



**Regional Centre for
Mapping of Resources
for Development**

ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS POLICY- SUMMARY VERSION

Issue No. 1 2022

**REGIONAL CENTER FOR MAPPING OF RESOURCES FOR
DEVELOPMENT**

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Date of Approval

**Prepared by: Gender Environment and Indigenous Peoples Specialist (ESS focal
person)**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) wishes to express its sincere appreciation to all individuals and institutions that contributed to the development of this Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy.

This Policy was developed through a collaborative and consultative process involving RCMRD management and technical staff, safeguard specialist (gender environment and IPLC), policy engagement specialist and external partners. Their expertise and commitment were instrumental in shaping a safeguards framework that reflects international best practice while responding to the unique environmental and social contexts of RCMRD Member States.

RCMRD particularly acknowledges the contributions of technical staff across the Centre's thematic programmes, whose insights on geospatial technologies, Earth Observation systems, environmental monitoring, and climate services helped ensure that the Policy addresses emerging risks associated with digital and spatial data systems.

The Centre also appreciates the valuable input from partner institutions, regional stakeholders, and subject matter experts who provided guidance on biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, gender equality, Indigenous Peoples' rights, and community engagement.

RCMRD extends its gratitude to the individuals who led and coordinated the policy development process, including the Safeguards focus person and the policy drafting team, for their dedication in ensuring that this Policy aligns with international environmental and social safeguards standards and reflects the Centre's commitment to responsible innovation and sustainable development

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1.0 PREAMBLE: DEVELOPMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS POLICY

The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) recognizes that the generation and dissemination of geospatial information, Earth Observation data, artificial intelligence systems, and digital technologies can have far-reaching implications for environmental governance, land use planning, climate resilience, and community livelihoods across its Member States.

As the Centre continues to expand its role in supporting governments and partners through geospatial services, environmental monitoring, climate change adaptation initiatives, and digital innovation, the need for a comprehensive Environmental and Social Safeguards framework has become increasingly evident. This Policy was therefore developed to ensure that all RCMRD-supported activities are implemented in a manner that promotes environmental sustainability, social inclusion, and responsible data governance.

RCMRD acknowledges that digital systems including artificial intelligence, machine learning models, geospatial analytics platforms, and automated decision-support tools can influence policy decisions, environmental management, and resource allocation. While these technologies offer significant opportunities for sustainable development and improved decision-making, they must be implemented responsibly to ensure that they promote inclusive development, protect human rights, and prevent unintended social or environmental harm.

The Centre also recognizes the importance of linguistic inclusion and digital accessibility in the design and deployment of digital tools and information services. Many communities across the region operate in multilingual environments with varying literacy levels and limited digital connectivity. Safeguards must therefore ensure that digital platforms, data services, and AI-enabled tools remain accessible, culturally appropriate, and inclusive, enabling equitable participation in development processes.

The development of this Policy followed a structured and consultative process designed to align RCMRD's institutional practices with internationally recognized environmental and social safeguards standards, including principles reflected in frameworks used by global development and climate finance institutions.

The policy development process included:

- a) A review of international environmental and social safeguards frameworks and global best practices.
- b) An assessment of RCMRD's operational context, including its geospatial mandate, digital platforms, and regional development initiatives.
- c) Internal consultations with technical staff, programme leads, and management to identify potential environmental and social risks associated with RCMRD activities.
- d) Integration of cross-cutting considerations such as gender equality, Indigenous Peoples' rights, community participation, biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and responsible data governance.

- e) Development of institutional procedures for safeguards screening, stakeholder engagement, grievance redress, monitoring, and reporting.

The resulting Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy establishes a comprehensive framework through which RCMRD will identify, prevent, and manage environmental and social risks while maximizing positive development outcomes.

