



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND CULTURAL RESPECT STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

Eswatini Development and Savings Bank is committed to conducting its operations in a manner that respects human dignity, cultural identity, traditional institutions, and the social values of all communities affected by its financing, investments, programmes, and operations. The Bank recognises that sustainable development can only be achieved when development interventions are socially inclusive, culturally appropriate, and responsive to the needs, priorities, and aspirations of local communities.

This Statement is guided by the Bank's Environmental and Social Policy and informed by international safeguard standards, including the Green Climate Fund Indigenous Peoples Policy and other internationally recognized frameworks that advocates for the protection of indigenous peoples, culturally distinct groups, and vulnerable communities.

In the context of Eswatini, the Bank recognizes that the country is characterized by a largely homogenous population with shared cultural, linguistic, and traditional heritage, and therefore the specific requirements relating to indigenous peoples, as defined under international safeguard frameworks, are not anticipated to be triggered in the Bank's operations. Notwithstanding this

context, the Bank remains committed to applying the underlying principles of cultural respect, inclusion, dignity, equity, and meaningful participation across all Bank-supported activities. This it does by ensuring that development interventions respect local customs, cultural values, traditional leadership structures, community governance systems, customary land-use practices, and cultural heritage.

The Bank is committed to ensuring that all projects, programmes, and investments are designed, appraised, implemented, and monitored through transparent, inclusive, and culturally appropriate engagement processes. Parrel to this the Bank is intentional about avoiding or minimizing, and where necessary mitigating adverse social, cultural, or livelihood impacts. The Bank shall promote equitable access to project benefits for all affected communities, including women, youth, vulnerable groups, and underserved populations.

Through this Statement, Eswatini Development and Savings Bank reaffirms its commitment to socially responsible, culturally respectful, and inclusive development, with implementation overseen by Bank Management, project teams, implementing partners, and the Environmental and Social Safeguards function.

Dumisani Mahlinza
Board Chairperson