

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Conservation and sustainable management of key globally important ecosystems for multiple benefits
2. Project Number	UNDP PIMS #5696
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Kazakhstan

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

This GEF funded project has been developed in full compliance with a human-rights based approach to development, which is among the main approaches applied to improve the practice of conservation of globally important biodiversity, land and forest resources in Kazakhstan and support to sustainable livelihoods. Improved access to decision making on Protected Areas (PA) development planning, as well as inclusion of local communities in biodiversity monitoring and enforcement will be achieved through enhancing an equitable approach to protected area management with strengthened governance and community-based monitoring and enforcement. The project will support the establishment or expansion of 4-8 national level protected areas, from IUCN category Ia to VI. The proposed protected areas have already been identified and preliminarily approved by government decree. The protected areas will be fully established and gazetted through a comprehensive community-based stakeholder consultation process. Community-level land tenure is codified in national level legal statutes; in most cases land is leased to private individuals on a 49-year long-term basis. Once established the governance of these protected areas will be organized in accordance with the international equitability principle for protected areas, and in accordance with Kazakh national norms. Specifically, community consultation and decision-making mechanisms will be established as part of the management regime for these protected areas. High conservation value forest management will be improved by the revision and updating of forest management plans, which will be implemented through various community-level pilot activities. In all activities the project will identify and respect community usufruct rights, such as grazing access and NTFP collection. All aspects of the project will be subject to UNDP's social and environmental grievance mechanism. All the governmental partners at the national and also at the local districts' and communities levels will be involved in a wide capacity development program, including duty-bearer's obligations on sustainable forest and land management, as well as wildlife conservation. At the local level, the participatory elaboration of district spatial land-use plans involving all right-holders as well as duty-bearers will be organized, involving all interest groups. Additionally, the enabling framework on biodiversity conservation will be duly amended to systemically support capacity development of the national level PA network duty-bearers (but not limited to this only) to assure biodiversity conservation through special management regimes on PA buffer zones and wildlife corridors, also promoting rights-holders rights for sustainable use of this wildlife corridors territory. All the above mentioned human-rights based activities will be supported by the wide national and local levels advocacy and awareness raising campaigns promoting human rights including the universal basic right for a clean and sustainable environment for this and future generations.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project is likely to improve gender equality and women's empowerment

This project document has been developed in compliance with the corresponding “Guide to Gender Mainstreaming in UNDP Supported GEF Financed Projects”. The project development team included a gender-mainstreaming specialist. Gender-mainstreaming aspects will be considered as appropriate as part of all project activities and project governance and decision-making mechanisms. This will include, for example, developing capacities on the systemic, institutional and individual level. Moreover, gender aspects of biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest and land use will be duly incorporated as a separate topic into all training programs of the project. About 30% of all project activity and event participants will be women, which implies a proactive engagement of women in the sector, relative to the current norm. For this, a gender mainstreaming action plan will be developed and annually updated within the project implementation period. Particularly, on the national level, women will be involved in improvement of the enabling environment for biodiversity conservation and sustainable forest and land management, and including the incorporation of gender smart solutions.

At the local level, gender-mainstreaming principles will be incorporated while undertaking site-based pilot and demonstration activities, such community-based afforestation, and village grazing plans. In addition, gender-mainstreaming representatives will be included in in revision and updating of HCVF management regimes, and district integrated land-use management plans.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams environmental sustainability

This GEF funded and UNDP implemented project is aimed to address three main environmental challenges of Kazakhstan: biodiversity conservation and sustainable use in the landscape surrounding protected areas, sustainable land management reducing land degradation, and sustainable forest management. In tackling these three issues the project will contribute both to global and national environmental benefits. In addition, the project will support alternative environmentally sustainable livelihoods at the community level.

To mainstream environmental sustainability the project will work to duly incorporate biodiversity conservation, sustainable forest and land management provisions into national, and more significantly into local development planning in cooperation with the State District Administrations in six targeted districts, as well as at local the community level in the key targeted rural communities. Wildlife corridors will be established around the targeted PAs, corresponding land management regimes will be developed considering biodiversity conservation and sustainable use aspects. Sustainable Forest Management measures, including biodiversity conservation measures and ecological sensitive management approaches for HCVF forests, will be integrated in Forest Management Plans for forestry units surrounding newly established PAs. The project will be working with the pasture management authorities in rural district and village administrations near protected areas to develop pasture management and grazing plans that improve the sustainability of land use, and which take biodiversity considerations into account. Another approach to be introduced by the project is the Targeted Scenario Analysis (TSA) methodology, which supports mainstreaming environmental sustainability by considering the effects of resource management decisions over extended periods of time, and taking externalities into consideration.