Through this Policy, RCMRD reaffirms its commitment to responsible environmental stewardship, ethical use of geospatial and digital technologies, inclusive participation, and protection of human rights, while supporting sustainable development and climate-resilient growth across its Member States.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AI – Artificial Intelligence

AI/ML- Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning

ASR – Automatic Speech Recognition

CBO – Community-Based Organization

DG – Director General

DRR – Disaster Risk Reduction

EO – Earth Observation

ESIA – Environmental and Social Impact Assessment

ESMP – Environmental and Social Management Plan

ESS – Environmental and Social Safeguards Standards

E&S – Environmental and Social

FPIC – Free, Prior and Informed Consent

GBV – Gender-Based Violence

GCF – Green Climate Fund

GIS – Geographic Information System

GRM – Grievance Redress Mechanism

IPLCs – Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

KBA – Key Biodiversity Area

ML – Machine Learning

LLM – Large Language Model

LRL – Low-Resource Languages

NGO – Non-Governmental Organization

NLP–Natural Language Processing

NLU – Natural Language Understanding

OHS – Occupational Health and Safety

RCMRD – Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development

SEA – Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

SEP – Stakeholder Engagement Plan

SLM – Small Language Mode

SH – Sexual Harassment

TTS – Text-to-Speech

UN – United Nations

DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Computer systems or algorithms capable of performing tasks that typically require human intelligence, including pattern recognition, data analysis, and predictive modelling.

Biodiversity

The variety of living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part.

Cultural Heritage

Tangible and intangible cultural resources that hold historical, spiritual, or social value for communities, including archaeological sites, sacred landscapes, traditional knowledge, and cultural practices.

Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)

A set of policies, standards, and procedures designed to identify, assess, manage, and mitigate environmental and social risks associated with projects or institutional activities.

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)

A systematic process used to identify, predict, evaluate, and mitigate potential environmental and social impacts of proposed projects or activities.

Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)

A document outlining mitigation measures, monitoring activities, and institutional responsibilities required to manage identified environmental and social risks.

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

The right of Indigenous Peoples to give or withhold consent to projects that may affect their lands, territories, resources, or cultural heritage before such projects are approved or implemented.

Gender-Based Violence (GBV)

Any harmful act directed at an individual based on gender, including physical, sexual, psychological, or economic harm.

Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

A formal process through which individuals, communities, or stakeholders can raise concerns or complaints related to project activities and seek resolution.

Natural Language Processing (NLP)

Artificial intelligence technologies used to analyze, interpret, and generate human language in written or spoken form.

Machine Learning (ML)

A subset of artificial intelligence that enables computer systems to learn patterns from data and improve predictions or decisions without being explicitly programmed.

Low-Resource Languages

Languages with limited digital resources such as text datasets, speech recordings, or computational tools used in language technologies.

Stakeholder Engagement

A process of inclusive consultation and participation that enables individuals, groups, and institutions affected by or interested in a project to contribute to decision-making.

Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA)

Any actual or attempted abuse of power or vulnerability for sexual purposes, including profiting socially or economically from sexual exploitation.

Sexual Harassment (SH)

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature that creates a hostile or offensive environment.

Climate Resilience

The capacity of systems, communities, or ecosystems to anticipate, absorb, adapt to, and recover from climate-related shocks and stresses.

Geospatial Data

Information that describes the location and characteristics of natural or human-made features on the Earth's surface, typically represented through maps, geographic information systems (GIS), or satellite imagery.

Responsible Data Governance

Policies and practices that ensure data is collected, stored, analyzed, and shared in ways that respect privacy, protect communities, and promote transparency and accountability.

2.0 POLICY STATEMENT

The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) is committed to ensuring that all its projects, services, partnerships, digital platforms, and geospatial outputs are implemented in an environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive, gender-responsive, and ethically responsible manner.

As an intergovernmental organization serving Member States across Eastern and Southern Africa, RCMRD recognizes that geospatial information, Earth Observation technologies, artificial intelligence (AI), machine learning, and digital analytics increasingly influence environmental governance, land-use planning, resource allocation, and community livelihoods. These responsibilities require the systematic identification, assessment, and management of environmental and social risks and impacts associated with the Centre's activities.

