2. Social and Environmental Screening Template [English] [French] [Spanish]

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Community Action for Sustainable Forests (CASFor)
2. Project Number (i.e. Quantum project ID, PIMS+)	01005062
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Cambodia
4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Implementation
5. Date	December 2025

Part A. Integrating Programming Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?
Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams the human rights-based approach
The reduced resilience of the forest ecosystems due to land degradation and deforestation has an impact on the community lives and livelihoods, especially for climate vulnerable communities with limited adaptive capacity. The project will contribute to the right to decent work as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A key component of its theory of change is that if communities have increased capacities to manage businesses and access alternative resources, then community-led forest user groups will be able to manage and improve their livelihoods sustainably and in the long term. By promoting sustainable resource management, livelihoods and good forest governance and monitoring, the project will also contribute to the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as recognized by the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council. The project will specifically contribute to revisions, reviews and publications of the legal framework. Moreover, the project is expected to contribute to mainstreaming the interest of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC) by ensuring that IPs, CFs and CPAs are able to economically benefit from the community-based forest management.
Briefly describe in the space below how the project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment
Project activities have a strong focus on advancing gender equality, considering the specific country context of Cambodia. The project will actively contribute to gender mainstreaming across relevant policies and monitor specific indicators, including a number of gender-sensitive multistakeholder dialogues supported under the project. Women in Cambodia are highly vulnerable to the land use changes associated with planned or unplanned deforestation, the allocation of ELCs and illegal logging. This is because women and girls engage in a wider range of activities in agriculture and forestry to bridge gaps in income and compensate for transitory food shortages. The loss of access to natural resources undermines economic coping mechanisms, increases their poverty and can jeopardize the food security of rural households. Unclear land tenure also hurts women, who may have little or no knowledge of land laws, land tenure requirements, land titling procedures and have little access to legal aid in disputes. To address these challenges, the project will incorporate specific gendered components into its activities such as: • Ensuring balanced gender representation in capacity building activities, and including specific activities targeting the engagement of women in technical capacity building, to mitigate the risk that those who benefit the most from enhanced livelihood resilience are not inadvertently excluded from trainings; • Including gender considerations in analyses undertaken by the project, especially technical assessments of sustainable financing models and private sector engagement strategies.

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Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams sustainability and resilience
The CASFor project mainstreams sustainability and resilience by embedding capacity development at its core, targeting both national institutions and local communities. It strengthens institutional capacities, particularly within MoE and MAFF, by supporting legal reforms, enhancing forest governance, and promoting sustainable livelihoods. The project ensures long-term ownership and continuity of interventions through climate finance mobilization for CBFM. It also supports forest monitoring systems that improve transparency and data-driven decision-making, helping Cambodia meet international environmental reporting obligations. The project aligns with national strategies such as the National REDD+ Strategy, Climate Change Strategic Plan, and Biodiversity Action Plan, contributing to climate mitigation, land restoration, and biodiversity conservation. Digital solutions like CEMIS, a geo-spatial platform currently under the development with UNDP support, enable efficient monitoring and reporting, empowering stakeholders with evidence-based insights for sustainable landscape governance. These combined efforts foster resilience to climate change and promote inclusive, environmentally sound development.
Briefly describe in the space below how the project strengthens accountability to stakeholders
Primary stakeholders of UNDP-components/outputs of the project are officers from the General Directorate of Local Community (GDLC) and Environmental Knowledge and Information (GDEKI) of Ministry of Environment, as well as staff from other government institutions such as the Forestry Administration (FA) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), MRV/REL technical team, REDD+ taskforce, academic and research institutions, technical forestry staff, NGOs, CSOs, and community members. Stakeholders are notably the persons and institutions that will be involved in the management of Cambodia's CEMIS and CPA/CF management in the future. They will be trained on basic and advanced concepts to assess forest resources and monitor the impact of CBFM and in the operationalization of sustainable financing options for integrated landscape management and CBFM. UNDP is committed to ensuring meaningful, effective and informed participation of stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of UNDP projects.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? *Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.*	QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks? *Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5below before proceeding to Question 5*			QUESTION 6: Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High
Risk Description (broken down by event, cause, impact)	*Impact and Likelihood (1-5)*	*Significance (Low, Moderate Substantial, High)*	*Comments (optional)*	*Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High*
1. Weak governance and capacity within all institutions can result in concentration of power and benefits by the elite and men. This leads to project activities being delayed, planned results not being achieved, and project impact being limited. This is specifically important in the design and implementation of opportunities regarding benefit-sharing mechanisms.	I = 4 L = 1	Low		Continuous self-assessment, training on governance, strong monitoring and learning systems help foster inclusion, transparency and good governance. Special focus will be on ensuring gender equality and increasing respective capacities within partner structures and processes.
2. Lack of capacity, awareness of policy-related activities and limited access to information on decision-making processes can lead to the	I = 3 L = 1	Low		Marginalized groups—particularly women, youth, and Indigenous Peoples—will be meaningfully included in all aspects of project implementation. This includes participation in decision-making

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exclusion of any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalised groups and excluded individuals (including persons with disabilities), from fully participating in decisions that may affect them.				processes, access to capacity-building opportunities, and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms. The project establishes facilitation processes and safeguards to empower these groups to contribute to decision-making processes.		
	QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?					
	Low Risk	x				
	Moderate Risk	☐				
	Substantial Risk	☐				
	High Risk	☐				
	QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)					
	Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects					
	Is assessment required? (check if "yes")	☐			*Status? (completed, planned)*	
	if yes, indicate overall type and status		☐	Targeted assessment(s)		
			☐	ESIA (Environmental and Social Impact Assessment)		
			☐	SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment)		
	Are management plans required? (check if "yes)	☐				
	If yes, indicate overall type		☐	Targeted management plans (e.g. Gender Action Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Waste Management Plan, others)		
			☐	ESMP (Environmental and Social Management Plan which may include range of targeted plans)		
			☐	ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework)		
	Based on identified risks, which Principles/Project- level Standards triggered?		Comments (not required)			
	Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind	☐				
	Human Rights	☐				

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	Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	☐	
	Accountability	☐	
	1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	☐	
	2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks	☐	
	3. Community Health, Safety and Security	☐	
	4. Cultural Heritage	☐	
	5. Displacement and Resettlement	☐	
	6. Indigenous Peoples	☐	
	7. Labour and Working Conditions	☐	
	8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	☐	

Final Sign Off

Final Screening at the design-stage is not complete until the following signatures are included

Signature	***Date***	***Description***
QA Assessor (Mr. Sovanny Chhum)		UNDP staff member responsible for the project, typically a UNDP Programme Officer. Final signature confirms they have "checked" to ensure that the SESP is adequately conducted.
QA Approver (Mr. Shakeel Ahmad)		UNDP senior manager, typically the UNDP Deputy Country Director (DCD), Country Director (CD), Deputy Resident Representative (DRR), or Resident Representative (RR). The QA Approver cannot also be the QA Assessor. Final signature confirms they have "cleared" the SESP prior to submittal to the PAC.

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