ASM-14460 - SESP (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure)

Procedure Year: 2025

Procedure Rating: Moderate

Procedure Status: Draft

Procedure Name: ASM-14460

Procedure Type: Design

Procedure Department: CO - Moldova Republic

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RELATED PORTFOLIO MYWPS/PROJECTS(1)					
NAME	DEPARTMENT	STATUS	ATLAS PROJECT NUMBER	START DATE	END DATE
01004116	CO - Moldova Republic	Draft		3/1/2025	2/28/2029

Triggered Requirements:

Assessment — Status: Complete

Is assessment required? (Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk portfolio MYWPs/projects)

Targeted assessment(s) required? No

If yes, please indicate the status of required assessment(s)?

Comments (for instance, please indicate the assessment type) (10000 Characters maximum)

Targeted assessment is not required as the identified risks are limited, well understood, and can be avoided/mitigated by the appropriate management responses. SESP identifies the social and environmental risks as well as straightforward management measures for each risk. These are further included in the Project Document for appropriate measures to be taken duren the project implementation.

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) required? No

If yes, please indicate the status?

Comments (10000 Characters maximum)

Site-specific ESIA might be required as per the national requirements.

Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) required? No

If yes, please indicate the status?

Comments (10000 Characters maximum)

Management Plans Status: Incomplete

Are management plans required? (Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk portfolio MYWPs/projects)

Targeted management plan(s) required? Yes

If yes, please indicate the status of required management plan(s)?

Comments (for instance, please indicate the type of management plan) (10000 Characters maximum)

Targeted management plans are included as part of the Project Document's Risk Log, as further described in the SESP under section Risk and Treatments.

Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) required? No

If yes, please indicate the status?

Comments (10000 Characters maximum)

Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) required? No

If yes, please indicate the status?

Comments (10000 Characters maximum)

Identified Risks & Treatments:

Principle & Standard: Standard 1 : Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Risk Significance: Moderate

Triggered Principles: ✓

Risk Significance: Moderate

Event:

There is a risk that invasive alien species will be introduced and spread, threatening local ecosystems and biodiversity.

Causes:

The project's activities, such as, development of the nursery, afforestation, pasture rehabilitation, and agroforestry, may unintentionally introduce invasive alien species (IAS).

Impact:

Non-native species could outcompete local flora, disrupt ecosystems, and reduce biodiversity. For example, fast-growing tree species or non-native fodder plants could harm soil health and water availability, while invasive species in community forestry en

RELATED TREATMENTS(1)

ACTIVITIES FOR TREATMENT	EXPECTED EFFECT	TIME PLAN FOR COMPLETE	STATUS	C(
The selection of species for afforestation and forest nurseries will follow national technical guidelines to ensure ecological suitability and prevent invasive species. Some non-native species (e.g., Robinia spp., Gleditsia spp., Pinus nigra, Sophora japonica) have been acclimatized for over 70 years and successfully coexist with native species in degraded areas without disrupting ecosystems. For grassland improvement, the process will adhere to relevant regulations and recommendations, ensuring the use of appropriate herbaceous species (e.g., Poa pratensis, Lolium perenne, Agrostis stolonifera, Bromus inermis).		2/28/2029	Not Started	

Risk Significance: Low

Event:

There is a risk that the project's afforestation activities on degraded lands and landslide-prone areas will impact communities that rely on these areas for harvesting forest resources.

Causes:

The project will promote afforestation on degraded lands and landslides. Use of forest resources is practiced in the entire country.

Impact:

Which may result in reduced availability of resources for local communities, potential livelihood disruptions, and conflicts over land use.

