

# **Bhutan for Life Environmental and Social Management Plan for**

## **National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology**

**2021**

### **1. Introduction**

#### **(A) Project Background**

The Bhutan for Life (BFL) project aims to ensure a robust network of protected areas (PAs) and biological corridors (BCs) that secures human well-being, biodiversity conservation and increase climate resilience in Bhutan. The project provides a 14-year financial bridge that allows for immediate improvement in the management of Bhutan’s protected areas for climate resilience, and the prompt delivery of mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity gains, while the country gradually ratchets up its own financing resources.

BFL seeks to achieve the following objectives:

- Helps Bhutan remain carbon neutral by increasing forest and vegetative cover within the Protected Area System;
- Enhance the socio-economic wellbeing of communities in and in the vicinity of the PAS through climate-informed natural resources management;
- Maintain stable, thriving and diverse populations of key species contributing toward national and global biodiversity goals;
- Strengthen organizational, institutional, and financial capacity for effective management of PAs

BFL includes five components that reflect these goals, divided into 16 milestones (or outputs) and over 80 detailed activities.

#### **(B) Scope of ESMP**

The preparation of this Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) was required in order to manage the environmental and social impacts through and specific mitigation actions required to implement the project in accordance with the requirements of WWF’s Social Safeguards Integrated Policies and Procedures (SIPP), the project’s Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), and applicable national legislation and regulations.

The ESMP provides an overview of the environmental and social baseline conditions on the routes of the proposed second segment of the project, summarizes the potential impacts associated with the proposed activities and sets out the management measures required to mitigate any potential negative impacts.

This ESMP will be implemented by BFL focal persons in each park authority (PA) and biological corridor (BC), and by the contractor to be commissioned by each PA/BC for the project.

### (C) Purpose of ESMP

This Site-Specific ESMP is a project-specific source document detailing the environmental and social protection requirements to mitigate and minimize the adverse impacts. The ESMP's primary purpose is to ensure that the environmental requirements and social commitments associated with the project are carried forward into implementation and operational phases of the project and are effectively managed. The specific objectives of this ESMP are as hereunder:

- Minimizing any adverse environmental, social and health impacts resulting from the project activities;
- Conducting all project activities in accordance with the relevant RGoB Laws and WWF's safeguard operational policies and guidelines;
- Preventing environmental degradation as a result of either individual subprojects or their cumulative effects;
- Enhancing the positive environmental and social outcomes of project activities;
- Ensuring that the proposed mitigation measures are feasible and cost-efficient;
- Providing an Action Plan to ensure that the project impact mitigation measures are properly implemented and monitored;
- Ensuring that all stakeholders are engaged in the project activities' preparation and implementation, and their concerns are fully addressed.

### (D) Applicable law, policies, and regulation

This ESMP is developed by following the guidelines as set forth in the BFL's ESMF:

Applicable RGoB laws and policies include the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan, 2008; legislation on land and moveable property (Land Act of Bhutan 2007; Land Rules, 2007; The Movable Cultural Property act of Bhutan, 2005); legislation and regulations on forests and protected areas (National Environment Protection Act, 2007; Forest and Nature Conservation Act of Bhutan, 1995; Forest and Nature Conservation Rules and Regulations of Bhutan, 2017; National Forest Policy, 2011); legislation on water and waste prevention (Water Act of Bhutan, 2011; Waste Prevention and Management Act, 2009); legislative requirements on environmental assessment (Environmental Assessment Act, 2000 and Regulations on the Environmental Clearance of Projects, 2001); legislation on workers safety (Regulation on Occupational Health, Safety and

Welfare, 2012) and other relevant laws (The Local Government Act of Bhutan, 2009; Livestock Act of Bhutan, 2001; The Biodiversity Act of Bhutan, 2003; The Pesticides Act of Bhutan, 2000; The Penal Code of Bhutan, 2004; National Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Policy (Draft), 2014). WWF's safeguards policies that are relevant to this project are as follows: Policy on Environment and Social Risk Management; Policy on Protection of Natural Habitats; Policy on Involuntary Resettlement; Policy on Indigenous Peoples; Standard on Pest Management; Policy on Accountability and Grievance System; Standard on Physical Cultural Resources; as well as general standards on occupational and community health and safety and on energy efficiency. In general, RGoB's laws, policies, and guidelines are in line with the WWF's environmental and social safeguards requirements. However, there are a few differences between the two systems. With regard to environmental impacts, there are no direct contradictions between the RGoB laws and regulations and the WWF's SIPP, but the requirements of the latter are more extensive. All project activities should fully comply both with the RGoB's Regulations on the Environmental Clearance of Projects, and with the procedures and mitigation measures prescribed in this ESMF. In case that the WWF's SIPP requirements are more extensive, strict, or detailed than the RGoB legislation and policies, the former will apply to all project activities.

