ANNEX E. SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING TEMPLATE

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Conserving biodiversity and reducing land degradation using a Ridge-to-Reef approach
2. Project Number	5862
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	St Vincent and the Grenadines

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

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Overarching 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 rights of local stakeholders will be ensured through the development of stakeholder participatory plans developed through consultative processes during the PPG phase and implemented throughout the project cycle. Equity amongst stakeholders is ensured by the national consultative processes and established criteria used for selection of target sites for project interventions which are outlined in Annex K, and target beneficiary groups that will be selected through a participatory approach during Project implementation (Output 3.3). The project, through its interventions, will promote environmental and social sustainability for local stakeholders, especially socially and economically vulnerable and marginalized populations. Some of these interventions include: a) Increased awareness by farmers about climate smart agriculture, protected areas, watershed management as well of biodiversity and conservation values; b) participatory management planning (gender inclusive) for PAs and integrated watersheds natural resource management planning, c) Implementation of SLM and biodiversity friendly production practices, amongst others. There are no indigenous peoples in the project intervention areas or that may be impacted by indirect, secondary, or induced impacts from this project.
Briefly describe in the space below how the Project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment
The project gender action plan will ensure that gender issues are integrated into the entire project cycle including project preparation, formulation and implementation ensuring that gender equality and women's empowerment are fully actioned. The project will further ensure that all project activities, social impact indicators and corresponding targets are gender-sensitive and that women and men receive equitable share of benefits. The project with further ensure that women participate in all of the project activities, such as SVG Network of Rural Producers, including decision making, their status and interests are not marginalized or diminished, and that women or their representatives are able to present their interests effectively thereby empowering women in the natural resources sector. The Project communication strategy will be developed to ensure that information disseminated by the project reaches women equally and specifically addresses their concerns and interests, i.e. that women have an equal access to information. The Project will also engage a Community Outreach Specialist that will work with the Project Gender Specialist to ensure that women, including women in rural communities, are engaged in both the consultative process and are provided opportunities to benefit from Project related activities and incentives, including Project supported sustainable livelihood initiatives.
Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams environmental sustainability

The project will support practices that incorporate BD and LD into the agricultural sector and into integrated watershed planning and management, working with both local producers and national institutions to strengthen capacity for SLM, CSA and BD conservation. BD will also be mainstreamed into strengthened multi-sectoral policies and legal / regulatory frameworks for integrated land use planning, both nationally and within the target landscapes, to minimize land degradation and maximize environmental sustainability. Furthermore, the Project will support the strengthening of capacity at the producer and agro-processor level (including women) that will further support mainstreaming of environmental sustainability into production practices. The Forestry Service, through project support for resources (i.e. satellite images and drone technology), will be supported to maintain PA borders and monitor these boundaries, including those in more inaccessible areas, over time.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks?	**QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks?**			**QUESTION 6: What social and environmental assessment and management measures have been conducted and/or are required to address potential risks (for Risks with Moderate and High Significance)?**
Risk Description	***Impact and Probability (1-5)***	***Significance (Low, Moderate, High)***	***Comments***	***Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.***
Risk 1: There is a risk that limited institutional capacities might limit the project impact in terms of BD conservation and SLM in the target landscape. *Principle 1 (Q5). There is a risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project.*	I = 3 P = 3	Moderate	The Project will be positively impacting capacities and the Project's positive impact biodiversity conservation and SLM. An assessment during the PPG phase shows that there are constraints in capacities. Individual capacities exist, but institutional capacities in terms of insufficient financial resources and understaffing are present. Because there are existing individual capacities amongst key institutional stakeholders, the potential impact of the risk would be 3 (I = 3). The probability would be 3 because of the presence of individual capacities within key institutions and because limited institutional capacities (insufficient resources and staffing) exist in only some of the institutions supporting implementation of the Project.	Project activities will strengthen capacities of national institutions. The project will positively impact capacity. The project will finance capacity strengthening at the institutional, community and producer level. Targeted capacity building will be based on capacity needs identification during the PPG phase, and a detailed capacity needs assessment and capacity development plan to be developed during year 1 of project implementation (Output 1.5). This capacity needs assessment and capacity development plan will also address capacity gaps identified in the Capacity Development Scorecard, including low capacities for management and implementation, to generate, access and use information and knowledge, for strategy, policy and legislation development and for monitoring and evaluating. Training will be implemented to address priority capacity needs identified