RELATED TREATMENTS(1)

ACTIVITIES FOR TREATMENT	EXPECTED EFFECT	TIME PLAN FOR COMPLETE	STATUS	C
Afforestation activities will be designed to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem services of degraded areas. In addition, the Project will provide trainings for alternative income generation and sustainable forest practices (supporting the change of current collection techniques of forestry products such as seeds, medicinal plants, fruits, mushrooms and berries). In the Republic of Moldova, the State Ecological Inspectorate, which performs the state ecological expertise and control, cooperates with Agency Moldsilva on identifying and preventing forest contraventions. LPAs		2/28/2029	Ongoing	

RELATED TREATMENTS(1)				
ACTIVITIES FOR TREATMENT	EXPECTED EFFECT	TIME PLAN FOR COMPLETE	STATUS	C
also have the responsibility of controls according to the order no. 50 of 03.21.2011 “Regarding the control of the condition of forest belts and forestland managed by local public authorities”				

Principle & Standard: Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security

Risk Significance: Moderate

Triggered Principles: ✓

Risk Significance: Moderate

Event:

There is a risk that construction activities will expose workers and communities to health and safety hazards.

Causes:

As a result of contractors hired to undertake construction works not taking sufficient worker health and safety procedures or measures to protect the public from safety risks.

Impact:

Which could result in potential injuries, illnesses, or fatalities, as well as disruptions to local communities and project operations.

RELATED TREATMENTS(1)				
ACTIVITIES FOR TREATMENT	EXPECTED EFFECT	TIME PLAN FOR COMPLETE	STATUS	C
These risks, including traffic safety and worker health and safety, are well known and effective management measures are available to reduce risks to acceptable		2/28/2029	Ongoing	

RELATED TREATMENTS(1)				
ACTIVITIES FOR TREATMENT	EXPECTED EFFECT	TIME PLAN FOR COMPLETE	STATUS	C
levels. UNDP Country Office has put in place safe work and personal security practices for their operations in Moldova based on the minimum requirements for UN operations globally. UNDP activities, and those of any organizations contracted by UNDP, will implement and adhere to all UNDP country office security and safe work practices. Project activities controlled by government entities will adhere to government safety standards and protocols. Contractors will be required to implement mitigation measures assigned to contractor as specified in the site specific ESIA, permits and approvals, and UNDPs standard terms and conditions for contractors. Effective management measures are available to reduce risks to acceptable levels. UNDP Moldova Country Office has in place procurement process that require contractors to implement environmental, health, and safety management procedures to address site-specific conditions of approval, country law, and UNDP standards. UNDP activities, and those of any organizations contracted by UNDP, will implement and				

RELATED TREATMENTS(1)				
ACTIVITIES FOR TREATMENT	EXPECTED EFFECT	TIME PLAN FOR COMPLETE	STATUS	C
adhere to all UNDP country office security and safe work practices. Project activities controlled by government entities will adhere to government safety standards and protocols.				

Principle & Standard: Human Rights

Risk Significance: Low

Triggered Principles:

Risk Significance: Low

Event:

There is a risk that marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, will have limited access to resources and basic services, and to decision-making.

Causes:

Afforestation, agroforestry, and pasture rehabilitation may restrict traditional land-use practices, impacting livelihoods, including of the marginalized groups

Impact:

Which will result in sustained or increased social and economic inequalities, reduced quality of life, and further marginalization of these communities.

RELATED TREATMENTS(1)				
ACTIVITIES FOR TREATMENT	EXPECTED EFFECT	TIME PLAN FOR COMPLETE	STATUS	C
Ensuring inclusive land-use planning is essential to balancing afforestation, pasture rehabilitation, and traditional land use while safeguarding the rights and livelihoods of marginalized groups, including women,		2/28/2029	Ongoing	

RELATED TREATMENTS(1)				
ACTIVITIES FOR TREATMENT	EXPECTED EFFECT	TIME PLAN FOR COMPLETE	STATUS	C
small-scale farmers, and persons with disabilities. The project will adopt a participatory approach, engaging local communities in land-use mapping and decision-making to ensure that all stakeholders, particularly vulnerable groups, have a voice in shaping land allocation and management. By working closely with local authorities and governance institutions, the project will promote equitable land-use agreements that prevent displacement and strengthen community ownership of afforestation and agroforestry initiatives. To enhance accessibility and inclusivity, the project will provide accessible venues, materials, and outreach services, such as mobile consultation units, to ensure that persons with disabilities and those in remote areas can participate in decision-making.				