The sustainable development aspects of biodiversity conservation, sustainable land and forest use involving local communities will also constitute the core of the project communication strategy and a series of awareness raising activities of the project.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? <i>Note: Describe briefly potential social and environmental risks identified in Attachment 1 – Risk Screening Checklist (based on any “Yes” responses). If no risks have been identified in Attachment 1 then note “No Risks Identified” and skip to Question 4 and Select “Low Risk”. Questions 5 and 6 not required for Low Risk Projects.</i>	QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks? <i>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 6</i>			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.
<u>Risk 1:</u> Principle 1.1 <i>“Could the Project lead to adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups? – YES”</i> Principle 1.2 <i>“Is there a likelihood that the Project would have inequitable or discriminatory adverse impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups? – YES”</i> Principle 1.3 <i>“Could the Project potentially restrict availability, quality of and access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups? – YES”</i>	I = 2 (minor) P = 2 (not likely)	Low	The risk is assessed based on the planned project activities, regardless of mitigation measures, or in consideration of the fact that mitigation measures are an inherent element of the project activities itself. For example, in the establishment of protected areas, an integral part of the process is the engagement of and communication with local communities to ensure the protected area is established in a way that is in as much alignment as possible with local needs and priorities. This process is not a mitigation measure per se, it is a de facto part of the action itself. The project will be working closely with all stakeholders to ensure that stakeholders are adequately consulted and their considerations integrated in the establishment of	NOT REQUIRED FOR LOW RISKS

<p>Principle 2.4 <i>“Would the Project potentially limit 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? – YES”</i></p> <p>Explanation of risk in relation to project: The project will be supporting the establishment of multiple new protected areas. When establishing protected areas, there is always a possibility that this process will result in some modification to the enjoyment of human rights of individuals living near or otherwise using territory to be included in the protected area. In addition, the protected areas are primarily in remote rural areas, and the inhabitants in such regions typically have a higher percentage of people living in poverty, and/or marginalized groups. Therefore there is a risk that the project activities could have an adverse effect on the enjoyment of human rights, and/or possibly restrict availability, quality or access to resources. There is also the risk that the populations affected would include the poor or other marginalized groups, and that these groups would be disproportionately affected by the project activities (due to their inherent proximity to the targeted area).</p>			<p>any protected areas. In any cases where there may be adverse impacts, mitigation and compensation measures will be developed and implemented. The fact that there are many different types of protected areas which convey different levels of protection provides significant flexibility for the project and all stakeholders to ensure that environmental as well as social, economic, and human rights needs and priorities are met. This approach is further combined with the fact that within a single protected area there can be many different zones that allow different levels and types of land-use. The protected areas established will also have permanent community-based management mechanisms in place to facilitate ongoing stakeholder consultation and input to the protected area management process. Based on the remoteness of the areas targeted for new protected areas, and the relatively low levels of population in the vicinity of those areas, any potential impact is considered minor, and the probability is considered not likely. With respect to gender, a gender analysis was undertaken, and an action plan developed, which will be further elaborated and updated at the project inception phase.</p>	
<p>Risk 2:</p> <p>Principle 1.5. <i>“Is there a risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project? – YES”</i></p>	<p>I = 2 (minor) P = 2 (not likely)</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>The risk is assessed based on situation and context that the project will be working in. Although the risks are present, the combination of the impact and</p>	<p>NOT REQUIRED FOR LOW RISKS</p>