With regard to social impacts, the primary discrepancies between the RGoB laws and regulations and the WWF's SIPP refer to the status of non-title holders and informal land use, and the commitment to participatory decision-making processes. First, according to the WWF's SIPP, all users of land and natural resources (including people that lack any formal legal ownership title or usage rights) are eligible for some form of assistance or compensation if the project adversely affects their livelihoods. The RGoB laws only recognize the eligibility of land owners or formal users to receive compensation in such cases. Second, the WWF's SIPP requires extensive community consultations as part of the development of various safeguards documents and during project activities. RGoB legislation does not include similar requirements. For the purposes of the BFL project, the provisions of the WWF's SIPP shall prevail over the RGoB legislation in all cases of discrepancy.

## **2. Environmental and Socio-Economic Conditions:**

National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM) is an autonomous, scientific and technical organization of the Royal Government of Bhutan. The center is a national nodal agency for understanding the behaviors of the atmosphere, its interaction with the cryosphere, water bodies, weather and climate. It is also responsible to study and carry out water resource assessment to understand the water availability of Bhutan and disseminate the information to the society.

NCHM will be facilitating setting up of weather stations and weather station replacements in the parks and protected areas of Bhutan under the Milestone 12- *By Year 7, watershed conditions in ten critical catchments within the protected area network (one per PA) are improved for climate resilience, wildlife and socio-economic development.*

The sites proposed are: 1. Singye Dzong area under Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary and, 2. Gangju La (Headwater of Pho Chhu) under the Jigme Dorji National Park.

### ***1. Singye Dzong Area:***

Singye Dzong, historically famous as a pilgrimage site for Buddhists is peacefully located among the snowcapped mountains north of Khoma geog under Lhuentse Dzongkhag (Figure 1). The Dzong is three days away from the nearest road head. For Buddhists it is a historically sacred religious site and hundreds of pilgrims from around the country visit Singye Dzong every year.



Figure 1: Singye Dzong

Singye Dzong is located at an altitude of around 3800m a.s.l within Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary, with moderate vegetation and a glacier fed stream running through the valley. The vegetation is mostly dominated by fir, rhododendron, cypress tree and shrubs. Along the way to the dzong, flocks of pheasants can be seen. The place is dominated by alpine weather types with cool summers and extreme cold winters. The most favorable season to visit Singye Dzong is during Spring and autumn.

### ***2. Gangju La***

Gangju La is located in the Northern frontiers of Bhutan in the head waters of Pho Chhu, Punatsang chhu basin at about 4800 m a.s.l. Gangju La glacier is one of the land-terminating glaciers in Bhutan and such glaciers are very important features as the mass-balance of land-terminating glaciers are directly related to prevailing local climate. It is located within Jigme Dorji National Park.

Gangju La is a morainic barren land with active rock slides and loose rocks. Dynamic freezing and thawing at the surface of moraine rocks are common processes seen in this area. A small stream, fed by glacier melt drains out and flows into Pho Chhu. The weather is predominantly cold and is characterized by strong chilly winds throughout the year with very extreme winter.

There are no community near the park areas so the impact due to the setting up of the stations in the area would in no way harm the live and livelihood of the people who stay quite far from the site.



Figure 2: Gangju La

### **3. Planned activities in Year 2021**

The planned activity for the National Center of Hydrology and Meteorology is:

#### **1). Setting up of Automated Weather Stations (AWS) in Singye Dzong and Gangju La.**

New weather stations in Singye Dzong under Bumdeling Wildlife Sanctuary and Gangju La (Head Water of Pho Chhu) under Jigme Dorji National Park, would be set up to observe the cryospheric/hydro-meteorological parameter patterns, which will contribute to study weather and climate. Further, those observations will immensely contribute in understanding the ecological adaptation and climate change impact. The budget allocated for the activity is USD 120,000.

In setting up of the stations minor civil works such as clearing of sites, minor excavation, fencing of the station using GI chain link with MS angle, small foundation for the AWS tower will be carried out.



