

Environmental Monitoring Report

Bi-annual Report
July-December 2012

ARM: Sustainable Urban Development Investment Program, Tranche 1

Project Number: 42417
Loan Number: L2752
May 2013

Prepared by the Yerevan Municipality
Yerevan Development Project Implementation Unit

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
DESC	detailed engineering and construction supervision consultant
EARF	environmental assessment and review framework
EIA	environmental impact assessment
EMP	environmental management and monitoring plan
ES	environmental specialist
GSB	Government Supervisory Board
IEE	initial environmental examination
PIU	project implementation unit
PMIC	project management and institutional strengthening consultant
RA	Republic of Armenia
SNCO	state non-commercial organization
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 Arshakuniats Avenue 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 highway;
- (iv) the construction of a round-about at Shirak street; and
- (v) the construction of road links.

The Project locations shown in Figure 1.

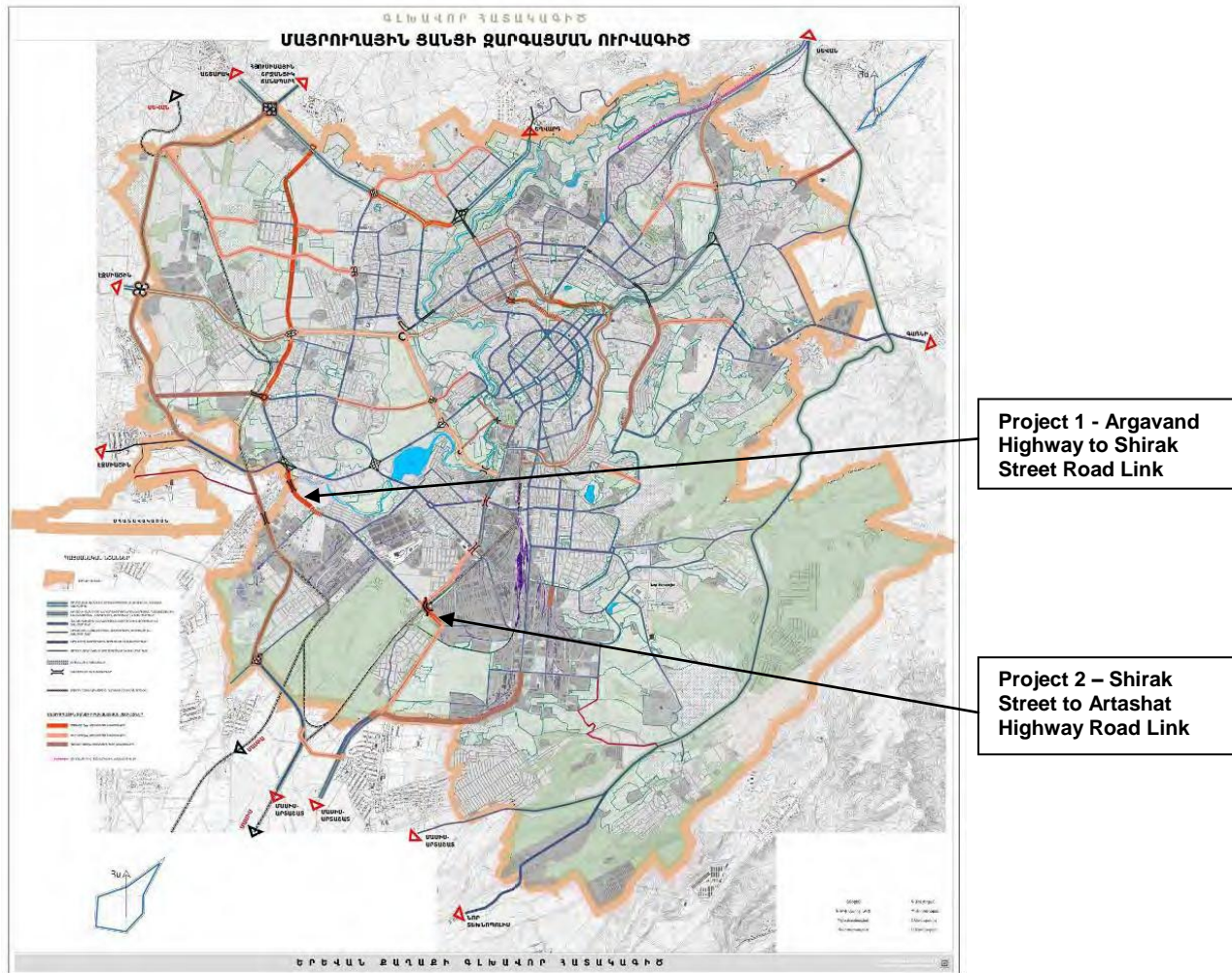


Figure 1: Map of Yerevan showing the Project locations

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. Project Progress

4. This semi-annual environmental monitoring report covers the time period of July - December 2012. No civil works have been implemented during that time period.
5. In the reporting period two consulting services contracts were signed with (i) EGIS International for Detailed Engineering and Construction Supervision (DESC) and (ii) Swedish National Road Consulting AB (Sweroad) for Program Management and Institutional Strengthening (PMIC). EGIS International has commenced the services since 4 October 2012 and Sweroad will commence on 11 February 2013.
6. During the reporting period the deliverables produced by the EGIS International were an Inception Report and Road Safety Audit Report. No environmental assessment and management activities were carried out in the reporting period.

