



Building a Blue Future for Ecosystems and People on the East African Coast

Annex C: Environmental and Social Code of Practice (ESCOP)

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

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1. Introduction

This document describes the Environmental and Social Code of Practice (ESCOP) for the Building a Blue Future for Ecosystems and People on the East African Coast project (hereafter referred to as “the Project”), outlining the procedures that WCS will follow to address the Environmental and Social (E&S) risks and impacts that may arise from the activities foreseen in the scope of the project, which will include mangrove restoration, planting of firewood trees and promotion of local handmade firewood saving stoves, sustainable livelihoods, ecosystem-based adaptation agriculture, small-scale civil works and installation of groundwater abstraction wells. Biodiversity assessment surveys will also be included in the scope of the Project and are covered in the ESCOP.

The ESCOP has been developed in alignment with international good practice, including the Blue Action Fund Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) requirements and the World Bank Environmental and Social Standards, and also complies with the Mozambican requirements as well as internal WCS policies and procedures. Details on the project description, social context and legislative framework can be found in the first two sections of the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP).

Blue Action Fund requires projects to have established a provisional ESCOP within the first three months of project implementation and a final ESCOP prior to any construction and/or renovation activities taking place and prior to any construction contracts being awarded. The scope and scale of the ESCOP will be proportionate to the nature, scale and type of risks and impacts that may arise from the Projects’ small-scale construction and/or renovation activities. This ESCOP is provisional and will be updated and established prior to the commencement of construction and/or renovation activities.

1.1 Brief description of the Project activities

The Project’s activities covered by this ESCOP include:

- Design, implement and monitor a community-based ecological mangrove restoration/rehabilitation project with reestablishment of hydrological system;
- Engagement of community groups in tree planting of non-mangrove species to further reduce the pressure of communities on the mangroves (trees for firewood, construction) while also improving the fertility of the soil (leguminous trees) and the community nutrition (fruit trees);
- Promotion of firewood saving stoves amongst fisher families to reduce the demand for wood / charcoal;
- Creation of Livelihood Clubs (LCs) as self-support platforms for fishers and their families (with at least 50% of women participation);
- Support each LC and other small-scale producers to develop at least one livelihood strategy and/or new business, which decrease the pressure on marine resources - community nature-based projects as alternative income sources to fisheries (support to develop business plans, apply for business start-ups, business mentorship, and market linkages);
- Creation of Village Savings and Loan Associations and provision of support to the existing non-functional savings groups;
- Support to livelihood clubs to adopt ecosystem-based adaptation agriculture practices and other measures to improve their food security;
- Construction of the headquarters for 7 Community Fisheries Councils (CCPs);
- Installation of 3 groundwater abstraction wells;

- Biodiversity assessments, including detailed mangrove, seagrass and coral reef mapping, fisheries and ecological condition assessments.

As such, E&S risks and impacts that may arise could include those pertaining to occupational health and safety, community health and safety, employment and labour rights, cultural heritage, water quality and quantity, soil protection, air quality, noise, waste and biodiversity.

The Project formulation implies that only during the implementation stage, based on the results of substantial stakeholder engagement activities and of biodiversity, socio-economic and climate vulnerability assessments, the proposal of the MPA, the community-based ecological mangrove restoration/rehabilitation component and the climate resilient and sustainable livelihoods will be defined.

This means that at the concept and proposal stages there are several aspects of the Project still to be defined. As a result, this ESCOP must be taken as preliminary and subject to review / being augmented along the project implementation process.

1.2 Purpose of the Environmental and Social Code of Practice (ESCOP)

This ESCOP aims to guide the avoidance, mitigation and/or management the potential adverse E&S risks and impacts associated with small-scale construction and renovation activities. It represents good environmental, social, community and occupational health and safety practices and addresses issues related to human and environmental safety. An ESCOP constitutes a simplified ESMP, mainly comprising standard measures of good housekeeping, occupational health and safety and public health and safety. This ESCOP therefore aims to supplement the Project ESMP and will be applied throughout construction, operation and decommissioning (if applicable) phases.