Figure 3: Sample pictures of AWS stations to be set up (Left: AWS at Thana Glacier, Right: AWS at Chelela)

The procurement of the AWS sensors and the spares would be done by the center but the works would be tendered out to a contractor. Therefore, there would be around 3-6 temporary workers for approximately 10-15 days in each site. The workers would require water for their daily use as well as for the construction. During the construction stage, approximately 500 litres of water would be required in a day and it would be used from the nearby stream. Other natural resources that would be required are 3-4 metric tonnes of stone and aggregate. The accommodation and other amenities for the workers will be provided by the contractor which will be included in the bidding document and the waste generated by the workers will be managed by the workers and the contractor. While awarding the contract to the selected contractor, these terms and conditions regarding workers amenities and waste management will be discussed and further monitoring will be carried out by the IAs during the implementation of the work. For the operation of AWS, no natural resources would be required.

There are no households nearby the Gangju La site and there are few huts of people in retreat at Singye Dzong site.

Some of the environmental and social impacts includes:

- Noise disturbance during construction
- Dust pollution during the construction
- Waste management during construction
- Occupational health and safety of workers

#### 4. Environmental and Social Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Potential impact	Impact scale	Proposed mitigation measures	Responsible party	Costs
<i>Activity: Setting up new AWS at Singye Dzong &amp; Gangju La</i>				<i>US\$120,000</i>
<p><i>Waste:</i></p> <p>Construction waste as well as the household waste of the workers</p>	<p>Short term</p> <p>Minor</p>	<p><i>Pre-construction:</i> requirements for appropriate waste management should be included in bidding documents, as a precondition for the contractor's selection</p> <p><i>During construction:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identification of different waste types at the project site;</li> <li>-Collection of the waste should be done during the entire construction phase;</li> <li>- Collection of biodegradable and non degradable waste should be done separately.</li> <li>-Dumping of waste in the stream, in its vicinity, or in other non-designated places should be prohibited;</li> <li>- Burning of construction waste should be prohibited.</li> </ul> <p><i>After construction:</i></p> <p>All waste shall be removed from the project site</p>	<p>BFL focal person in NCHM; BWS for Singye Dzong &amp; JDNP for Gangju La; &amp; the contractor.</p>	<p>Incorporated in the contract agreement</p>
<p>Dust pollution during the construction</p>	<p>Short term</p> <p>Minor</p>	<p><i>During construction:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Watering the site twice a day, once in the morning before the start of the work and once in the afternoon.</li> </ul>	<p>BFL focal person in NCHM, BWS &amp; contractor</p>	<p>From the activity cost</p>

<p>Occupational health and safety of workers</p> <p>(Refer to the full OHS guidelines attached where ever relevant)</p>	<p>Short term Minor</p>	<p>-Comply with the workers’ health and safety regulations;</p> <p>-Ensure that no underage workers, or children are engaged;</p> <p>- Ensure decent work conditions, including an appropriate salary, working hours, accommodation and food for workers;</p> <p>- Ensure that workers are employed on the principle of equal opportunity and fair treatment, and there is no discrimination with respect to any aspects of the employment relationship, such as recruitment and hiring, compensation (including wages and benefits), working conditions and terms of employment, access to training, job assignment, promotion, termination of employment or retirement, and disciplinary practices;</p> <p>- Provide workers with an incident report book and ensure that they are aware of the project’s grievance redress mechanism and can use it to raise workplace concerns.</p>	<p>BFL focal person in NCHM; BWS for Singye Dzong &amp; JDNP for Gangju La; &amp; Contractor</p>	<p>To be part of a worker agreement. From the activity cost.</p>
<p>Workers’ health and safety during COVID (related hygiene measures)</p>	<p>Short-term; Minor</p>	<p>Strictly abide by following COVID prevention protocols:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use face masks,</li> <li>• maintain proper distance,</li> <li>• wash hands regularly and sanitize it,</li> </ul> <p>use Druk Trace app where ever available</p>	<p>-BFL focal</p> <p>-covid focal in office (if any)</p>	<p>To be part of worker agreement. From the activity cost</p>



## 5. ESMP Implementation Arrangements

The implementation of project activities will be carried out by the BFL focal person NCHM. The focal person will be responsible for compliance with all procedures outlined in this ESMP, as well as compliance with any requirements to obtain clearances, permits, approvals, or consent documents from relevant authorities and stakeholders.

This ESMP should be part of the contract that the center will sign with the Contractor(s) for implementation of the planned activities in 2021. The Contractor is obligated to perform all proposed preventive or mitigation environmental and social measures in this plan and to keep the evidence of any documents related to applying these measures (e.g., records on OHS information session performed for all workers before start of activities, all developed Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) plans, etc.). An OHS information session should be organized by the Contractor for all workers prior to the project activities and prior any specific tasks with high health risks.

The NCHM focal needs to monitor the implementation of proposed measures. Non-compliances should be recorded and the report on any non-compliances should be reported to the ESS officers immediately, and the ESS officer will report it to the PCU (M&E Officer). Each non-compliance should be closed with appropriate measure/s and the evidence should be kept.