RCMRD also acknowledges the growing use of artificial intelligence, language technologies, and automated decision-support systems in geospatial analytics and digital platforms. The Centre is therefore committed to ensuring that the development and deployment of AI-enabled tools are inclusive, transparent, and culturally responsive. This includes promoting equitable access to digital services through multilingual interfaces, voice-enabled technologies that support low-literacy users, and responsible AI governance practices that protect communities from bias, misuse of data, and technological exclusion.

Through this Policy, RCMRD establishes its Environmental and Social Safeguards Standards (ESS), grounded in international good practice, to guide the responsible use of geospatial and digital technologies while safeguarding environmental integrity, human rights, and inclusive development across its Member States.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

This Policy aims to:

1. Identify, assess, and manage environmental and social risks across the full project lifecycle.
2. Prevent environmental degradation and biodiversity loss.
3. Protect human rights and promote equity and inclusion.
4. Prevent Gender-Based Violence (GBV), including Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH).
5. Protect Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).
6. Promote climate resilience and avoid maladaptation.
7. Ensure responsible and ethical management of geospatial and digital data.
8. Strengthen transparency, accountability, and grievance redress.
9. Promote responsible and inclusive use of artificial intelligence, language technologies, and digital platforms, ensuring equitable access for diverse linguistic communities and users with low literacy or limited connectivity.

4.0 SCOPE OF APPLICATION

This Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy applies to:

1. All RCMRD-funded, co-funded, or implemented projects, programmes, consultancies, and services.
2. Consultancy services, technical advisory engagements, and policy support initiatives undertaken directly by RCMRD or through partner institutions.
3. Field-based activities, including surveys, community mapping, validation exercises, trainings, workshops, and other stakeholder engagement processes.
4. Research activities involving primary or secondary data collection, analysis, and dissemination.
5. Digital systems and technological platforms developed, managed, or supported by RCMRD, including geoportals, Earth Observation analytics, spatial databases, mobile data collection tools, dashboards, and automated analytical systems.
6. Emerging digital technologies used in geospatial and environmental applications, including:
 - a. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) models
 - b. Language processing technologies
 - c. Voice-enabled digital services
 - d. Automated decision-support tools used in geospatial analysis, environmental monitoring, and land governance.

All individuals and entities implementing RCMRD-supported activities, including contractors, consultants, partners, interns, sub-grantees, and third-party service providers operating under RCMRD authority, funding, or contractual arrangements.

5.0 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

RCMRD applies the following principles across all safeguards standards:

- a) **Do No Harm.** Prevent or minimize environmental and social harm.
- b) **Mitigation Hierarchy.** Apply the sequence: avoid → minimize → restore → compensate.
- c) **Gender Equality and Intersectionality** Ensure gender-responsive and inclusive approaches.
- d) **Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)** Respect rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- e) **Environmental Sustainability.** Protect ecosystems and biodiversity.
- f) **Climate Justice and Resilience.** Promote climate-resilient development.
- g) **Digital Responsibility.** Ensure the responsible, transparent, and inclusive use of geospatial data, artificial intelligence systems, and digital platforms. This includes addressing algorithmic bias, protecting sensitive data, ensuring linguistic inclusion, and promoting technologies that are accessible to users in low-connectivity or low-literacy environments.
- h) **Transparency and Accountability.** Promote open communication and responsible governance.
- i) **Meaningful Stakeholder Participation.** Ensure inclusive stakeholder engagement throughout the project cycle.

6.0 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

6.1 Director General (DG)

The Director General holds overall responsibility for safeguards compliance and provides strategic leadership. Responsibilities include:

- a) Ensuring adequate institutional capacity and resources
- b) Approving safeguard instruments for high-risk projects
- c) Integrating safeguards into institutional strategy and partnerships
- d) Reporting safeguards performance to the Governing Council.

6.2 Safeguards Lead (Gender, Environment and IPLC Specialist)

The Safeguards Lead serves as the institutional focal point for environmental and social safeguards and is responsible for:

- a) Overseeing the safeguards management system
- b) Reviewing environmental and social risk screening
- c) Ensuring compliance with donor requirements and national regulations
- d) Providing technical guidance on safeguard instruments
- e) Conducting safeguards audits and monitoring activities.