In cases where contractors are hired for the construction or renovation of small-scale construction activities, the ESCOP will be included in all contract documents. In cases where the contract is in a different language and a full translation of the ESCOP is not possible, the ESCOP would be referred to in the contract, and the NGO would convey the requirements and the agreed mitigation measures verbally prior to start of work. In addition, all infrastructure sites supported under the Project are required to comply with this ESCOP and this will be specified in the contractors' agreements.

The construction and/or renovation works will be overseen by a point contact in the lead NGO who is familiar with the E&S requirements, the ESCOP, and in contact with the project's ESMS coordinator.

2. Environmental and Social Code of Practice (ESCOP)

The Project general ESCOP is presented in Table 1 below. It includes E&S risks and impacts that have been identified, and associated measures that will be implemented to avoid, mitigate or manage them.

This general ESCOP is complemented by additional ESCOPs, focused on specific activities including forest harvesting activities in plantations (Table 2), small water systems (Table 3), nurseries, horticulture and agriculture (Table 4) and surveys and other field work (Table 5).

Table 1 – ESCOP for general activities (including alternative livelihoods – to be confirmed / detailed / updated during the project implementation)

Risks / impacts	Mitigation Measures
Materials sourcing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extraction of primary materials such as sand and clay as construction materials or for the production of improved cooking stoves may have localized environmental impacts. When clay and sand are sourced in rivers, the riverbed is locally degraded and sedimentation processes are disturbed, with potentially detrimental impacts on aquatic life. Clay and sand sourcing may also occur in the river floodplains, which are often wetlands of ecological value. • The areas from where primary materials will be extracted must be surveyed prior to the start of the extraction activities, in order to assure those areas are adequate and to define specific measures required to reduce and/or mitigate impacts like the ones mentioned above.
Noise during construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan activities in consultation with communities so that the noisiest activities are undertaken during periods that will result in least disturbance (e.g., limit working hours for noisy activities, especially if the construction is close to schools, health posts, residents, places of worship, etc.). • Machinery and vehicles with combustion engines must be used with the original noise abatement devices (exhaust silencers, canopies) installed and in good condition • Wherever possible, maintain a buffer zone (such as open spaces, row of trees or vegetated areas) between the working areas and sensitive receptors (residential areas, schools) to lessen the impact of noise to those receptors.
Soil erosion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement suitable design (e.g., establish appropriate erosion and sediment control measures.) • Use mulch, grasses or compacted soil to stabilise exposed areas. • Cover with topsoil and re-vegetate (plant grass, vetiver grass, fast-growing native plants/bushes/trees) construction areas once work is completed.
Air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimise dust from exposed work sites by applying water on the ground regularly. • Minimize traffic wherever possible and drive slowly. • Re-vegetate the disturbed areas as soon as the activity is completed. • Do not burn site clearance debris (trees, undergrowth) or construction waste materials. • Keep stockpile of aggregate materials covered to avoid suspension or dispersal of fine soil particles during windy days or disturbance from stray animals. • Combustion engines must be operated only if kept well maintained and not emitting excessive smoke, smell or causing other air quality nuisance.
Water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking water sources, whether public or private, should at all times be protected from air emissions, wastewater effluents, oil and hazardous materials, and wastes. • Activities should not affect the availability of water for drinking and hygienic purposes. • No construction materials, solid wastes, toxic or hazardous materials should be poured or thrown into water bodies for dilution or disposal. • The flow of natural waters should not be obstructed or diverted to another direction, which may lead to drying up of riverbeds or flooding of settlements. • Restrict the duration and timing of in-stream activities to low periods, and avoiding periods critical to biological cycles of valued flora and fauna • Use isolation techniques such as berming or diversion during construction to limit the exposure of disturbed sediments to moving water.