Disbursement of project funds to the PA will be contingent upon their full compliance with the safeguard's requirements.

## 6. ESMP monitoring arrangements

The BFL focal person in NCHM in coordination with the BWS and JDNP where the activity will be carried out will closely monitor the implementation of all planned activities and the required mitigation measures, and ensure that they fully comply with this ESMP and with the terms and conditions included in the environment clearances issued by RGoB's national authorities.

NCHM is also fully responsible for the compliance of all external contractors and service providers working in the NCHM with the safeguard's requirements outlined in the ESMP.

The monitoring of activities under this ESMP will be carried out in the following manner:

Sl. No.	Activities	Monitoring Team	Timeline		Location	Means of Verification
			Start	Complete		

1.	Setting up new AWS in Gangju La and Singye Dzong	Implementing entities- Field focals	October 2021	November 2021	Gangju La & Singye Dzong	Reports by the center to the ESS officer
		ESS officer	2 <sup>nd</sup> Week October, 2021			Field report

**1. Setting up new AWS in Gangju La and Singye Dzong:**

- Monitoring by implementing entities:
  - At least weekly field visits
  - Monthly reports prepared by implementing entities and submitted to ESS Officer at PCU.
- Monitoring by ESS officer at PCU:
  - Field monitoring by ESS officer –monitoring by field visit during the implementation as per the above schedule and through field report submitted by the IAs after completion of the work.
  - Reports by ESS officer to BFL Fund Secretariat – Annual report submitted to the BFL Fund Secretariat in January, 2022.
- Bi-annual reports of the Secretariat to WWF US (as part of mid-year and final APRs)

**7. Capacity Need and Budget**

Activities under this ESMP will be implemented by the BFL focal person in NCHM, BWS and JDNP.

The budget for setting up AWS is USD 120,000.

**8. Consultation and Disclosure Mechanisms**

This ESMP has been prepared in a participatory manner with the implementing and collaborating agencies. Installation of AWS is mostly for scientific purpose and communities have no vested interest in the project. They will neither gain nor lose from the implementation of this work. Moreover, the site is very far from the community and there is no community available for consultation in the area, therefore no community consultation was carried out. Calling community from far flung villages just for the consultation when they are not even located in the area and have no interest in the work would just be burden to them. However, before the implementation of the works, consultations with the concerned agencies such as WMD, BWS and JDNP will be carried out, and official minutes of consultation meeting (along with a list of participants, disaggregated by gender and age) will be submitted to the PCU after the consultation. The head of the Gewog

and relevant community leaders from the respective gewogs will also be involved during the consultation meeting with the relevant agencies. ~~However, the head of the Geog was notified/informed regarding the planned activities.~~

The full English version of this ESMP, as well as an executive summary in Dzongkha, shall be disclosed on the website of MoAF, BFL and WWF, Bhutan Program. Hard copies of the ESMP should also be available at the PA Management Office and at the PCU Office.

## **9. Stakeholder Engagement Plan**

Since the site is located far from the local community, it would be difficult to engage the local communities. As mentioned above there are no communities in the area therefore involvement of the communities directly will not be possible. Moreover, setting up of AWS requires technical knowledge, for which technical personnel should be engaged therefore, it would be difficult to engage the local communities for the implementation of the work. However, the local communities would be engaged in the transportation of the AWS and the construction materials from the road point to the project site. Approximately 5-4 local people from the nearby villages will be involved in the transportation of the materials.

The BFL focal person has to submit the official minutes of consultation meetings (along with a list of participants, disaggregated by gender and age) to ESS officers within one week after the completion of the consultation. The ESS officers will submit the consultation reports to the PCU (M&E officer) one week after their receipt. The PCU (M&E officer) will report to the Secretariat on a semi-annual basis.

### **Annexure I. BFL: SUGGESTED OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS**

Employers and supervisors are obliged to implement all reasonable precautions to protect the health and safety of workers. Implementing entities should hire contractors that have the technical capability to manage the occupational health and safety issues of their workers, extending the application of the hazard management activities through formal procurement agreements.

This section provides guidance and examples of reasonable precautions to implement in managing principal risks to occupational health and safety. It is based on the IFC's Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines (April 30, 2007)<sup>1</sup> and the Occupational Health and Safety Guidelines of Bhutan's Construction Development Corporation Ltd., which relies on the national Regulation on Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare 2012, Regulation on Working Conditions 2012 and Labour Act 2007, and in compliance to Sl. No. 21 of Regulation on Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare 2012.