Principle & Standard: Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency

Risk Significance: Low

Triggered Principles:

Risk Significance: Low

Event:

There is a risk that construction activities will require use of fuels and other hazardous materials, generate noise and air emissions, and generate inert wastes.

Causes:

As a result of the project potentially financing small scale construction works, such as nursery establishment, etc.

Impact:

Which may result in potential soil and water contamination, air pollution, health risks for workers and nearby communities, and environmental degradation.

RELATED TREATMENTS(1)

ACTIVITIES FOR TREATMENT	EXPECTED EFFECT	TIME PLAN FOR COMPLETE	STATUS	C
All physical works will be screened and where potential risks are identified a site-specific management plan prepared. Where required by host country law an EIA approval will be secured, as well as any other permits governing pollution prevention such as permits to discharge or dispose of wastes. Effective management measures are available to reduce risks to acceptable levels. UNDP Moldova Country Office has in place procurement process that require contractors to implement environmental, health, and safety management procedures to address site-specific conditions of approval, country law, and UNDP standards. UNDP activities, and those of any organizations contracted by UNDP, will implement and adhere to all UNDP country office security and safe work		2/28/2029	Ongoing	

RELATED TREATMENTS(1)				
ACTIVITIES FOR TREATMENT	EXPECTED EFFECT	TIME PLAN FOR COMPLETE	STATUS	C
practices. Project activities controlled by government entities will adhere to government safety standards and protocols.				

Questionnaire:

Step 1 - Integrate the SES Programming Principles Status: Complete

QUESTION 1: How Does the Portfolio MYWP/Project Integrate the Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?

Briefly describe in the space below how the portfolio MYWP/project mainstreams the human rights-based approach (32000 Characters maximum)

The project mainstreams a human rights-based approach (HRBA) by promoting gender equality, social inclusion, and equitable access to resources, skills, and decision-making opportunities for rural women in Moldova. Through targeted training, participatory governance models, and economic empowerment, the project ensures the meaningful participation of women, particularly those from vulnerable groups, in sustainable forest and pasture management.

Key HRBA Principles Integrated into the Project:

Participation and Inclusion: The project actively involves rural women in decision-making processes related to natural resource management and community-based enterprises. Gender-sensitive training and governance initiatives empower women to take leadership roles.

Equality and Non-Discrimination: The project targets women and girls, including those from marginalized communities, ensuring they have access to training, financial resources, and sustainable livelihoods in the forestry and agricultural sectors.

Accountability and Transparency: Capacity-building activities enhance the ability of women-led enterprises to engage with institutions, ensuring policy frameworks reflect gender-sensitive and climate-resilient strategies.

Sustainability and Empowerment: The establishment of community-based forest enterprises and agroforestry handbooks provides long-term economic opportunities for women, reducing economic vulnerability and strengthening resilience to climate change.

Social and Environmental Screening Considerations:

The project's activities contribute to environmental sustainability by promoting afforestation, pasture rehabilitation, and ecosystem-based agroforestry. Potential social risks, such as unequal access to resources or exclusion from decision-making, are mitigated through gender-sensitive training, inclusive governance structures, and financial support mechanisms tailored to women entrepreneurs. The project aligns with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES), ensuring that interventions do not cause harm but rather enhance environmental and social well-being.

Briefly describe in the space below how the portfolio MYWP/project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment (32000 Characters maximum)

The project directly contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment by enhancing rural women's access to resources, skills, leadership opportunities, and economic independence in the forestry and agricultural sectors.

Key Ways the Project Improves Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

Capacity Building & Leadership: Gender-sensitive training programs on climate-smart agriculture, sustainable forest management, and agroforestry equip women with technical knowledge and leadership skills, increasing their participation in decision-making processes.

Economic Empowerment: The establishment of community-based forest enterprises and improved access to finance enable women to create sustainable income sources, reducing economic disparities and fostering financial independence.

Increased Participation in Governance: Inclusive governance initiatives promote women's leadership in forestry and pasture management, ensuring their voices are heard in policy and decision-making.

Access to Education & Employment: By strengthening specialized educational institutions and implementing business support programs, the project enhances women's employability and ability to engage in higher-value markets.