Risks / impacts	Mitigation Measures
Solid and hazardous waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutionalise procedures and facilities for the prevention, reduction, reuse, recovery, recycling, removal and disposal of wastes. • Establish and clarify waste management procedures for all persons. • Collect and transport construction waste to appropriately designated/ hazardous waste controlled dump sites. • Maintain or store waste (including soil for foundations) at least 300 meters from rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands. • Use secured area for refuelling and transfer of other toxic fluids distant from settlement area and ideally on a hard/non-porous surface. • Train workers on correct transfer and handling of fuels and other substances and require the use of gloves, boots, aprons, eyewear and other protective equipment for protection in handling highly hazardous materials. • Collect and properly dispose of small maintenance materials such as oily rags, oil filters, used oil, etc. • Put in place spill control and prevention, and counter measures with inspection procedures and training of personnel. • Reuse the excavated soil as much as possible for backfilling, landscaping and for other activity areas where excavation material is required. • Collaborate with local authorities to transport and dispose waste in accordance with legal requirements.
Traffic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan the project activities taking into account the rainy season and the increased access difficulties during that season (due to the poor condition of the roads to the project area). • Communicate with communities on traffic safety. • Implement speed limits for all activity vehicles. • Ensure drivers are properly trained and licensed. • Train all drivers on safety provisions. Emphasise safety precautions and observation of traffic rules. • Equip vehicles transporting construction or activity related materials with reverse signals. Ensure that truck drivers are accompanied by a flagman or watchman while reversing, unloading and loading. • Regularly maintain vehicles to ensure functionality and safety. • Keep a first aid kit in each vehicle. • Use local traffic signage and collaborate with the responsible local authorities and communities. • Keep access roads in good condition and free from deposits, waste, construction material. • Avoid vehicle traffic during hours that children are travelling to and from school. Apply particular caution in areas such as schools, playgrounds, hospitals, market, etc.

Risks / impacts	Mitigation Measures
Occupational Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform a health and safety risk assessment for specific activities to be initiated in the scope of the alternative livelihoods (eg. beekeeping, local production of handmade improved cooking stoves) to identify specific risks and corresponding prevention and control measures. • Provide health and safety training to all participants and conduct regular conversations on health and safety during implementation. • Provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for workers as necessary (gloves, dust masks, hard hats, boots, goggles)¹. • Keep PPE in good condition and change them in case they are damaged. • Prevent slips and falls and other injuries through good housekeeping practices in all worksites, provision of safe equipment and tools, and use of PPE. • Keep worksite clean and free of debris on daily basis. • Prevent ergonomic illnesses from over-exertion by lifting and carrying of materials and equipment by stipulating weight limits, breaks and job rotations. • Prohibit usage of alcohol or illegal drugs. • Use the right tool for the activity. • Keep corrosive fluids and other toxic materials in properly sealed containers for collection and disposal in properly secured areas. • Ensure adequate toilet facilities for workers from outside of the community. • Provide sufficient drinking water for workforce. • Each construction sub-Project to have a basic first-aid kit with bandages, antibiotic cream, etc. • Ensure all workers are aware of and follow local and national Covid-19 prevention measures.

¹ The appropriate PPE needs to be identified and in place before starting work, used and maintained regularly, and its use and maintenance monitored;

- Eye and face protection for flying particles, molten metal, liquid chemicals, gases or vapours, light radiation: safety glasses with side-shields, protective shades.
- Head protection for falling objects, inadequate height clearance, and overhead power cords: plastic helmets with top and side impact protection.
- Hearing protection for noise: ear plugs or ear muffs.
- Foot protection for falling or rolling objects, pointed objects, corrosive or hot liquids: safety shoes and boots.
- Hand protection for hazardous materials, cuts or lacerations, vibrations, extreme temperatures: gloves made of rubber or synthetic materials (Neoprene), leather, steel, insulating materials.
- Respiratory protection for dust, fogs, fumes, mists, gases, smokes, vapours: facemasks with appropriate filters for dust removal and air purification.

Risks / impacts	Mitigation Measures
Work site management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefer already disturbed areas for workers' accommodation, storage, workshop and the worksite. • Clearly mark "no-go" areas (cultivated lands or fruit trees, wetlands, grave sites or any sensitive environment or social site/area). • Avoid proximity to schools, health posts and households with vulnerable families. • Clean up the worksite and rehabilitate the site to its original condition. • Rehabilitate all temporary access tracks, haul roads and any other disturbed areas outside of the approved working areas to their original condition. • Avoid destruction of natural habitat, including trees, vegetation • Refuel the vehicles at least 30 m away from water courses. • Fence the construction site adjacent to the sensitive areas such as natural watercourses, ponds, drains. • Divert the runoff / water the construction sites or disturbed areas, using ditches.
Employment and Labour Rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a fair and transparent employment process. • Provide activity workers with clear and understandable information regarding rights via contract documents in local language. • Ensure that all volunteer community labour is provided without coercion. Documentation of the community agreement must record: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The terms of which the voluntary labour is provided. ○ The way in which the agreement was reached. ○ Representation of the volunteer community workers. • Ensure that local staff, subcontractors, and hired help are aware of the WCS Code of Conduct specifically their rights and responsibilities to uphold the Code of Conduct, especially with respect to social safeguarding issues.