#### **1. General Facility Design and Operation**

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### ***Integrity of Workplace Structures***

Permanent and recurrent places of work should be designed and equipped to protect occupational health and safety:

- Surfaces, structures and installations should be easy to clean and maintain, and not allow for accumulation of hazardous compounds.
- Buildings should be structurally safe, provide appropriate protection against the climate, and have acceptable light and noise conditions.
- Fire resistant, noise-absorbing materials should, to the extent feasible, be used for cladding on ceilings and walls.
- Floors should be level, even, and non-skid.
- Heavy oscillating, rotating or alternating equipment should be located in dedicated buildings or structurally isolated sections.

### ***Severe Weather and Facility Shutdown***

- Workplace structures should be designed and constructed to withstand the expected elements for the region and have an area designated for safe refuge (e.g., in case of earthquake).

### ***Workspace and Exit***

- The space provided for each worker, and in total, should be adequate for safe execution of all activities, including transport and interim storage of materials and products.

### ***Fire Precautions***

The workplace should be designed to prevent the start of fires through the implementation of fire codes applicable to industrial settings. Other essential measures include:

- The workplace shall be provided with adequate means of protection and escape in case of fire.
- The workplace shall be provided with adequate number of relevant fire extinguishers.
- Workers shall wear shoes without iron or steel nails or any other exposed ferrous materials which is likely to cause sparks by friction.
- Smoking, lightening, or carrying of matches, lighters or smoking materials shall be prohibited.
- All other precautions, as are reasonably practicable, shall be taken to prevent initiation of ignition from all other possible sources such as open flames, frictional sparks, overheated surfaces of machinery or plant, chemical or physical, chemical reaction and radiant heat.
- At every workplace adequate provision of water supply for firefighting shall be provided and maintained.
- Equipping facilities with firefighting equipment (e.g., fire extinguishing bottle). The equipment should be maintained in good working order and be readily accessible. It should be adequate for the dimensions and use of the premises, equipment installed, physical and chemical properties of substances present, and the maximum number of people present.
- Manual firefighting equipment shall be easily accessible and simple to use.
- Fire extinguishers and emergency alarm systems that are both audible and visible should be in place.

### ***Lavatories and Showers***

- Adequate lavatory facilities (toilets and washing areas) should be provided for the number of people expected to work in the facility (at least one for every 20 workers). Toilet facilities should also be provided with adequate supplies of hot and cold running water and soap.

### ***Potable Water Supply***

- Adequate supplies of potable drinking water should be provided to workers at the work site.

### ***Clean Eating Area***

- Where there is potential for exposure to substances poisonous by ingestion, suitable arrangements are to be made for provision of clean eating areas where workers are not exposed to the hazardous or noxious substances.

### ***Lighting***

- Workplaces should, to the degree feasible, receive natural light and be supplemented with sufficient artificial illumination to promote workers' safety and health, and enable safe equipment operation. Supplemental 'task lighting' may be required where specific visual acuity requirements should be met.
- Emergency lighting of adequate intensity should be installed upon failure of the principal artificial light source to ensure safe shut-down, evacuation, etc.

### ***Safe Access***

- Passageways for pedestrians and vehicles within and outside buildings should be segregated and provide for easy, safe, and appropriate access.
- Equipment and installations requiring servicing, inspection, and/or cleaning should have unobstructed, unrestricted, and ready access.
- Covers should, if feasible, be installed to protect against falling items.
- Measures to prevent unauthorized access to dangerous areas should be in place.

### ***First Aid***

- The employer should ensure that qualified first-aid can be provided at all times. A sufficient number of first aid boxes or cupboards shall be provided and maintained so as to be readily available during all working hours, provided that the distance of the nearest first aid box or a cupboard shall be not more than 200m from any working place.
- First aid kits include all equipment outlined in Annex 1 to these Guidelines.
- Remote sites should have written emergency procedures in place for dealing with cases of trauma or serious illness up to the point at which patient care can be transferred to an appropriate medical facility.

### ***Work Uniform***

- The contractor shall provide a working uniform to each worker.
- All workers shall be required to attend the duty in proper uniform unless otherwise instructed by the Contractor.

### ***Air Supply***

- Sufficient fresh air should be supplied for indoor and confined workspaces. Factors to be considered in ventilation design include physical activity, substances in use, and process related emissions. Air distribution systems should be designed so as not to expose workers to draughts.
- Re-circulation of contaminated air is not acceptable. Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems should be equipped, maintained and operated so as to prevent growth and spreading of disease agents (e.g. Legionella pneumophila) or breeding of vectors (e.g. mosquitoes and flies) of public health concern.