				during the capacity needs to support the achievement of project outputs and outcomes (see output 1.5). Furthermore, measures to address potential risks of capacity constraints are embedded into the project design. Measures will be put in place to avoid any potential risk associated with implementing SLM measures (i.e. reforestation) on steep slopes. Though a risk is of a small scope (area), the Project will be implementing guidelines and supervision by specialist during implementation of reforestation activities to ensure measures implemented only enhance slope stability (see output 3.1 and budget note 19).
Risk 2: Women might not fully participate and contribute to design and implementation and might not have equal access to project benefits. *Principle 2 (Q2). There is a risk that the Project may potentially reproduce discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?*	I = 3 P =2	Low	Women are involved in agriculture, where approximately 30% of farmers and over 50% of agroprocessors are women, thus the potential impact would be 3 (I=3). The probability would be 2 (P=2) because women participate in the sector and have and will be concerned and interested in the project proposal and project activities. Though women not fully participating or contributing to design and implementation and not having equal rights to project benefits would negatively affect the positive impacts, in this Project it is a low risk.	Project activities will ensure that both women and men are able to participate meaningfully and equitably, have equitable access to Programme and Project resources, and receive comparable social and economic benefits. The Project will also promote gender equality and the empowerment of women and will seek to reduce gender inequalities in access to and control over resources and the benefits of the Project Programmes and Projects, also furthering the availability of gender disaggregated socio-economic and livelihood data.
Risk 3: Project activities will take place within and adjacent to critical habitats and environmentally sensitive areas (proposed PA) *Principle 3 (Q1.2). Project activities are proposed within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities*	I = 1 P = 3	Low	All Project activities have been designed to improve environmental sustainability and to preserve conserve biodiversity. Project activities to implement SLM on steep slopes are to reduce land degradation and the negative impacts of sedimentation, are of a small scale (ha) with minimal potential to cause adverse impacts (Risk 1 above). Species census, biodiversity assessments, and IAS control to reduce threats to key species in critical habitats are also all designed to ensure only net positive impacts to biodiversity and will all be implemented by biodiversity specialists. The potential impact is one (I = 1), and the probability is 3 because only a portion of the Project activities will be taking place within or	The Project uses the precautionary approach to natural resource conservation and the Project design is based on avoidance of potential adverse environmental impact, which includes avoidance of any activity detrimental to critical habitats and environmentally sensitive areas.

			adjacent to these environmentally sensitive areas or critical habitats. See also Risk 4 related to reforestation activities.	
Risk 4: The project will support active reforestation of degraded areas in and outside of the proposed PA. Principle 3 (Q1.6). The Project does involve harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation	I = 1 P = 5	Low	Active reforestation of degraded areas will have a net positive impact on biodiversity conservation and on overall environmental sustainability and will reduce land degradation. The Project will support small scale reforestation efforts using BD- and LD-friendly practices and only native species, and conversion of non-native / agroforestry plantation to native species in and adjacent to the proposed PA and critical habitats. No harvesting of natural forests or plantation development will take place. Reforestation activities will take place (P = 5) within the proposed protected area (Forest Reserve) and only use native species, will support conservation aims and effective management of the area as identified by government managers, with no measurable adverse impacts on the criteria or biodiversity values for which the critical habitat was designated, and on the ecological processes supporting those biodiversity values. Outside of the proposed PA and critical habitats, reforestation of degraded areas will use both native species and / or multi strata mixed agroforestry systems to improve LD and BD in non-sensitive areas. No invasive species will be used. The impact level is assessed as 1 because of the techniques and species being used (only native species in and adjacent to the PA and critical habitats, no invasive species anywhere) (Output 3.1 & Budget note 19).	Project activities are based on a Project design aiming at avoiding adverse environmental impacts and activities that do not support environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation.
Risk 5: The Project involves the harvesting of the exotic invasive Indo-Pacific Lionfish *Pterois volitans* within the proposed marine PA. *Principle 3 (Q1.7) The Project involves the production and/or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species*	I = 1 P = 5	Low	The Project will be engaging in the removal of only this highly invasive exotic species and predator (P = 5) which can only improve marine biodiversity by reducing predation, and as such, the potential impact of this activity is 1 (I = 1).	All Project activities have been designed to improve environmental sustainability and preserve biodiversity.
Risk 6: The Project involves the grading of an existing government dirt access road to	I = 1 P = 5	Low	Road maintenance activities will take place (P=5) but will be of very limited impact (I = 1) as the Forestry	As described in Risk 3 (above), the Project adopted a precautionary approach to natural

