or workers, including, inter alia, cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH), and accidents that result in death, serious or multiple injuries.
* Providing and assisting contractors and supervisory consultants in documenting and maintaining records (written, photographic) for environmental protection, health and safety monitoring.
* Maintain regular interaction with Communications and social development specialist of the PIU and the World Bank E&S team.
* Ensuring that the assessment of risks and impacts of construction works and other activities, and proposed mitigation measures related to the use of raw materials, reduction of water, air and soil pollution, and management of hazardous and non-hazardous substances and wastes, including any agrochemicals, along with the efficient use of water and energy have been included in all site-specific ESMPs, as appropriate;
* Participation in the development of Terms of Reference (ToR) for the selection of consultants for the preparation of design and estimate documentation (DED), as well as in the review and acceptance of the results of their work (sections of environmental protection (EP), safety requirements for facilities and social protection as part of the DED, specifications and statements of scope of work);
* Ensuring that necessary activities related to environmental and social safety such as trainings, studies, etc. are included in the project procurement plan;
* Ensuring that social and environmental requirements are included in contracts for construction and installation works;
* Ensuring public awareness and participation in the discussion of the ESMP, on environmental assessment, for the selected sub-projects, through various methods;
* Close interaction with Communications and social development specialist of the PIU on the issue of access to project’s environmental information and achieving maximum information openness, publicity and transparency of the project activities.
* Participation in ensuring the disclosure of environmental information, development and implementation of a mechanism for redressing complaints on environmental issues.
* Responding to and documenting environmental incidents/accidents, which has, or is likely to have, a significant adverse effect on the environment, the affected communities, the public, or workers, including, inter alia, cases of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA), sexual harassment (SH), and accidents that result in death, serious or multiple injuries.
* Providing and assisting contractors and supervisory consultants in documenting and maintaining records (written, photographic) for environmental protection, health and safety monitoring.
* Maintain regular interaction with Communications and social development specialist of the PIU and the World Bank E&S team.

**IV. Reporting Arrangements:**

The Environmental Specialist will report to the PIU Director and Coordinator. All reporting materials should be submitted in Russian language in one copy both in hard copy and electronically. All prepared materials should be agreed with the Project Coordinator and accepted by the PIU Director.

1. **Duration of the Assignment**

The contract will be signed for a period of 12 months with a probationary period of two months during which the contract may be terminated. The contract may be extended beyond the initial term subject to satisfactory performance of the Environmental Specialist.

1. **Qualification requirements**

The applicant for the position must have the following knowledge and experience:

* Higher education in a relevant field (ecology, sociology, biology, geology, geology, organization of environmental protection);
* Minimum of 5 years of professional experience related to this position in World Bank projects or other projects funded by donor organizations;
* Experience with the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of environmental protection and the obligations of the Kyrgyz Republic in relation to the environmental and social policies of the World Bank;
* Experience in developing documentation on environmental safety (sections of environmental protection, environmental impact assessment, environmental impact assessment, etc.);
* Fluency in Kyrgyz and Russian; knowledge of English will be an advantage.

**Evaluation criteria (will be removed when the advert is submitted)**

* more than 5 years of professional experience in environmental and social management assignments in a wide range of sectors in international organizations or projects; - 20 points
* knowledge of local legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of environmental protection, as well as knowledge of the World Bank's (or other international financial institutions') safeguard policies - 30 points;
* experience in preparation of documents on resettlement and environmental protection and labour protection in accordance with the requirements of the World Bank and other international institutions on preparation and implementation of relevant documents - 20 points;
* experience in assessment and management of labour protection and industrial safety at construction projects - 15 points;
* fluency in Kyrgyz and Russian; knowledge of English will be an advantage - 10 points;
* skills in Microsoft Office, MS Proficiency in Kyrgyz and Russian languages; knowledge of English will be an advantage - 5 points;