

Albanian Road Authority
Building Resilient Bridges Program
Phase 1 of the
Multi-Phase Programmatic Approach

TERMS OF REFERENCE

for

Selection of an Individual Environmental Specialist for the Project Implementing Team (PIT)

1. Background

The Government of Albania (GoA) through the Ministry of Finance and Economy (MoFE) and Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MoIE), seeks Funding for the “Building Resilient Bridges” (BRB) Program, from the World Bank (the Bank). The proposed program is designed to enhance the overall performance of bridges in Albania and provide support to ARA to increase its capacity in managing road and bridge infrastructure. Based on ARA’s 2018 inspection survey, over 30 bridges have reached or approached the end of their useful life, are at immediate risk of failure, and require major rehabilitation, upgrade, or full reconstruction. Albania’s bridge infrastructure is also highly vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. The findings of the studies prepared confirm the urgency for interventions to enhance the resilience of Albania’s road and bridge infrastructure to climate change and natural disasters. Bridges are identified as key infrastructure, particularly vulnerable to climate events, and neglected due to the higher investments required for their improvement. In this context, the proposed program will finance the rehabilitation, upgrade, or reconstruction of priority bridges and structures of the National Road Network (NRN), to enhance their operational performance, safety and resilience to climate and geological hazards events exacerbated by climate change. In addition, to ensure the sustainability of the investments, the program will finance technical assistance and capacity-building activities to improve the capacity of ARA to manage the bridge and culvert assets while reducing the gender employment gap in the road construction sector. The program will have two phases (phase 1 up to 10 bridges and phase 2 up to 20 bridges) to be implemented at the overall period of the program of 8 years, and each phase will have a maximum length of 4 and 5 years respectively.

2. Overview of the Project’s ES Risks and their Management

Potential environmental impacts will be primarily substantial for the upgrade/replacement of the bridges but with local impacts, and for the bridges that require rehabilitation, potential environmental impacts will be moderate, local, and typical for civil works. All impacts are expected to be addressed in the E&S due diligence appropriate to the project and site-specific risks. High-risk activities are not expected to be financed under the project.

As the exact locations and scope of the works are not yet defined for all the bridges with certainty the borrower prepared the ESMF. Proportional to the site-specific risks, the borrower will prepare the Environmental and Social (E&S) instruments.

Proportionally to the risks and impacts of the activities the site-specific E&S instruments are expected to be prepared:

-Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) checklists for typical rehabilitation activities

-ESMP and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for reconstruction

-Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), full-fledged or partial, will be required for significant upgrades/replacements of bridges, with changes in design and dimensions as well as for the construction of new bridges and supporting infrastructure

- Stand-alone Cultural Heritage Management Plan (CHMP) or annexed to ESIA/ESMP, will be prepared for site-specific works that might have an impact on cultural heritage
- Biodiversity protection measures will be carried out as a part of site-specific ESIA and ESMP
- Site-specific management plans for waste management, hazardous materials management, and pollution prevention as a part of the contractor ESMP, ESMP checklist, or ESIA
- Traffic Management Plan prior to work commencement
- Community health and safety impacts will be addressed in site-specific ESIA and ESMPs

The most probable social risks of the project will be potential traffic disruptions for the community, which will be managed through the application of the measures as per the Environmental and Social plans prepared for the project.

Citizen engagement. The project will organize community consultations to discuss the project with the interested and affected and surrounding communities. Interested citizens and communities will be invited to present their views about the proposed projects.

3. Project Management Structure

The Albanian Road Authority (ARA) will be responsible for project implementation. The ARA has a well-established track record in managing World Bank-funded transport projects, including the RRMSP (closed in December 2022).

The Building Resilience Bridges program will be implemented with the support of a Project Implementation Team (PIT) within the ARA which will be comprised by Project Coordinator, Procurement Specialist, Financial Specialist, Environmental Specialist, Social Specialist, Monitoring and Evaluation and other supporting staff and consultants. The PIT is expected to be supported by the ARA's departments in terms of (a) planning/budgeting the annual funds; (b) technical and engineering expertise and subsequent approval of designs, specifications, bidding documents, contractual aspects of works, goods, and services financed by the project; and (c) hand/takeover processes and procedures of deliverables from project activities.

4. Objective of the Assignment and Scope of Services

The Specialist will serve as the Environmental Specialist for the BRB Project. The Specialist will be an integral part of the Project Implementation Team (PIT) housed at the ARA. The Specialist will assume primary responsibility to ensure that all Project activities at all Project sites are carried out in compliance with the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) of the Project, other relevant Project documents, the World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) and its 10 ES Standards (ESS), as well as applicable and relevant policies and regulations of Albania.