The Safeguards Lead also ensures integration of gender equality, GBV risk management, and inclusion of vulnerable groups.

6.3 Project Managers

Project managers are responsible for:

- a) Implementing safeguard measures in project activities
- b) Ensuring compliance with screening and mitigation procedures
- c) Reporting environmental and social risks.

6.4 Contractors and Partners

Contractors and partners implementing RCMRD-supported activities must:

- a) Comply with this policy and safeguard requirements
- b) Implement mitigation measures
- c) Report environmental and social risks encountered during project implementation.

7.0 SAFEGUARDS RISK MANAGEMENT

All RCMRD activities must undergo environmental and social screening to identify potential risks. Projects will be categorized based on risk level:

- a) **Category A – High Risk:** significant environmental or social impacts
- b) **Category B – Moderate Risk:** limited and manageable impacts
- c) **Category C – Low Risk:** minimal or no adverse impacts.

In addition to environmental and social risks, RCMRD will assess risks associated with digital technologies and artificial intelligence systems used within projects or advisory services. These risks may include:

- a) Algorithmic bias or discriminatory outcomes
- b) Misuse of geospatial or community data
- c) Exposure of sensitive information through digital platforms
- d) Exclusion of linguistically marginalized communities
- e) Misinterpretation of automated decision-support systems.

Appropriate mitigation measures shall be incorporated into project design and safeguards instruments.

8.0 REQUIRED SAFEGUARD INSTRUMENTS (MINIMUM)

Depending on risk category:

- a) E&S Screening Report + Risk Register (all)
- b) ESIA/ESMP (A/B as needed)
- c) Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) (A/B; and where communities are affected)
Labour Management Procedures (LMP) (where workers are engaged)
- d) Biodiversity Plan (where relevant)
- e) Resettlement Planning (where land acquisition/displacement risks exist)
- f) Indigenous Peoples Plan / FPIC protocol (where applicable)
- g) Data Ethics & Responsible AI Safeguards Plan. Addressing community data protection, sensitive geospatial mapping, artificial intelligence systems, language technologies, and automated analytics tools.

9.0 MONITORING, REPORTING, AND CORRECTIVE ACTION

RCMRD will maintain systems to monitor safeguards performance and ensure compliance across all projects and activities in the following ways

- a) Quarterly safeguards reports will be required for Category A and B projects to track the implementation of mitigation measures.
- b) Incidents must be reported within defined timeframes, with immediate reporting for serious harm to communities, workers, or the environment.
- c) Corrective Action Plans will be implemented where non-compliance occurs and maintained until issues are resolved and formally verified.
- d) Monitoring will also assess digital systems and AI tools used in projects to ensure they operate fairly, transparently, and without unintended bias, in line with responsible data governance standards.

10.0 GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM (GRM)

RCMRD shall maintain a GRM that is:

- a) Accessible (multiple channels; language appropriate),
- b) Confidential (including anonymous reporting),
- c) Protective against retaliation,
- d) Language appropriate
- e) Timebound with documented resolutions

11.0 ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL STANDARDS

11.1 ESS 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Ensures that environmental and social risks are identified, assessed, and managed throughout the project lifecycle. As a regional geospatial and Earth Observation institution, RCMRD recognizes that its projects, advisory services, and digital products can influence environmental governance, land use planning, climate adaptation, and resource allocation.

ESS 1 therefore integrates gender equality and intersectionality to ensure environmental and social risk assessments consider the different impacts on women, men, youth, and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).

Where projects involve digital systems or AI-enabled analytics, safeguards assessments must also evaluate potential risks associated with automated decision-making, algorithmic bias, and unequal access to digital services.

