

Environmental Monitoring Report

Bi-annual Report

July-December 2013

ARM: Sustainable Urban Development Investment Program, Tranche 1

Project Number: 42417

Loan Number: L2752

Prepared: January 2014

Prepared by the Yerevan Municipality

Yerevan Project Implementation Unit

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AP	affected people
DESC	detailed engineering and construction supervision consultant
EARF	environmental assessment and review framework
EIA	environmental impact assessment
EMP	environmental management plan
ES	environmental specialist
GRM	grievance redress mechanism
IEE	initial environmental examination
MNP	Ministry of Nature Protection
NPE	nature protection expertise
PMIC	project management and institutional strengthening consultant
PIU	project implementation unit
RA	Republic of Armenia
SNCO	state non-commercial organization
SPS (2009)	Safeguards Policy Statement (2009)
SUDIP	Sustainable Urban Development Investment Program
Sweroad	Swedish National Road Consulting AB
YM	Yerevan Municipality

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I. Introduction

A. Project Description

1. The Government of Armenia received a loan on 19 May 2011 from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to finance the Sustainable Urban Development Investment Program (SUDIP), Tranche 1. The main objective of the Project is to build a new highway to expressway standards that links the existing Shirak street and Arshakunyats street to the Artashat highway.

2. The Project comprises the following main components:

- (i) the construction of a new 6-lane divided road;
- (ii) the construction of a new bridge over the river Hrazdan;
- (iii) the construction of an interchange at Argavand junction;
- (iv) the construction of a round-about at Shirak street; and
- (v) the construction of road links.

The Project locations are shown in Figure 1.