## 2. **Information Provision on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)**

- The Contractor is responsible to hold an information session to familiarize all workers with the OHS procedures specified in these guidelines, in order to ensure they are apprised of the basic site rules of work at / on the site and of personal protection and preventing injury to fellow workers.
- The information session should consist of basic hazard awareness, site-specific hazards, safe work practices, and emergency procedures for fire, evacuation, and natural disaster, as appropriate. Any site-specific hazard or color coding in use should be thoroughly reviewed as part of orientation training.

## 3. **Physical Hazards**

Physical hazards represent potential for accident or injury or illness due to repetitive exposure to mechanical action or work activity.

### ***Rotating and Moving Equipment***

Injury or death can occur from being trapped, entangled, or struck by machinery parts due to unexpected starting of equipment or unobvious movement during operations. Recommended

protective measures include:

- Designing machines to eliminate trap hazards and ensuring that extremities are kept out of harm's way under normal operating conditions. Examples of proper design considerations include two-hand operated machines to prevent amputations or the availability of emergency stops dedicated to the machine and placed in strategic locations.
- Where a machine or equipment has an exposed moving part or exposed pinch point that may endanger the safety of any worker, the machine or equipment should be equipped with, and protected by, a guard or other device that prevents access to the moving part or pinch point. Guards should be designed and installed in conformance with appropriate machine safety standards.

### ***Noise***

- No worker should be exposed to a noise level greater than 85 dB(A) for a duration of more than 8 hours per day without hearing protection. In addition, no unprotected ear should be exposed to a peak sound pressure level (instantaneous) of more than 140 dB(C).
- The use of hearing protection should be enforced actively when the equivalent sound level over 8 hours reaches 85 dB(A), the peak sound levels reach 140 dB(C), or the average maximum sound level reaches 110dB(A). Hearing protective devices provided should be capable of reducing sound levels at the ear to at least 85 dB(A).
- Although hearing protection is preferred for any period of noise exposure in excess of 85 dB(A), an equivalent level of protection can be obtained, but less easily managed, by limiting the duration of noise exposure. For every 3 dB(A) increase in sound levels, the 'allowed' exposure period or duration should be reduced by 50 percent.
- Prior to the issuance of hearing protective devices as the final control mechanism, use of acoustic insulating materials, isolation of the noise source, and other engineering controls should be investigated and implemented, where feasible.
- Periodic medical hearing checks should be performed on workers exposed to high noise levels.

### ***Vibration***

Exposure to hand-arm vibration from equipment such as hand and power tools, or whole-body vibrations from surfaces on which the worker stands or sits, should be controlled through choice of equipment, installation of vibration dampening pads or devices, and limiting the duration of exposure.

### ***Electrical***

Exposed or faulty electrical devices, such as circuit breakers, panels, cables, cords and hand tools, can pose a serious risk to workers. Overhead wires can be struck by metal devices, such as poles or ladders, and by vehicles with metal booms. Vehicles or grounded metal objects brought into close proximity with overhead wires can result in arcing between the wires and the object, without actual contact. Recommended actions include:

- Marking all energized electrical devices and lines with warning signs
- Locking out (de-charging and leaving open with a controlled locking device) and tagging-out (warning sign placed on the lock) devices during service or maintenance
- Checking all electrical cords, cables, and hand power tools for frayed or exposed cords and following manufacturer recommendations for maximum permitted operating voltage of the portable hand tools
- Double insulating / grounding all electrical equipment used in environments that are, or may become, wet; using equipment with ground fault interrupter (GFI) protected circuits
- Protecting power cords and extension cords against damage from traffic by shielding or suspending above traffic areas
- Appropriate labeling of service rooms housing high voltage equipment ('electrical hazard') and where entry is controlled or prohibited
- Establishing "No Approach" zones around or under high voltage power lines
- Rubber tired construction or other vehicles that come into direct contact with, or arcing between, high voltage wires may need to be taken out of service for periods of 48 hours and have the tires replaced to prevent catastrophic tire and wheel assembly failure, potentially causing serious injury or death
- Conducting detailed identification and marking of all buried electrical wiring prior to any excavation work

### ***Eye Hazards***

Solid particles from a wide variety of industrial operations, and/or a liquid chemical spray may strike a worker in the eye causing an eye injury or permanent blindness. Recommended measures include:

- Use of machine guards or splash shields and/or face and eye protection devices, such as safety glasses with side shields, goggles, and/or a full-face shield. Frequent checks of these types of equipment prior to use to ensure mechanical integrity is also good practice.
- Where machine or work fragments could present a hazard to transient workers or passers-by, extra area guarding or proximity restricting systems should be implemented, or PPE required for transients and visitors.
- Provisions should be made for persons who have to wear prescription glasses either through the use of overglasses or prescription hardened glasses.