Risks / impacts	Mitigation Measures
Community Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure worksites with physical separation through buffer strips, fencing and walls, as appropriate. • Rope off construction area and secure materials stockpiles/ storage areas from the public and display warning signs. Do not allow children to play in construction areas. • Establish appropriate site boundary and access controls near settlements to prevent unauthorised entry to construction or activity sites especially by children (e.g. fencing of construction section in the vicinity of settlements or communities). • Demarcate open trenches and hazardous areas with luminous temporary fencing and/or signage. • Inform relevant authorities immediately in case of damages on utilities (such as electricity lines). • Construct and repair all buildings using standards that to ensure structures are designed and constructed in accordance with sound architectural and engineering practice. • Incorporation of siting and safety engineering criteria to prevent failures due to natural risks posed by earthquakes, tsunamis, wind, flooding, landslides and fire. • Protect water sources, quality and access. • Fill in all earth borrow-pits once construction is completed to avoid standing water, water-borne diseases and possible drowning. • Ensure all community members, stakeholders engaged in WCS projects are aware of and follow local and national Covid-19 prevention measures.
Cultural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map cultural physical heritage and intangible heritage to avoid during design of activities. • No disturbance of cultural or historic sites. • Disclose the chance find procedure (presented in Appendix A) to the project staff and train the works supervisor(s) for the implementation of this procedure.
Fire Prevention and Control	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify fire risks and their sources. • Take all reasonable and precautionary steps to ensure that fires are not started as a consequence of activities. • Store flammable materials under conditions that will limit the potential for ignition and the spread of fires.
Incident reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record and report any hazards, any incidents or injuries.
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No cutting of trees or destruction of vegetation other than on construction site. • No hunting, fishing, capture of wildlife or collection of plants. • No use of unapproved toxic materials including lead-based paints, unbonded asbestos, etc.

Table 2 – Specific ESCOP for forest harvesting activities in plantations

Risks / impacts	Mitigation Measures
<p>Forest harvesting activities in plantations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respect for any customary land tenure and use rights of indigenous peoples. • Community and stakeholder engagement. • Prevention or minimisation of adverse environmental and social impacts. • Biodiversity conservation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reservation of trees for regeneration. ○ Conservation of understory species. ○ Management of riparian zones with corridors of natural vegetation across watershed boundaries. ○ Creation of no take zones. • Minimisation of damage from harvesting. • Non-use of alien invasive species. • Limitation of the footprint of forestry operations. • Protection of water availability and quality, as well as of soil integrity and productivity: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Creation of riparian management zones. ○ Avoiding or minimising soil erosion from bare surfaces and soil compaction from skidding and use of equipment and vehicles. ○ Selection of harvesting machinery and draught animals with least impact on soil and water sources. • Avoiding and controlling skidding of logs across riparian zones. • Minimisation of stream crossings, use of culverts and fords, and restriction of vehicular movement. • Restoration of disturbed water sources. • Replanting as soon as possible after harvesting of timber or disturbance of forest cover. • Use of existing road networks and avoiding or minimising construction of new roads. • Seek alternatives to pesticides and maintain natural enemies of pest by preserving their habitats. • Observe Environmental Health and Safety requirements when handling potentially hazardous machinery or tools, such as axes and chainsaws.