<p>Principle 1.6 <i>"Is there a risk that rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights? – YES"</i></p> <p>When working developing countries there is exists a risk that government authorities and responsible parties may not have the full capacity necessary to fulfill their duties in terms of governance, administration, and management of natural resources. In fact, the fact that many projects work to strengthen the individual, institutional, and systemic capacity of natural resource management government agencies is an indicator of the insufficient capacity of these organizations. Therefore, there is a risk that institutional government duty-bearers related to the management of forest ecosystems and land resources do not have the capacity to meet their obligations.</p> <p>Explanation of risk in relation to project: In addition, by the same principle and rationale of the fact that the project will be working on natural resource management issues in rural and remote areas, there is a risk that resource users and other rights holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights. Such resource users living in rural and remote areas may not been fully educated and informed about what their rights are (in this case, in relation to usufruct or other natural resource-related rights), or the procedures to claim those rights. There is a risk that rights holders may not have the legal, self-organizing, or financial means to claim their rights.</p>			<p>probability of the risk is considered low. The fact that there is limited capacity on both the part of the government and rights holders is an inherent element to working on sustainable livelihoods in developing countries; clearly this does not automatically place all such projects in a moderate or high risk category. At the same time, in this project standard procedures will be applied to mitigate the low risk that exists. As with the previous risks, the project will be working closely with all stakeholders to support government natural resource management authorities and institutions to meet their obligations, and with resource user rights holders to claim their rights. This will be accomplished through multiple stakeholder consultation sessions during all relevant aspects of the project to ensure that all parties are aware of and understand the relevant obligations and rights. During the PPG phase, a capacity needs assessment was conducted in relation to the PAs involved in the project, through an aggregate assessment of the METT tracking tools. The weakest item identified through the METT in relation to PA management was for item number 24 of the METT: "24. Local communities: Do local communities resident or near the protected area have input to management decisions?", which had an aggregate score of 1.33 out of total possible of 3. Based on this capacity needs assessment the project will</p>
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			be including special trainings for PA staff on stakeholder engagement and community participation in PA management, in relation to strengthened HCVF management.	
<p>Risk 3:</p> <p>Standard 1.2 <i>“Are any Project activities proposed within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including 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? – YES”</i></p> <p>Standard 1.3 <i>“Does the Project involve changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? – YES”</i></p> <p>Explanation of risk in relation to project: The project specifically targets the conservation and sustainable management of critical habitats, environmentally sensitive areas, and legally protected areas in the forested regions of Kazakhstan. Part of the project objective is the formal gazettement of national level protected areas, which is likely to involve changes to the use of lands and resources, which has the potential for adverse short-term negative impacts on livelihoods; long-term impacts are anticipated to be positive as the project will support transitions to sustainable livelihoods. The project’s actions are anticipated to have positive short-term and long-term impacts on habitats and ecosystems.</p>	<p>I = 1 (negligible)</p> <p>P = 5 (expected)</p>	Low	<p>The risk is assessed based on the actual impact and probability of the activities themselves, without consideration of any potential mitigation measures. The conservation, protection, and sustainable use of these areas is the objective of the project. Therefore, the probability of these risks is “expected”. However, given that the objective of the project is to enhance the environmental and social qualities of these areas, the risk of negative social and environmental impacts is “negligible” (theoretically the project has a high likelihood of <u>positive</u> impacts). Nonetheless, this risk will be consistently monitored throughout project implementation via the standard project management oversight and risk monitoring systems.</p>	NOT REQUIRED FOR LOW RISKS

<p><u>Risk 4:</u></p> <p>Standard 1.6 <i>“Does the Project involve harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation? – YES”</i></p> <p><u>Explanation of risk in relation to project:</u> The planned project activities include small amounts of reforestation / afforestation. There are two activities whereby reforestation / afforestation will be conducted. First, the project will be working with national government authorities and stakeholders, including the FWC and the National Plant Breeding Center, to improve tree nurseries in a small number of selected locations. The purpose of these improved nurseries will be to increase the availability of seedlings for rare species, such as wild fruit and nut relatives, the rare native ash tree <i>Fraxinus sogdiana</i>, and valuable mountain forest species such as Schrenk’s spruce (<i>Picea schrenkiana</i>).</p>	<p>I = 1 (negligible) P = 5 (expected)</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>The risk is assessed based on the impact and probability of the project activities, regardless of any potential or actual planned mitigation measures. However, mitigation measures are also foreseen as an inherent part of the project activity. For example, the project team will work with the partner leskhozos (local forestry services) to ensure ecologically appropriate locations for planting trees, and will use native species (this is the purpose of the activity). The relatively small area of tree planting means that any ecological impact will be minimal, and the overall environmental impact – considering the benefits of the planted trees – is expected to be positive. Kazakhstan’s national forest cover currently stands below its historical average, and it is part of the national forest policy to increase forest cover.</p>	<p>NOT REQUIRED FOR LOW RISKS</p>
<p><u>Risk 5:</u></p> <p><i>“Standard 2.2 Would the potential outcomes of the Project be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change? - YES”</i></p> <p><u>Explanation of risk in relation to project:</u> The project impacts include the conservation of endangered and threatened species, and the improved management of protected areas. These results could be sensitive to changing climatic conditions in the future.</p>	<p>I = 1 (negligible) P = (3 moderately likely)</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>The risk is assessed based on the actual impact and probability related to the project activities, regardless of any potential or actual mitigation measures. The project team will work with all partners and stakeholders to apply the best available climate change impact prediction data for the Kazakhstan’s forested regions, and will ensure that all project activities and plans take potential future climate impacts into consideration. For example, the project will ensure that planted trees are in locations that will continue to have suitable</p>	<p>NOT REQUIRED FOR LOW RISKS</p>