### ***Welding / Hot Work***

Welding creates an extremely bright and intense light that may seriously injure a worker's eyesight. In extreme cases, blindness may result. Additionally, welding may produce noxious fumes to which prolonged exposure can cause serious chronic diseases. Recommended measures include:

- Provision of proper eye protection such as welder goggles and/or a full-face eye shield for all personnel involved in, or assisting, welding operations. Additional methods may include the use of welding barrier screens around the specific work station (a solid piece of light metal, canvas, or plywood designed to block welding light from others). Devices to extract and remove noxious fumes at the source may also be required.

### ***Working Environment Temperature***

Exposure to hot or cold working conditions in indoor or outdoor environments can result temperature stress-related injury or death. Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect against other occupational hazards can accentuate and aggravate heat-related illnesses. Extreme temperatures in permanent work environments should be avoided through implementation of engineering controls and ventilation. Where this is not possible, such as during short-term outdoor work, temperature-related stress management procedures should be implemented which include:

- Monitoring weather forecasts for outdoor work to provide advance warning of extreme weather and scheduling work accordingly
- Providing temporary shelters to protect against the elements during working activities or for use as rest areas
- Use of protective clothing
- Providing easy access to adequate hydration such as drinking water or electrolyte drinks, and avoiding consumption of alcoholic beverages

### ***Ergonomics, Repetitive Motion, Manual Handling***

Injuries due to ergonomic factors, such as repetitive motion, overexertion, and manual handling, take prolonged and repeated exposures to develop, and typically require periods of weeks to months for recovery. These OHS problems should be minimized or eliminated to maintain a productive workplace. Controls may include:

- Facility and workstation design with 5th to 95th percentile operational and maintenance workers in mind
- Use of mechanical assists to eliminate or reduce exertions required to lift materials, hold tools and work objects, and requiring multi-person lifts if weights exceed thresholds
- Selecting and designing tools that reduce force requirements and holding times, and improve postures
- Incorporating rest and stretch breaks into work processes, and conducting job rotation
- Implementing quality control and maintenance programs that reduce unnecessary forces and exertions

### ***Working at Heights***

Fall prevention and protection measures should be implemented whenever a worker is exposed to the hazard of falling more than two meters; into operating machinery; into water or other liquid; into hazardous substances; or through an opening in a work surface. Fall prevention / protection measures may also be warranted on a case-specific basis when there are risks of falling from lesser heights. Fall prevention may include:

- Installation of guardrails with mid-rails and toe boards at the edge of any fall hazard area
- Proper use of ladders and scaffolds by trained workers
- Use of fall prevention devices, including safety belt and lanyard travel limiting devices to prevent access to fall hazard area, or fall protection devices such as full body harnesses used in conjunction with shock absorbing lanyards or self-retracting inertial fall arrest devices attached to fixed anchor point or horizontal life-lines
- Appropriate training in use, serviceability, and integrity of the necessary PPE
- Inclusion of rescue and/or recovery plans, and equipment to respond to workers after an arrested fall

### ***Illumination***

Work area light intensity should be adequate for the general purpose of the location and type of activity, and should be supplemented with dedicated work station illumination, as needed. Controls should include:

- Use of energy efficient light sources with minimum heat emission
- Undertaking measures to eliminate glare / reflections and flickering of lights
- Taking precautions to minimize and control optical radiation including direct sunlight.
- Exposure to high intensity UV and IR radiation and high intensity visible light should also be controlled
- Controlling laser hazards in accordance with equipment specifications, certifications, and recognized safety standards. The lowest feasible class Laser should be applied to minimize risks.



#### **4. Personal safety equipment for workers**

All workers are equipped with the following personal safety equipment: helmet, gloves, ordinary boots and reflective vest.

Workers that are exposed to dust should also be provided with eye protection glasses and face mask. Workers that are exposed to noise should be provided with ear plugs. Workers that need to work in the dark should be provided with hand and cap lamps.

Workers are instructed regarding safety equipment as follows:

- Always wear complete set of protective wear.
- Do not wear loose clothing, such as overhang shirt, jackets, mufflers etc.
- Tuck shirt and jacket well.
- Secure helmet with belt under the chin.
- Tuck the bottom sleeves of trouser inside safety boot.
- Dress with reflector

#### **5. Standards for workers' accommodation<sup>2</sup>**

##### 1. General living facilities

- The location of the facilities is designed to avoid flooding or other natural hazards
- The living facilities are located within a reasonable distance from the worksite.
- Transport is provided to worksite safe and free.
- The living facilities are built using adequate materials, kept in good repair and kept clean and free from rubbish and other refuse.