Climate Resilience & Sustainable Livelihoods: The project integrates gender-responsive approaches into climate-smart agriculture and afforestation efforts, ensuring women benefit from and contribute to sustainable land management practices.

Overall, the project creates an enabling environment where women can actively participate, lead, and thrive in climate-resilient and economically viable sectors.

Briefly describe in the space below how the portfolio MYWP/project mainstreams sustainability and resilience (32000 Characters maximum)

The project mainstreams sustainability and resilience by integrating climate-smart, gender-responsive, and community-driven approaches into forestry and agriculture, ensuring long-term environmental, economic, and social benefits.

Key Sustainability and Resilience Strategies:

Environmental Sustainability: The project promotes afforestation, pasture rehabilitation, and ecosystem-based agroforestry, restoring degraded lands and enhancing biodiversity while ensuring sustainable resource management.

Economic Resilience: By establishing community-based forest enterprises and strengthening women's access to finance and markets, the project fosters long-term income-generating opportunities, reducing economic vulnerability.

Social and Institutional Resilience: Capacity-building initiatives empower women with skills, leadership, and decision-making roles in forestry and agriculture, ensuring their active participation in governance and resource management.

Climate Adaptation & Mitigation: Training on climate-smart agriculture and sustainable land management helps rural women adopt practices that enhance resilience to climate change impacts, reducing risks associated with extreme weather events.

Policy and Systemic Change: Strengthening educational institutions, governance structures, and financial mechanisms ensures that sustainability and resilience are embedded in national frameworks, fostering long-term impact beyond the project's lifespan.

By integrating these elements, the project ensures that rural women, their communities, and local ecosystems are better equipped to withstand socio-economic and climate-related challenges.

Briefly describe in the space below how the portfolio MYWP/project strengthens accountability to stakeholders (32000 Characters maximum)

As part of UNDP's quality assurance role, UNDP requires adherence to the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards ("SES")1 for project activities implemented using funds channeled through UNDP's accounts. The SES objectives are to: (i) strengthen the social and environmental outcomes of programmes and Projects; (ii) avoid adverse impacts to people and the environment; (iii) minimize, mitigate, and manage adverse impacts where avoidance is not possible; (iv) strengthen UNDP and partner capacities for managing social and environmental risks; and (v) ensure full and effective stakeholder engagement, including through a mechanism to respond to complaints from project-affected people.

The Standards are underpinned by an Accountability Mechanism with two key functions:

A Stakeholder Response Mechanism that ensures individuals, peoples, and communities affected by UNDP projects have access to appropriate procedures for hearing and addressing project-related grievances; and,

A Compliance Review process to respond to claims that UNDP is not in compliance with UNDP's social and environmental policies.

The proposal will not support activities that do not comply with national law and obligations under international law, whichever is the higher standard. In the framework of this proposal support will be provided to the Government of Moldova to adhere to their human rights obligations and empower individuals and groups, to realize their rights and to ensure that they fully participate in implementation of the project proposal.

Step 2.1 - SES Risk Screening Checklist (Programming Principles)

Status: Complete

Human Rights

P.1 Have local communities or individuals raised human rights concerns regarding the portfolio MYWP/project (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	No
P.2 Is there a risk that duty-bearers (e.g. government agencies) do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the portfolio MYWP/project?	No
P.3 Is there a risk that rights-holders (e.g. persons affected by programming activities) do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	No

Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:

P.4 Adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	No
P.5 Inequitable or discriminatory impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities?	No
P.6 Restrictions in availability, quality of and/or access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities?	Yes
P.7 Exacerbation of conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to affected communities and individuals?	No

Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

P.8 Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the portfolio MYWP/project, (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	No

Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:

P.9 Adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	No
P.10 Reproducing discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	No

P.11 Limitations on women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services?	No
P.12 Exacerbation of risks of gender-based violence?	No

Sustainability and Resilience: Screening questions regarding risks associated with sustainability and resilience are encompassed by the Standard-specific questions below
Accountability

Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:

P.13 Exclusion of any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups and excluded individuals (including persons with disabilities), from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	Yes
P.14 Grievances or objections from potentially affected stakeholders?	No
P.15 Risks of retaliation or reprisals against stakeholders who express concerns or grievances, or who seek to participate in or to obtain information on the project/portfolio?	No

Step 2.2 - SES Risk Screening Checklist (Standards) Status: Complete

Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management

Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:

1.1 Adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services?	No
1.2 Activities within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including (but not limited to) legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	No
1.3 Changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods?	No
1.4 Risks to endangered species?	No
1.5 Exacerbation of illegal wildlife trade?	No
1.6 Introduction of invasive alien species?	No
1.7 Adverse impacts on soil?	No
1.8 Harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	Yes
1.9 Significant agricultural production?	No
1.10 Animal husbandry or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	No

1.11 Significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water?	No
1.12 Handling or utilization of genetically modified organisms/living modified organisms?	No
1.13 Utilization of genetic resources?	No
1.14 Adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No

Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks

Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:

2.1 Areas subject to hazards such as earthquakes, floods, landslides, severe winds, storm surges, tsunami or volcanic eruptions?	No
2.2 Outputs and outcomes sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change or disasters	No
2.3 Direct or indirect increases in vulnerability to climate change impacts or disaster risks now or in the future (also known as maladaptive or negative coping practices)?	No
2.4 Increases of greenhouse gas emissions, black carbon emissions or other drivers of climate change?	No

Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security

Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:

3.1 Construction and/or infrastructure development (e.g. roads, buildings, dams)?	No
3.2 Air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, injuries, physical hazards, poor surface water quality due to runoff, erosion, sanitation?	Yes
3.3 Harm or losses due to failure of structural elements of the programming activities (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)?	No
3.4 Risks of water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g. temporary breeding habitats), communicable and noncommunicable diseases, nutritional disorders, mental health?	No
3.5 Transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	Yes
3.6 Adverse impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem services relevant to communities' health (e.g. food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)?	No
3.7 Influx of portfolio MYWP/project workers to targeted areas?	No
3.8 Engagement of security personnel to protect facilities and property or to support portfolio MYWP/project activities?	No

Standard 4: Cultural Heritage

Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:

4.1 Activities adjacent to or within a Cultural Heritage site?	No
4.2 Significant excavations, demolitions, movement of earth, flooding or other environmental changes?	No
4.3 Adverse impacts to sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: portfolio MYWPs/projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	No
4.4 Alterations to landscapes and natural features with cultural significance?	No
4.5 Utilization of tangible and/or intangible forms (e.g. practices, traditional knowledge) of Cultural Heritage for commercial or other purposes?	No

Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement

Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:

5.1 Temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement (including people without legally recognizable claims to land)?	No
5.2 Economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions - even in the absence of physical relocation)?	No
5.3 Risk of forced evictions?	No
5.4 Impacts on or changes to land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	No

Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples

Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:

6.1 Areas where indigenous peoples are present (including project area of influence)?	No
6.2 Activities located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.3 Impacts (positive or negative) to the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, whether the programming activities are located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the affected peoples, or whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question)?	No
6.4 The absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	No
6.5 The utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No

6.6 Forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources?	No
6.7 Adverse impacts on the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	No
6.8 Risks to the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No
6.9 Impacts on the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?	No

Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions

Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to: (note: applies to portfolio MYWP, project and contractor workers)

7.1 Working conditions that do not meet national labour laws and international commitments?	No
7.2 Working conditions that may deny freedom of association and collective bargaining?	No
7.3 Use of child labour?	No
7.4 Use of forced labour?	No
7.5 Discriminatory working conditions and/or lack of equal opportunity?	No
7.6 Occupational health and safety risks due to physical, chemical, biological and psychosocial hazards (including violence and harassment) throughout the portfolio MYWP/project life-cycle?	No

Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency

Would the portfolio MYWP/project potentially involve or lead to:

8.1 The release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	No
8.2 The generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	Yes
8.3 The manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous materials and/or chemicals?	No
8.4 The use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs?	No
8.5 The application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	No
8.6 Significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No