Table 3 – Specific ESCOP for small water systems

Risks/ impacts	Mitigation Measures
Water supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate potential adverse effects of surface water withdrawal on the downstream ecosystems and use appropriate environmental flow assessment to determine acceptable withdrawal rates. • Design structures related to surface water withdrawal, including dams and water intake structures, to minimise impacts on aquatic life. For example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Limit maximum through-screen design intake velocity to limit entrainment of aquatic organisms. ○ Avoid construction of water intake structures in sensitive ecosystems. If there are threatened, endangered, or other protected species within the hydraulic zone of influence of the surface water intake, ensure reduction of impingement and entrainment of fish and shellfish by the installation of technologies such as barrier nets (seasonal or year-round), screens, and aquatic filter barrier systems. ○ Design water containment and diversion structures to allow unimpeded movement of fish and other aquatic organisms and to prevent adverse impacts on water quality. ○ Design dam outlet valves with sufficient capacities for releasing the appropriate environmental flows. • Avoid construction of water supply wells and water intake structures in sensitive ecosystems. • Delineate and implement groundwater protection perimeters around the groundwater abstraction wells (minimum 50-meter radius), where latrine pits, cattle grazing and other potentially contaminative activities will be interdicted. • Conduct regular inspection and maintenance.

Table 4 – Specific ESCOP for nurseries, horticulture and agriculture

Risks / impacts	Example Mitigation Measures
Soil productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivate crops that are suited or adapted to the local climate and soil conditions and adopt good agronomic practices to optimise crop productivity, with focus on conservation agriculture. • Use soil maps and soil survey results to determine crop suitability and appropriate soil management practices. • Develop and implement a soil monitoring and management plan that includes soil and terrain mapping and erosion risk identification. • Recycle and/or incorporate organic materials (e.g., crop residues, compost, and manures) to replenish soil organic matter and improve soil water-holding capacity whenever available and economically viable. • Minimise the use of pesticides by implementing a pest and disease early-warning system, by using biological pest and disease control methods, and by implementing control measures before outbreaks require large-scale control.
Nutrient management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of green manures, cover crops, or mulching techniques to maintain soil cover, reduce the loss of nutrients, replenish soil organic matter, and capture and/or conserve moisture. • Plan a crop rotation program to incorporate nitrogen-fixing legume crop plants and cover crops in the cropping cycle.

Risks / impacts	Example Mitigation Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw up balanced fertilizer programs for each soil management unit based on mapped fertility results, history of crop performance, soil and leaf analysis, and crop assessment. • Assess environmental health and safety risks associated with the nutrient management plan and mitigating strategies to minimise potential adverse impacts. • Time the application of crop nutrients to maximise uptake and minimise nutrient runoff or volatilisation. • Establish and respect setbacks from watercourses—including appropriate buffer zones, strips, or other “no-treatment” areas along water sources, rivers, streams, ponds, lakes, and ditches—to act as a filter for potential nutrient runoff from the land. • Implement nutrient planning, monitoring, and documentation, which includes the use of a fertilizer logbook to record the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dates of purchase, dates of use, amount of fertilizer and nutrient used (kg/ha), purpose of use, and crop growth stage. ○ Weather conditions before, during, and after application. ○ Methods used to minimise nutrient loss (e.g., incorporation into the soil, split applications, irrigation after application). • Provide farm operators with training in nutrient management following published principles and agricultural practice manuals. • Ensure that all personnel are trained in and use appropriate management procedures for the storage, handling, and application of all types of fertilizers, including organic wastes. • Fence the fields with green plants like spinosa for protecting the crops from animals • Introduce short cycle crops like sorghum and millet to mitigate the consequences of long draught periods • Introduce small animal husbandry to diversify the production
Residues or waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a residue management plan in combination with results from nutrient management research and planning. • Recycle residues and other organic materials by leaving the materials on site or through composting (and spreading). • Consider the potential for harbouring and spreading pests and diseases before implementing this practice. • Consider using crop residues for other beneficial purposes—such as animal feed, bedding, or thatching—when leaving residues in the field is neither practical nor appropriate.
Pest management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the main pests affecting crops in the region, assess the risks to the operation, and determine whether a strategy and capacity are in place to control them. • Where possible, apply early-warning mechanisms for pests and diseases (i.e., pest and disease forecasting techniques), in cooperation with the district extension workers. • Select resistant varieties and use the cultural and biological control of pests, diseases, and weeds to minimise dependence on pesticide (chemical) control options. An effective Integrated Pest Management regime should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identify and assess pests, threshold levels, and control options (including those listed below), as well as risks associated with these control options. ○ Rotate crops to reduce the presence of insects, disease, or weeds in the soil or crop ecosystems.