##### 2. Drainage

- The site is adequately drained.

##### 3. Heating, air conditioning, ventilation and light

- Living facilities are provided with adequate heating, ventilation, and light systems including emergency lighting.

##### 4. Water

- Workers have easy access to a supply of clean/ potable water in adequate quantities.
- The quality of the water complies with national/local requirements or WHO standards.
- Tanks used for the storage of drinking water are constructed and covered to prevent water stored therein from becoming polluted or contaminated.
- The quality of the drinking water is regularly monitored.

##### 5. Wastewater and solid waste

- Wastewater, sewage, food and any other waste materials are adequately discharged in compliance with national and/or international standards and without causing any significant impacts on camp residents, the environment or surrounding communities.
- Specific containers for rubbish collection are provided and emptied on a regular basis.

- Pest extermination, vector control and disinfection are undertaken throughout the living facilities at least once.

#### 6. Rooms/dormitories facilities

- Rooms/dormitories are kept in good condition.
- Rooms/dormitories are aired and cleaned at regular intervals.
- Rooms/dormitories are built with easily cleanable flooring material.
- Rooms/dormitories and sanitary facilities are located in the same buildings.
- Residents are provided with enough space.
- The number of workers sharing the same room/dormitory is minimized.
- Doors and windows are lockable and provided with mosquito screens when necessary.
- Mobile partitions or curtains are provided.
- Adequate number of furniture such as table, chair, mirror, and lamps are provided for all workers.
- Separate sleeping areas are provided for men and women.

#### 7. Bed arrangements and storage facilities

- A separate bed is provided for every worker.
- The practice of “hot-bedding” is prohibited.
- There is a minimum space of 1 meter between beds.
- The use of double deck bunks is minimized.
- If double deck bunks are in use, there is enough clear space between the lower and upper bunk of the bed.
- Workers are provided with comfortable mattresses. Workers may be expected to use their own pillows and bed linens.
- Workers wash bed linen frequently and applied with adequate repellents and disinfectants (where conditions warrant).
- Adequate facilities for the storage of personal belongings are provided.
- Separate storages for work clothes and PPE and depending on condition, drying/airing areas are provided.

#### 8. Sanitary and toilet facilities

- Sanitary and toilet facilities are constructed from materials that are easily cleanable.
- Sanitary and toilet facilities are cleaned frequently and kept in working condition.
- Toilets, showers/bathrooms and other sanitary facilities are designed to provide workers with adequate privacy including ceiling to floor partitions and lockable doors.
- Separate sanitary and toilet facilities are provided for men and women.
- Toilet facilities are conveniently located and easily accessible.
- Toilet facilities are environmentally friendly (e.g., pit toilet) and sewage is not disposed into the worksite.
- Open defecation in the vicinity of project sites should be prohibited.
- An adequate number of hand wash basins and showers/bathrooms facilities are provided.
- Shower facilities are provided with water heating facilities.

#### 9. Cooking and laundry facilities

Cooking and laundry facilities should be available for workers at the worksite or in close vicinity to it. These facilities should be kept in clean and sanitary conditions.

#### 10. Leisure, social and telecommunications facilities

- Basic social collective spaces should be available to workers.
- Workers are provided with dedicated places for religious observance, as appropriate.

- The employer provides workers with local sim cards that can be used for communication on their personal cell phones.

### **Contents of first aid box or cup-boards**

The first aid boxes or cup-boards shall be distinctively marked with white cross on a green background and shall contain the following equipment:

1. Small sterilized dressings (12)
2. Medium size sterilized dressings (6)
3. Large size sterilized dressings (6)
4. Large size sterilized burn dressings (6)
5. (1/2 oz.) Sterilized cotton wool (6 packets)
6. (2oz.) Bottle containing a two per cent alcoholic solution of iodine (1)
7. (2oz.) Bottle containing Betadine (antiseptic solution) having the dose and mode of administration indicated on the label (1)
8. Roll of adhesive plaster (1)
9. A snake bite lancet (1)
10. Torch light (1)
11. Pair of scissors (1)
12. Tablets Aspirin (5gms) 2 dozen
13. Burn Ointment (2 tubes)
14. Dettol (2 phial, about 2 ozs)
15. Bandages 4 inches wide
16. Bandages 2 inches wide
17. Triangular bandages (2)
18. Packets of safety pins (1)
19. A supply of suitable splint