11.2 ESS 2: Labor and Working Conditions

ESS2 ensures that all RCMRD staff, consultants, contractors, and partners work under fair, safe, and non-discriminatory conditions. It promotes equal opportunity, prevention of child and forced labor, protection against harassment and Gender-Based Violence (including SEA/SH), and the establishment of occupational health and safety measures. ESS2 also requires accessible worker grievance mechanisms and compliance with national labor laws and international labor standards

11.3 ESS 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention

ESS 3 establishes the framework through which RCMRD promotes efficient use of natural resources, prevents pollution, and minimizes environmental harm arising from its operations and project activities. Although RCMRD primarily delivers geospatial services, digital platforms, and advisory support rather than large-scale infrastructure, its activities including field deployments, training workshops, procurement of equipment, energy use, travel, and digital infrastructure have environmental footprints that must be responsibly managed. ESS 3 ensures that RCMRD's operations and projects contribute to sustainable resource management and environmental stewardship across Member States.

11.4 ESS 4: Community Health, Safety and Security

ESS 4 establishes the framework through which RCMRD identifies, prevents, and manages risks to community health, safety, and security arising from its projects, field activities, digital systems, and advisory services. Although RCMRD does not typically implement large-scale infrastructure, its activities including field data collection, community mapping, drone deployment, digital platform dissemination, spatial analysis, and policy advisory may influence land-use decisions, expose sensitive information, or create power imbalances that affect communities. ESS 4 ensures that RCMRD prevents harm to communities and promotes safe, inclusive, and responsible engagement.

RCMRD ensures that its activities do not expose communities to harm through environmental, social, or digital risks.

Activities such as field data collection, drone deployment, spatial mapping, and digital platform dissemination may expose sensitive information or influence land-use decisions affecting communities.

Safeguards under ESS4 ensure that:

- i. Communities are protected from misuse of spatial data
- ii. Sensitive locations or cultural sites are not exposed through mapping
- iii. Digital systems do not create new forms of inequality or exclusion.

Special attention will be given to ensuring that digital tools and geospatial information services remain accessible and understandable to communities with diverse linguistic backgrounds or limited digital literacy

11.5 ESS 5: Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use, and Involuntary Resettlement

ESS 5 establishes the framework through which RCMRD identifies and manages risks associated with land acquisition, restrictions on land use, and potential involuntary resettlement arising from projects, advisory services, or geospatial outputs supported by the Centre. Although RCMRD does not typically undertake physical infrastructure projects that directly cause displacement, its geospatial analyses, land governance support, and policy advisory services may influence land use decisions, spatial planning, infrastructure development, and natural resource management across Member States. Such activities may indirectly affect land access, land tenure security, or community livelihoods. ESS 5 ensures that RCMRD activities do not contribute to involuntary displacement or inequitable land governance outcomes and that the rights and livelihoods of affected people are protected.

11.6 ESS 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

ESS 6 establishes the framework through which RCMRD ensures that its activities support the protection and sustainable management of biodiversity, ecosystems, and living natural resources. RCMRD works extensively in areas related to ecosystem monitoring, land use planning, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and natural resource governance. Through its geospatial tools, Earth Observation systems, spatial analysis, and advisory services, RCMRD provides information that influences environmental decision-making across Member States. While these activities contribute significantly to sustainable development, they may also affect biodiversity and ecosystem services if not responsibly managed. ESS 6 ensures that RCMRD activities promote conservation outcomes while respecting the rights and livelihoods of communities that depend on natural resources

11.8 ESS 7: Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

ESS 7 establishes the framework through which RCMRD ensures that its activities respect the rights, dignity, culture, and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs). Across the Member states served by RCMRD, many communities maintain distinct cultural identities, customary land tenure systems, and traditional knowledge related to environmental management and natural resource use. These communities often depend directly on ecosystems for their livelihoods and cultural practices. Through its geospatial services, environmental monitoring systems, land governance support, and policy advisory roles, RCMRD may operate in areas inhabited or used by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. ESS 7 ensures that such engagements are conducted in a culturally appropriate manner that respects community rights, promotes inclusive participation, and safeguards traditional knowledge.

