

Introduction of the Landslide Mitigation Project Submitted for Funding arrangements from Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)

Project No: 000124

Project Name	Reduction of Landslide Vulnerability by Mitigation Measures (RLVMMP)
Country	The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Sector/subsector	Other Infrastructure/Disaster Management
Project No	000124
Borrower	The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Implementation Agency	Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources & Disaster Management (MIWRDM), with the support from National Building Research Organization (NBRO)
Environmental and Social	Category B
Date PSI prepared or updated	July 2, 2018
Estimated Date of Board Consideration	December 2018
Concept Decision	Approved on June 18, 2018

I. Introduction

The central region of Sri Lanka is mountainous, with highly fractured and folded basement rock overlain by residual soil and colluvium. Topographically steep slopes and geologically weak strata are the main natural contributors to landslides, with severe, intense rainfall, exacerbated by climate change, as a known trigger. Increased human activities and development in areas at risk, which lack appropriate or adequate regulations, together with the lack of national standards for climate resilient infrastructure, also contribute to the increased risk of landslide disasters.

Landslides, slope failures and rock falls have become increasingly frequent and severe, seriously affecting communities in the hilly central region of Sri Lanka since 1970s, causing loss of life, damage to infrastructure, destruction of property and impacts on livelihoods and local economy. Landslides also have a devastating impact on forests, wildlife and ecosystems, particularly water, further weakening the country's resilience to climate change. In response, the National Building Research Organization (NBRO) was established by the government in 1984 as the technical institute to manage landslide disasters in the country.

Thirteen major districts have been identified as landslide-prone areas, which make up nearly 30 percent of the total land area of Sri Lanka. Their population accounts for nearly 38 percent of the national population. The districts together contributed around 44 percent of GDP in 2017, from agriculture, including tea, rubber, coconuts, paddy and spices; and tourism associated with the area's cultural heritage and natural beauty.

This project is among the top priorities of the Government of Sri Lanka (GoSL) given the emergency nature and the devastating impacts of landslides on people's lives, infrastructure and the environment. The Vision 2025 Strategy Document of the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources & Disaster Management (MIWRDM) supports building a "Safer Sri Lanka" to facilitate the prosperity and dignity of human life through effective prevention and mitigation of disasters caused by natural and human-induced hazards in Sri Lanka. This project will address the national priority to lower the risk of landslides and decrease their severity in order to minimize loss of life and economic and social damage to affected communities. It will reduce the need for government spending on rehabilitation and reconstruction of damaged buildings and infrastructure facilities, resettlement, disaster relief and emergency services. Additionally, support for enhancement of landslide-related policy and regulation under this project will improve infrastructure sustainability and resilience to climate change in an area where natural beauty is particularly important to Sri Lanka's tourism

industry. The project is well aligned with AIIB's strategic priorities, particularly with regard to promotion of sustainable infrastructure, green investment and resilience.

II. Project Objectives and Expected Results

The project objectives are to reduce risk and damage from landslides in Sri Lanka through implementation of physical mitigation measures based on investigation/assessment and improvement of planning, regulation and instruments associated with landslide management.

The proposed result indicators include (i) number of people protected from landslide hazards; (ii) number of physical mitigation schemes constructed; (iii) kilometers of existing roads and rail track protected and open for traffic uninterrupted; and (iii) number of policies and regulations related to landslide management improved. A result framework will be developed during project preparation.

III. Project Description

The Project will comprise of 3 components:

Component I: Civil works and associated design and construction supervision/ management activities for around 147 affected sites plus spots to be identified along the 160km railway from Rambukkana to Badulla. The total cost is estimated at USD97.0 million.

Component II: Enhancement of National land protection policy, design standards and works specifications related to climate-resilient infrastructure, and project management support. The total cost is estimated at USD4.0 million.

Component III: Strengthen the laboratorial facilities through provision of essential equipment for the laboratory of NBRO, at an estimated cost of USD1.0 million.

Component IV-Project Implementation Support, this component is to support the project implementation and monitoring. The total cost is estimated at USD2.0 million.

IV. Environmental and Social Category

Successful implementation and completion of the proposed project is expected to result in significant positive environmental and social benefits. The AIIB's Environmental and Social Policy (ESP), including the Environment and Social Standards (ESSs), will be applicable to the proposed project. These will be used for environmental and social screening, categorization and due diligence with respect to the project. As per the Bank's ESP, the project is preliminarily proposed to be placed in Category B, considering: (i) general environmental and social impacts of landslide are localized, and the impacts are not irreversible; (ii) there are mature engineering technologies for mitigation and protection; (iii) there is in-house expertise and management capacity for environmental and social issues in NBRO; and (iv) there is experience obtained from similar projects funded by the national government and other MDBs. The environmental and social categorization of the project may be adjusted as information becomes available during project preparation.

V. Implementation

The MIWRDM will be the Implementation Agency. NBRO will provide the direct technical and management support to the preparation and implementation of the proposed project. The day-to-day management of works will be done through the Project Management Unit (PMU) to be established under MIWRDM.

The PMU is expected to be fully operational by project commencement. The objectives of the PMU, will encompass, but not be limited to: (i) management of the entire project, (ii) implementation and oversight of the works carried out by consultants and contractors, and (iii) coordination with all the stakeholders involved in the project.

Procurement. All procurement under the project shall be carried out in accordance with the Bank's Procurement Policy dated January 2016 and Interim Operational Directive on Procurement: Instructions for Recipients dated June 2, 2016. A Project Delivery Strategy (PDS) will be prepared by NBRO and submitted to the Bank for its review. The PDS provides the basis and justification for procurement decisions including the approach to market and procurement methods. A procurement plan will be worked out in line with PDS.

Proposed project implementation period: January 1, 2019 - December 31, 2022.

Implementation Agency

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