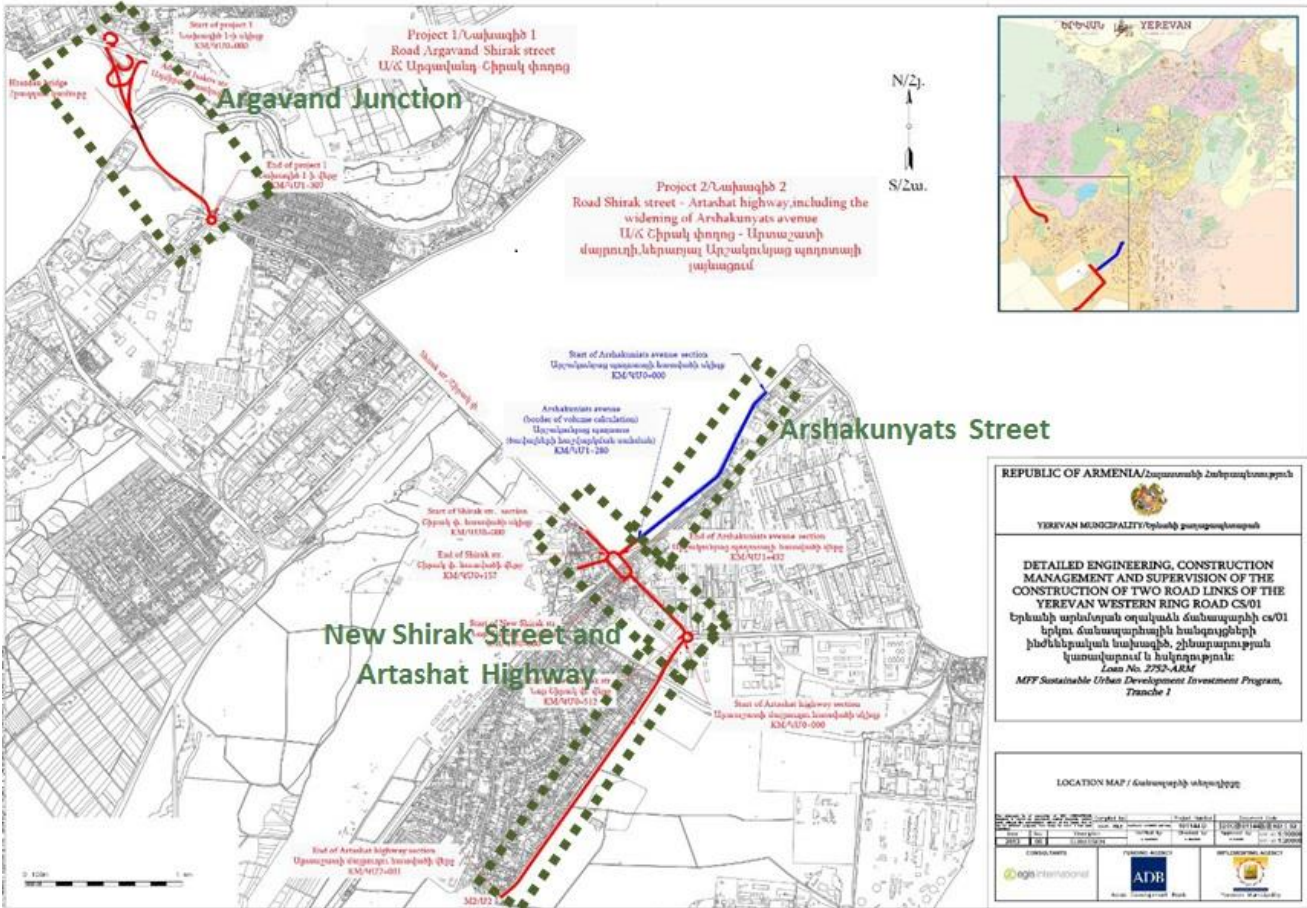


Figure 1: Map showing the Project locations

3. In addition to the construction of the road links a part of the loan proceeds will finance project management and capacity building, as well as institutional strengthening. Another part will finance the preparation of the Tranche 2 projects.

B. Implementation Progress

- 4. This bi-annual environmental monitoring report covers the time period of July - December 2013.
- 5. During the reporting period the Project for Arshakunyats street Tender 1 and for New Shirak Street- Artashat Highway Tender 2 were under the design stage. No construction activities have started yet.
- 6. Environmental impact assessment (EIA) with environmental management plan (EMP) for Tender 1 was included in the bidding documents which are approved by ADB.

7. Project implementation unit (PIU) signed the contract with Vahagn and Samvel LLC (Armenia) Contractor for Arshakunyats street Tender 1 on 10 December 2013. The duration of the construction is estimated to be 10 months. The commencement of the construction is estimated in the beginning of the next reporting period.

II. Environmental Management

A. Institutional Arrangements of the Project

8. The major tasks of PIU environmental specialist (ES) are to carry out the overall environmental management ensuring full compliance of Project implementation with Armenian legislation and ADB Safeguards Policy Statement (2009) (SPS (2009)). The ES serves as liaison between the safeguard team of project management and institutional strengthening consultant (PMIC) and detailed engineering and construction supervision consultant (DESC), Yerevan Municipality (YM), the executing agency, Ministry of Nature Protection (MNP) of the Republic of Armenia (RA) and Ministry of Culture of the RA, project affected people, ADB and develops and maintains direct relationships with government authorities. With the help of DESC and PMIC the ESs organizes and conducts public consultations, etc.

9. DESC environmental management team is comprised of one international and one local ESs who update the environmental assessment documents during the reporting period.

10. PMIC environment management team is comprised of one national ESs and one archaeological specialist. The archaeological specialist joined the team in August 2013 to monitor archaeological survey process. No international ES was involved during the reporting period.

B. Environmental Safeguards Program

11. Implementation of the environmental safeguards program started in January 2013 and was continued during the reporting period.

12. DESC submitted the draft EIA including EMP for Arshakunyats street Tender 1 on 1 July 2013. After PIU and the PMIC reviewed, the finalized document was submitted to ADB for approval and to

MNP of the RA “Nature Protection Expertise” (NPE) the state non-commercial organization (SNCO) for expertise and approval in August 2013.

13. After several reviews the final EIA and EMP for Tender 1 was approved by ADB in November 2013.

14. Following the requirements of ADB and the Armenian legislation, PIU organized a public consultation on 10 September 2013 regarding the environmental impacts of Tender 1 in compliance with ADB SPS (2009) and the Armenian legislation.

15. After public hearing MPE SNCO gave positive conclusion on the EIA and EMP for Tender 1 in October 2013.

16. English version of final EIA and EMP for Tender 1 was posted on ADB website and both English and Armenian versions were posted on the YM and PIU websites in November 2013.

17. DESC submitted the draft EIA including EMP for New Shirak Street - Artashat Highway Tender 2 on 1 December 2013. After reviews PIU, PMIC and DESC finalized the document and submitted it for approval to ADB on 20 December 2013. Currently the translation of the EIA into Armenian language is in the process and will be submitted to NPE SNCO approval.