Risks / impacts	Example Mitigation Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support beneficial bio-control organisms—such as insects, birds, mites, and microbial agents—to perform biological control of pests (e.g., by providing a favourable habitat, such as bushes for nesting sites and other original vegetation that can house pest predators and parasites). ○ Favour manual, mechanical weed control and/or selective weeding. ○ Consider using mechanical controls—such as traps, barriers, light, and sound—to kill, relocate, or repel pests. ○ Use biological pesticides to complement these approaches, not replace them. ○ Prior to procuring any pesticide, assess the nature and degree of associated risks and effectiveness, taking into account the proposed use and the intended users.
Soil loss prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Practice reduced and zero tillage (often known as “low till” or “no till”), as well as direct seeding and planting, to minimise damage to soil structure, conserve soil organic matter, and reduce soil erosion. Consider contour and strip planting, terracing, intercropping with trees, and grass barriers in sloping areas. ● Minimise soil compaction, damage, or disturbance by practicing mainly manual conservation agriculture. ● Consider a crop rotation program to maintain the soil coverage during the year. ● Manage soil organic matter by returning crop residues or adding compost and manures whenever available and economically viable. ● Plan soil preparation when weather conditions pose the lowest risk of causing environmental damage. ● Consider erosion management practices (e.g., contour and strip planting, intercropping with trees, and grass barriers). ● Draw up mitigation plans for planting or harvest operations that must take place during unsuitable periods. ● Plan and control the flow of water from access roads to avoid erosion from the roads’ diverted water. Use flow control weirs and diversion canals to reduce erosion in areas with field drainage, if applicable.
Water management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maintain soil structure and soil organic matter. Use of crop residues and mulches will assist in maintaining soil organic matter levels, retaining soil humidity, and reducing surface evaporation. ● Where applicable, maximise the retention of rainwater through appropriate “rain harvesting” techniques, which may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Diverting water flow from roads and paths toward crops, thus storing water in the soil and reducing the effect of short dry spells. ○ Storing runoff from rainy periods for use during dry spells by using tanks, ponds, cisterns, and earth dams. ○ Maintaining protective vegetation in canals and drainage systems to reduce canal bank scouring and slow runoff. ● When irrigation is used, implement irrigation water conservation techniques, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider the soil infiltration capacity to select the best irrigation system and avoid the runoff of water. ○ Reduce evaporation by avoiding irrigation during periods when evaporation is elevated (e.g., in periods of higher temperatures, reduced humidity, or high winds). ○ Reduce evapotranspiration by using shelterbelts and windbreaks.

Risks / impacts	Example Mitigation Measures
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider collecting storm water through catchments. ○ If herbicides are used, ensure they are applied at the appropriate time of year to most effectively control undesirable vegetation and reduce its water consumption. ● The following measures are recommended to prevent and control the contamination of water sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Avoid over-irrigation, which may result in the leaching of nutrients and contaminants. ○ Ensure appropriate soil moisture by active monitoring of soil humidity. ○ Establish and respect setbacks and buffer zones in riparian areas. Buffer widths should be based on the specific risk, land management regime, and slope of the area.

Table 5 – Specific ESCOP for surveys and other field work (land and sea)

Risks / impacts	Mitigation Measures
Occupational Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Undertake surveys in groups (no solo work). ● Carry a mobile radio (or phone, depending on existing coverage). ● Inform a designated 'safety person' of the survey plan, location and timings. Check in with this person on the return from the field work. ● Always check the tide and weather forecast in advance of any field work. ● Fieldworkers should be trained in emergency procedures, including CPR, and should carry appropriate first aid kits. ● Use only certified boats, Respecting the authorized capacity and navigation limits and assuring that the all the required safety equipment in on board and in good condition. ● Everybody in the boat must wear the respective personal floating device. ● Be aware of the County Program Emergency Management Plan and have the relevant emergency contact information available at all field sites, with copies also in all first aid kits.