11.9 ESS 8: Cultural Heritage

ESS 8 establishes the framework through which RCMRD ensures the protection and respectful management of cultural heritage that may be affected by its activities. Across the Member states served by RCMRD, cultural heritage includes both tangible heritage such as archaeological sites, historical structures, sacred landscapes, and burial grounds and intangible heritage, including traditional knowledge systems, cultural practices, and spiritual relationships with land and natural resources. RCMRD's activities in geospatial mapping, environmental monitoring, land-use planning, and community-based data collection may involve areas of cultural significance. ESS 8 ensures that such heritage is respected, protected, and managed in collaboration with communities and relevant authorities.

11.10 ESS 9: Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure(

Refer to RCMRD SEP

ESS 9 requires RCMRD to engage stakeholders in a transparent and inclusive manner throughout project planning and implementation. It ensures timely disclosure of information, meaningful consultations, and accessible mechanisms for feedback and grievance redress **to** strengthen accountability.

Stakeholder engagement processes must ensure that information is accessible to all affected groups by using locally appropriate languages, culturally appropriate communication materials, and alternative formats for communities with low literacy levels. Where appropriate, digital engagement tools, including voice-enabled and multilingual platforms, may be used to support inclusive access to information and participation in decision-making.

11.11 ESS 10: Climate Change Resilience and Adaptation

ESS 10 establishes the framework through which RCMRD integrates climate change resilience and adaptation considerations into its projects, services, and advisory activities. Climate change poses significant risks to ecosystems, infrastructure, livelihoods, and human well-being across Eastern and Southern Africa. Increasing frequency and intensity of droughts, floods,

heatwaves, and other climate-related hazards require institutions to strengthen resilience and support climate-informed decision-making. RCMRD plays a key role in providing geospatial data, Earth Observation products, climate information services, and decision-support tools that help governments, communities, and development partners respond to climate risks. ESS 10 ensures that RCMRD activities contribute to climate resilience while avoiding maladaptation and unintended negative impacts on vulnerable populations and ecosystems

12. CONCLUSION

The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) reaffirms its commitment to ensuring that all its projects, services, and partnerships are implemented in an environmentally sustainable, socially inclusive, and ethically responsible manner.

As an intergovernmental institution serving Member States across Eastern and Southern Africa, RCMRD recognizes that geospatial information, Earth Observation technologies, digital platforms, and policy advisory services carry significant influence over land use decisions, environmental governance, and community livelihoods. With this influence comes responsibility.

Through this Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy, RCMRD commits to:

- a) Systematic identification and management of environmental and social risks;
- b) Promotion of gender equality and protection of Indigenous Peoples and vulnerable communities;
- c) Prevention of Gender-Based Violence, including Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH);
- d) Protection of biodiversity, ecosystem integrity, and climate resilience;
- e) Ethical and responsible management of digital and geospatial data;
- f) Transparent stakeholder engagement and accessible grievance redress mechanisms;
- g) Continuous learning, monitoring, and improvement of safeguard systems.

This Policy shall be binding on all RCMRD staff, consultants, contractors, and partners engaged in activities implemented or supported by the Centre.

Safeguards compliance is not only a regulatory requirement but a reflection of RCMRD's core values of accountability, transparency, equity, inclusiveness, and stakeholder engagement.

13 POLICY REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

This Policy shall be reviewed every three (3) years, or earlier if required due to:

- a) Changes in applicable national or international safeguard standards;
- b) Institutional restructuring;
- c) Lessons learned from implementation;
- d) Emerging risks related to climate change, digital technologies, or regional governance dynamics.

Amendments shall be approved by the Director General and, where required, endorsed by the Governing Council.

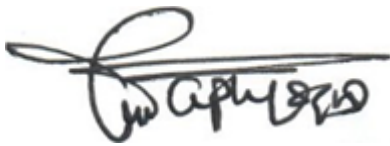
14. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy shall come into effect upon approval and signature by the Director General of RCMRD.

Approved by:

Name: Dr. Emmanuel Nkurunziza

Title: Director General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Emmanuel Nkurunziza', written over a horizontal line.

Signature:

Date: 26th August 2022