C. Archaeological Works Program

18. “Scientific Research Center of the Historical and Cultural Heritage” SNCO started the archaeological survey on 7 August 2013. By the end of October the organization completed all field works and started preparation of the final report for submission to the DESC and PIU. The PMIC represented by archaeologist Boris Gasparyan and the PIU were jointly supervising the survey implementation process. The archaeological area was theoretically divided into three zones (see the archaeological map of Argavand-Shirak road link below Figure 2). According to the final report provided by the “Scientific Research Center of the Historical and Cultural Heritage” SNCO the third zone does not contain any layer with archaeological remains. There is a small probability that the right of way (ROW) will be very close to archaeological remains of the second zone. To identify whether the ROW is too close to the second zone or not the PIU and the DESC carried out a joint site visit on 1 October 2013. Based on results of site visit it was decided to amend a design with small engineering structure in order to avoid a negative influence on archaeological remains. In the first zone the Urartian tombs were revealed and are subject to systematical archaeological survey under

the separate contract. The PIU has requested the “Scientific Research Center of the Historical and Cultural Heritage” SNCO to provide a cost estimation for second round of archaeological survey in the zone 1 as logical continuation of first stage of archaeological survey.

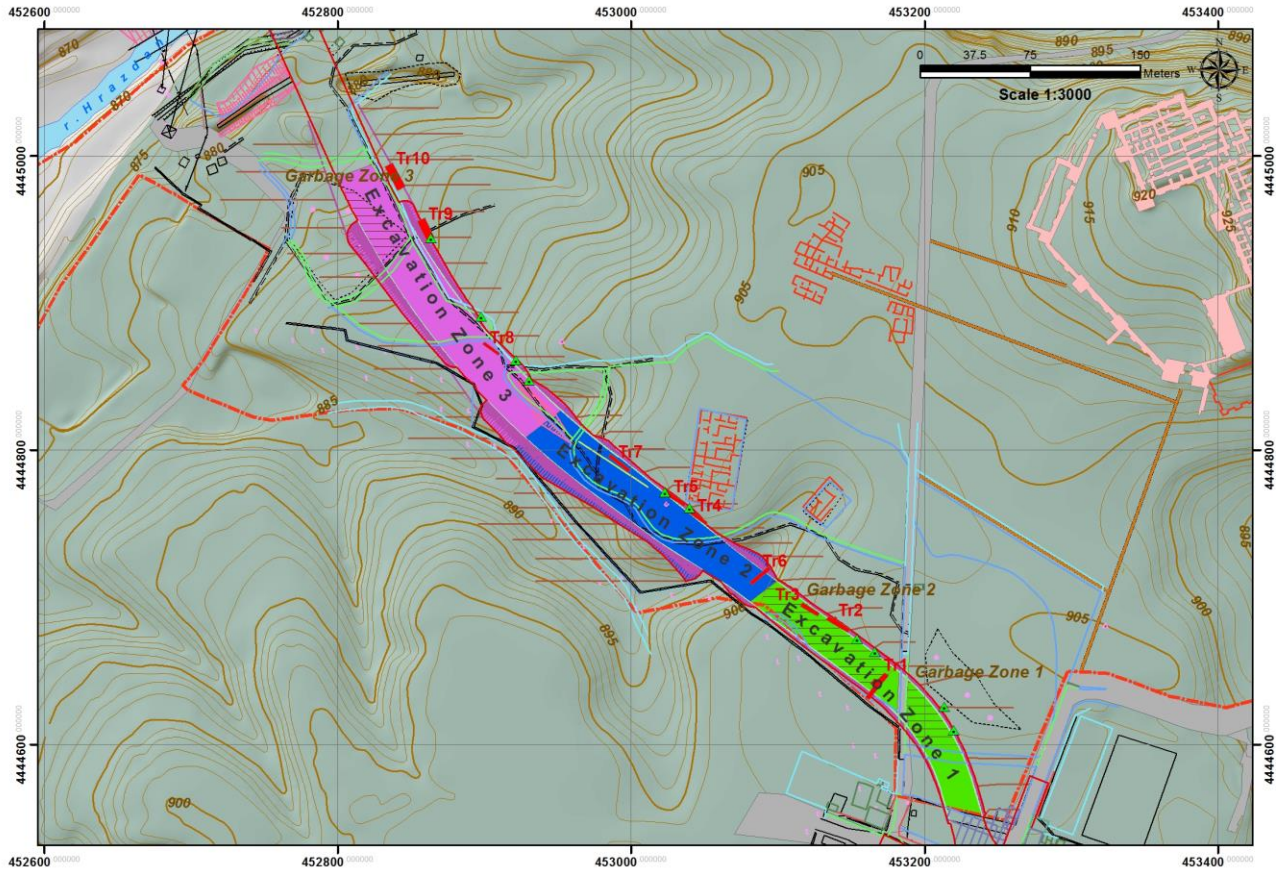


Figure 2: Archaeological Map of Argavand-Shirak Road link

D. Grievance Redress Mechanism

19. GRM is developed in the scope of EIA and EMP for Tender 1 and is approved by ADB.

20. For feedbacks, concerns and complaints from the affected peoples (APs), a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), inspired by the problem solving function of ADB's guidelines and policies should be maintained for the duration of the Project. The GRM is intended to assist aggrieved persons in

lodging their complaints and to describe the mechanism designed to redress their grievances in a timely and effective manner. The parties potentially involved are: the complainants, Contractor, DESC, PIU/PMIC, EA, NGOs, and the courts. The details of the GRM operation could be found in EIA for Tender 1, H.2. Grievance Redress Mechanism, page 42 of 52.