Specifically, the Consultant will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Under the lead of ARA Environmental Specialist, ensure that the environmental safeguard screening is carried out for all relevant Project activities and that the applicable environmental safeguards instruments (EIA/ESIA, Environmental Code of Practice (ECOP), Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP), and Corrective Action Plans) are adequately prepared and implemented as per the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF).
- As needed, conduct the screening/ assessment and the preparation of relevant environmental risk assessment and management instruments in close consultation with the ARA En-

vironmental Specialist, Project's technical specialists (e.g., civil engineering, road engineers, hydrology, hydrotechnical engineering, ...) and World Bank ES and technical Specialists.

- Ensure environmental and social assessment and management instruments and processes are incorporated into and reflected in bidding documents and/or contracts.
- Supervise the design and implementation of Safeguard Related Technical Assistance and studies including environmental baselines, and application of simple and practical implementation tools such as checklists, standard operating procedures, codes of practice, and others.
- Support the preparation and implementation of the Environmental Training Programs for the Project, and annual environmental training plans, in coordination with the World Bank Task Team.
- Provide on-the-job training of environmental risk assessment and management skills personnel from the PIT, the contractors, supervising engineers, and other relevant parties with roles in project design / planning and/or access to / influence on the project sites.
- Provide technical inputs and ensure the quality of Environmental and Social Monitoring reports, including timely information on the implementation of relevant ES management instruments, and the status of analytical work.
- Prepare the reporting procedures, implement the process, and be responsible for the environmental safeguard's aspects of the reports.
- Support the PIT in a regulatory dialogue with the national environmental agency/regulator to ensure alignment between ES procedures and standards in place for the Project, and the prevailing domestic regulatory framework.
- Together with Social Specialist, support the development of all social and environmental standards instruments to be produced for future sub-projects during implementation, oversee their approval by the World Bank, and organize and conduct public consultations on drafts prior to their final disclosure.
- Monitor on a daily basis, contractors' performance under the project to ensure contractors' compliance with ESMF, ESIA, ESMPs, and other site-specific E&S instruments, and in accordance with the ESF as well as applicable national laws, regulations and standards;
- Ensure that procurement documents include all necessary requirements to be consistent with ESF requirements, with special focus on environmental elements. Specifically, ensure that language on contractors' environmental responsibilities is included in bidding documents and reflected in project contracts, and that awareness measures are conducted on these measures for contractors (as well as sub-contractors, where relevant).
- Oversee environmental incident/non-compliance investigations.
- Liaise with the environmental and social specialists of the World Bank.
- Contribute, as relevant regarding environmental development aspects, to the development of detailed engineering designs for future sub-projects, to be developed during project implementation.
- Liaise with the Project's responsible staff for occupational health and safety (OHS) as well as community health and safety; follow the Project's and contractors' grievance redress mechanisms and ensure compliance with WB requirements.
- Organize and participate in Project-related missions and workshops and ensure that World Bank recommendations are integrated in the implementation of environmental safeguards and adequately reported.
- Carry out analysis and contribute to the quarterly progress reports on environmental and social issues and ESCP to be submitted to the World Bank
- Other environmental safeguard-related activities as required.

5. Reporting

The Consultant will work as part of the PIT at ARA. The Environmental Specialist will directly report to the PIT's project coordinator. The Consultant will work in close cooperation with PIT members and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that the project is managed efficiently and in compliance with the objectives of the Project Appraisal Document (PAD), Loan Agreement and Project Operational Manual (POM).

6. Duration of the Assignment

The Consultant will work in the ARA premises in Tirana on full time basis during the assignment time. The initial duration of the assignment is 12 months, with 3 months of probation period, from contract signing and/or entry into force of the contract. Based on satisfactory performance the contract will be renewed for the entire duration of the program.

7. Client's Contribution

The Client will provide office space and equipment, internet connection, and means of communication, required for the Consultant to perform the tasks assigned.

8. Qualifications

- Master's degree in environmental management, environmental engineering, or related fields;
- At least 5 years of experience in environmental risk management in Albania;
- Experience with World Bank environmental safeguard policies and the WB's ESF is advantage;
- Fluency in English and Albanian language and strong report writing ability and communication skills are essential;
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skill with gender sensitivity, respect for local culture and results oriented attitude;
- Reliable, independent and dynamic worker with high social competency and good team spirit.

9. Evaluation Criteria

Applicants that fulfill the qualification requirements will be further evaluated based on the below criteria:

- a) General Qualification – 30 points
- b) Adequacy for the assignment – 60 points
- c) Language – 10 points

10. Selection

The service will be selected under the provisions of the World Bank Procurement Regulations for Borrowers under Investment Project Financing" dated July 1, 2016, revised on November 2017, August 2018, and November 2020, based on the method of Selection of Individual Selection (IC) under time-based contract.