support SLM activities (plantation management) and the building of a hut for CSA interpretation materials. There is a risk that these activities could result in adverse environmental impacts *Principle 3 (Q1.11) Would the Project result in secondary or consequential development activities which could lead to adverse social and environmental effects, or would it generate cumulative impacts with other known existing or planned activities in the area?*			Services (FS) access road is already existing. It is only used by the Forestry Services, and its entrance is controlled by a staffed interpretation center, limiting unintended expanded uses. Furthermore, the scope of this activity is limited spatially (in only one location and over a small area) will take place over a short period of time, thus limiting any potential impacts (i.e. dust, erosion). The interpretation hut is outside of the proposed Forest Reserve and will use existing logs from non-native species previously harvested by the government and is also of limited scope (one location over a small area and over a limited period of time).	resource conservation as promoted by UNDP, and the Project design is based on avoidance of any adverse environmental impact, which includes avoidance of activity detrimental to critical habitats and environmentally sensitive areas.
Risk 7: The project is supporting activities that promote SLM and BD conservation, including increasing the PA estate and biological / landscape connectivity, and climate resilient agricultural practices. However, climate change-related risks and impacts to the Project may take place, including impacts of extreme climatic events (such as heavy rains can cause erosion on steep slopes, landslides and downstream flooding) to Project interventions and outcomes that can potentially have adverse impacts on biodiversity, watershed ecosystem services and livelihoods. *Principle 3 (Q2.2). The potential outcomes of the Project are likely to be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change*	I =3 P = 3	Moderate	The Project is supporting activities that promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management which includes climate resilient agricultural practices. Project activities, such as SLM and CSA, are designed to help reduce the potential impacts of climate change, but the Project outcomes are still vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change, particularly extreme climatic events. The potential impact is 3 (I = 3) because of the steep slopes in Project intervention areas and due to the extent of these slopes in the upper watershed areas. The probability of this risk is 3 (P = 3) because of the observed trends in climate changes with regard to rainfall and recent extreme climatic events (see ProDoc Para 4)	The Project will promote overall ecosystem and community resilience through BD and SLM practices. The project is also supporting an increase in the PA estate and biological connectivity which, through strengthened ecosystem integrity, can increase overall resilience to the impacts of climate change. The increased effective implementation of climate smart agricultural practices will support climate change resilience through, for example, improving effective use of and technical capacity for climate smart agricultural practices that incorporate soil conservation measures (Output 3.2), and SLM measures in the upper watershed areas (Output 3.1) such as reforestation using only native species, planation management and soil conservation, further supported by riverbank stabilization. These activities will strengthen steep degraded slopes through reforestation and soil conservation measures that promote soil stabilization and reduce potential for landslides, erosion, flooding and the impacts to nearshore coastal marine siltation.
Risk 8: The project is supporting government in the development of guidelines for riverbank setbacks, for farmers who cultivate lands close to the riverbank, increasing the likelihood of erosion. There is a risk that these farmers	I = 1 P = 1	Low	Riverbank setbacks, already being implemented by government, are being done with no set guidelines, and while setback might limit the land use options for some farmers over a limited area, this will definitely not lead to any displacement, neither physical nor economic because of the limited scale	All activities will be to improve environmental sustainability and biodiversity conservation, and SLM measures will be to reduce land degradation.

will not be able to cultivate on this portion of their land. *Standard 5 (Q5.2). Would the Project possibly result in 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)?*			(ha) of this activity. As such, the impact will be small (I =1) because only a small proportion of land will be affected, and the probability is also small (P=1) as only a small proportion of farmers will be affected.	

	QUESTION 4: What is the overall Project risk categorization?		
	Select one (see SESP for guidance)		**Comments**
	Low Risk	☐	
	Moderate Risk	☑	Project activities aim to improve BD conservation, reduce land degradation and increase climate resilient agricultural production in environmentally sensitive ways. Project activities will not lead to increases in environmental impacts rather will result in overall positive environmental and social sustainability. However, limited institutional capacities might limit the project impact in terms of BD conservation and SLM in the target landscape. Project activities, such as SLM and CSA are designed to help reduce the potential impacts of climate change, extreme climatic events (such as heavy rains can cause erosion on steep slopes, landslides and downstream flooding) can adversely impact biodiversity, watershed ecosystem services and livelihoods, including those supported through Project activities.
	High Risk	☐	
	QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are relevant?		
	Check all that apply		**Comments**

	Principle 1: Human Rights	X	Limitations in institutional and stakeholder capacity may result in sub-optimal implementation of project interventions. This has been addressed through an initial capacity needs assessment carried out during PPG phase and will be followed by a more thorough capacity needs assessment and capacity development plan, to be developed during Year 1 of Project implementation, which will inform institutional and stakeholder training programmes implemented during the Project.
	Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	X	Project activities may reinforce existing gender disparities. The project will mainstream gender equality through ensuring participatory stakeholder engagement, gender-responsive planning and implementation, integrating gender considerations across all outputs and activities.
	1. Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management	☐	
	2. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	X	Extreme weather events may impact the SLM, BD conservation and CSA activities. However, the Project approach is to support the integration of SLM and CSA approaches into land management and production practices to limit the impacts of climate related events.
	3. Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions	☐	
	4. Cultural Heritage	☐	
	5. Displacement and Resettlement	☐	
	6. Indigenous Peoples	☐	
	7. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	☐	

Final Sign Off

Signature	*Date*	*Description*
QA Assessor		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		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.
PAC Chair		UNDP chair of the PAC. In some cases, PAC Chair may also be the QA Approver. Final signature confirms that the SESP was considered as part of the project appraisal and considered in recommendations of the PAC.