21. The draft GRM is developed in the scope of EIA and EMP for Tender 2 and submitted to ADB for approval.

E. Meetings and Communication

22. During the reporting period environmental safeguards issues were regularly discussed during the joint meetings with YM, ADB, PIU, PMIC and DESC, as well as during PIU weekly meetings and joint meetings with DESC and PMIC. Particularly the following issues were repeatedly discussed: preparation and finalization of the EIA for Tender 1 and Tender 2 and EIA approval process and problems.

23. PIU and PMIC ESs participated in ADB mission wrap up meeting and site visits under Tranche 1 Tender 1 and Tender 2, as well as Tranche 2 together with ADB mission on 28 October 2013 as well as participated in ADB mission wrap up meeting held on 29 October 2013.

24. PIU ES has not been an official member of evaluation committee but has had meetings with evaluation committee members on 04 November 2013 and shared all the information on environmental issues to facilitate the bid evaluation procedures.

25. PIU ES participated in negotiations with Vahagn and Samvel LLC on 09 December 2013.

26. During the reporting period PIU ES participated in the discussion of Tranche 2 document preparation during the joint meetings with DESC.

F. Public Consultation and Complaints

27. Public consultation was organized in the scope of environmental expertise procedure and the environmental impact assessment to meet requirements of Armenian legislation and ADB SPS (2009) on 10 September 2013 and upon finishing the public consultation the attendees were given an

opportunity to ask questions but no question was put forward. Another public hearing was organized in the scope of NPE SNCO on 11 October 2013.

28. Public consultation on Tender 2 are foreseen in the beginning of the next reporting period (January-February) based on environmental expertise procedures and the environmental impact assessment to meet requirements of Armenian legislation and ADB SPS (2009).

G. Awareness Raising and Environmental Training

29. PIU and PMIC ESs participated in the ADB training session held on 16 - 17 September 2013, under the Regional Technical Assistance RETA “Improving the Implementation of Environmental Safeguards in Central and West Asia”. The aim of the training was to provide knowledge of ADB environmental safeguard requirements during project implementation to strengthen the environmental management and monitoring capability of PIU and PMIC.

30. The awareness raising and environmental orientation program is developed in the scope of capacity building in the EIAs and EMPs for Tender 1 and Tender 2. According to the program the Contractors should be responsible to arrange general orientation session about project activities and environmental awareness. This session should focus on the responsibilities for all people/workers working on the site to protect environment and the safe handling of social issues during construction period in accordance with ADB SPS (2009), Armenian environmental legislation and present EIA and EMP. Further details about the awareness raising and environmental orientation program could be found in final EIA and EMP for Tender 1 I.3. Implementation arrangement, c) Awareness raising and environmental training, page 49 of 52; Annex 5, Table 1, para 5, page 5 of 31; and in draft EIA and EMP for Tender 2.

III. Environmental Monitoring

A. Environmental Monitoring Program

31. Environmental monitoring program with a view to ensure compliance with the ADB's environmental requirements and all applicable environmental laws, regulations and standards for

environmental protection of RA has been developed in the scope of EIAs and EMPs for Tender 1 and Tender 2.

32. The EIAs and EMPs contain monitoring activities to be considered during project implementation: management from the engineering design phase, preconstruction, construction through the operation and maintenance periods.

33. The monitoring program will be updated by the construction Contractor when the EMP is updated and site-specific environmental management plans are developed (prior to the start of construction activities). Details of monitoring activities and reporting are presented in approved final EIA and EMP for Tender 1, I. Environmental Management Plan, I.2 Monitoring page 46 of 52; Annex 5 Table 2, page 23 of 31; and draft EIA and EMP for Tender 2.

34. The baseline monitoring data were collected for Tender 1 and Tender 2 and included in the EIAs and EMPs. The baseline data will be updated by the Contractor 28 days prior to the start of the construction works.

35. No on-site monitoring has been carried out since no construction activities have been implemented during the reporting period.

B. Non-compliance Notices

36. N/A for the reporting period

C. Corrective Action Plans

37. N/A for the reporting period

IV. Findings and Recommendations

38. During ADB mission wrap up meeting ADB senior ES suggested revising FAM of the Project particularly Environment Section under part VII - Safeguards which was revised by PIU and approved by ADB on 18 November 2013.