II. Environmental Management

A. Institutional Arrangements of the Project

7. The Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia (RA) is the executing agency and the Yerevan Municipality (YM) is the Implementing Agency of the Project. The Project is monitored by the Government Supervisory Board (GSB). YM through the project implementing unit (PIU) additional staff recruited in December 2012 handles day-to-day implementation of the project and is responsible for (i) organizing procurement; (ii) supervising and monitoring program implementation; (iii) providing any counterpart assistance as required; and (iii) implementing environmental and social safeguards. One resettlement specialist and one environmental specialist (ES) were recruited for the PIU Safeguards Unit in the reporting period.
8. The major tasks of ES are to carry out the overall environmental management ensuring full compliance of Project implementation with Armenian legislation and ADB Safeguard Policy Statement (2009). The ES is responsible for preparing and finalizing the initial environmental examination (IEE) prepared in the project preparation stage, site specific environmental management plans and other environmental documents and reports as prescribed in the Project documents. With the help of DESC and PMIC the ES organizes public consultations.. The ES serves as liaison between the safeguard team of PMIC and DESC, the YM, the executing agency, RA Ministry of Nature Protection, the Ministry of Culture, project affected people and ADB and develops and maintains direct relationships with government authorities. The ES

ensures that all required approvals and expertise on environmental documents are received in a timely manner.

9. The DESC and PMIC environment management teams are comprised of international and local environment specialists and local archeologists. The DESC and PMIC environmental teams manage, monitor and report to YM and ADB the environmental aspects of the Project and ensure compliance with all environmental requirements of the Project.

B. Environmental Safeguards Program

10. Environmental Safeguards program includes project site inspection visits for the identification of major environmental issues, update of the EARF (approved by ADB in 2010), review of the IEE or environmental impact assessment (EIA), when needed, conduct trainings for YM environment team on ADB Safeguards and Armenian legislation provisions, as well as other environment relevant activities. During the reporting period none of the above mentioned activities were implemented. Implementation of the Program will start in January 2013.

C. Archeological Works Program

11. During the reporting period no archeological expert was assigned and no surveys and assessments were carried out hence no reports and/or other documents have been prepared. Archeological survey of the Project area will be conducted by the DESC archaeologist in the next reporting period. Preliminary archeological report along with supporting documents (maps, guidelines, etc.) will be developed and submitted as a part of the environmental assessment documents in the second quarter of 2013.

D. Grievance Redresses Mechanism

12. During the reporting period no grievance redress mechanism has been developed. The grievance redress mechanism to address the comments and complaints on environmental issues as a part of EMP will be developed by DESC, reviewed by PMIC and approved by PIU in the first or second quarter of 2013.

E. Meetings

13. No meetings on Environmental Safeguards issues were conducted during the reporting period.

14. A series of meetings with ADB, the GSB, YM, environmental staff of PMIC and DESC, as well as affected persons when needed will be organized in the upcoming period.

F. Public Consultation and Complaints

15. Public consultation devoted to the discussion of environmental impacts of the Project was held as a part of preparation of the draft IEE based on the preliminary design. During the reporting period no public consultation was conducted and no complaints were registered. Further public consultations will be held during preparation of the final IEE document based on the detailed design.

G. Awareness Raising

16. No awareness raising program is available during the reporting period. An awareness raising program will be developed to carry out a series of trainings for PIU, PMIC and DESC staff, the YM environmental department staff, as well as other interested parties on Environmental Safeguards of ADB Safeguard Policy Statement (2009) and Armenian environmental and archaeological legislation.

III. Environmental Monitoring

H. Environmental Monitoring Program

17. No environmental monitoring program is developed and implemented during the reporting period. Also no on-site monitoring was needed since no construction activities were implemented during the reporting period.

18. The monitoring program will be developed based on the ADB safeguards and EMP requirements and will include:

- (1) Development of monitoring plans as a consistent part of the EMP
- (2) Development of the check list for monitoring of Project construction activities

- (3) Development of the monitoring scheme with indication of all monitoring functions of responsible units
- (4) Monitoring site visits to check compliance of Project activities to the EMP requirements and ADB Safeguards

19. The Program is subject to amendments and update upon the need during the implementation of the Project.

I. Non-compliance Notices

20. N/A for the reporting period

J. Corrective Action Plans

21. N/A for the reporting period

IV. Findings and Recommendations

22. The Inception Report submitted by DESC on 29 November 2012 contains no environmental and no archaeological components. According to the Contract with the DESC the Inception Report should include environmental monitoring plan, as well as give status of those items, environmental benchmarks, which are already in progress.

23. The EGIS International will be requested to revise the report and insert the missing environmental and archaeological parts. Findings and recommendations should be updated in the first or the second quarter of 2013.