			climate conditions in the future, and will work with protected area management authorities to develop PA management plans for the new PAs that consider potential future climate impacts. In addition the project will assist in developing a methodology for climate change monitoring of woody species in Kazakhstan.	
<p><u>Risk 6:</u></p> <p>Standard 5.2 <i>“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)? – YES”</i></p> <p>Standard 5.4 <i>“Would the proposed Project possibly affect land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources? – YES”</i></p> <p><u>Explanation of risk in relation to project:</u> The project will work to support the establishment of protected areas intended to conserve biodiversity as well as a variety of ecosystem services provided by forest ecosystems in these territories. By the very nature of this activity, as indicated in relation to Risks 1 and 3 above, establishing PAs may result in a change in land and resource use in areas where PAs are established. As a result, this could result in economic displacement. It is not foreseen that the project activities would result in any physical displacement of communities or resource users. The same project activities could also affect land tenure arrangements and/or community-</p>	I = 2 (minor) P = 3 (moderately likely)	Moderate	The risk is assessed based on the actual impact and probability of the project activities, without consideration of potential mitigation measures. Due to the remote areas where the project will be working and the low population densities in these areas, any possible impact due to project activities is expected to be minor, and the probability is moderately likely.	Mitigation measures are inherently included in the scope of the project as part of the execution of project activities. As previously discussed under Risks 1, 2 and 3, the project will constantly work with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that these risks are minimized. In addition, The project will support the establishment of protected areas in accordance with all norms, policies, procedures and laws of Kazakhstan, as well as international norms in relation to land tenure and all associated rights, as well in relation to possible economic displacement related to the establishment of protected areas. In any instances where economic displacement may occur the project will be working with stakeholders to provide compensation, offsetting support, and mitigation in relation to affected resource users.

based property rights or customary rights to land, territories or resources.				
QUESTION 4: What is the overall Project risk categorization?				
Select one (see SESP for guidance)		Comments		
Low Risk				
Moderate Risk	X		<p>All identified potential SESP risks are considered "low" significance except Risk 6, which is rated as moderate. Therefore the overall project is considered moderate risk with respect to SESP issues. The objective of the project specifically includes improvement of environmental and social conditions in the target area, including improved gender mainstreaming.</p> <p>The risk related to indigenous peoples was carefully reviewed during the project development process, with the conclusion that this risk does not apply in the context of this project in Kazakhstan. There are ethnic minorities in Kazakhstan within some of the project areas, but these groups are not considered indigenous peoples.</p>	
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			NOT REQUIRED FOR LOW RISKS	
Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment			NOT REQUIRED FOR LOW RISKS	
1. Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management			NOT REQUIRED FOR LOW RISKS	
2. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation			NOT REQUIRED FOR LOW RISKS	
3. Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions			NOT REQUIRED FOR LOW RISKS	
4. Cultural Heritage			NOT REQUIRED FOR LOW RISKS	

<p>5. Displacement and Resettlement</p>	<p>Standard 5.2 and 5.4 requirements (as per “UNDP Social and Environmental Standards” (2014)):</p> <p><u>Avoid and mitigate physical and economic displacement:</u> <i>UNDP Projects will seek to avoid physical and economic displacement, and mitigate displacement impacts and inherent risks when displacement cannot be avoided. To this end, Projects that may involve displacement will include the following measures and others identified as necessary. While not responsible for implementation of these measures, UNDP will verify and document that these measures have been addressed:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>As part of the social and environmental assessment, identification of Project options (including ‘no action’ and ‘in situ’ options), their potential impacts, and avoidance measures. Assessment will include a survey of potentially affected individuals and communities and an evaluation of their relationship and rights to lands and resources used and occupied.</i> - <i>Public dissemination in accessible form and language of a written justification for the displacement activity and at least 90 days notice to affected persons prior to the date of displacement.</i> - <i>Access to effective remedies and to timely and affordable expertise, including legal counsel, to provide an understanding of rights and options.</i> - <i>Effective and informed consultations with affected populations and good faith efforts to secure negotiated settlements, even when expropriation options are available.</i> - <i>A Resettlement Action Plan or Livelihood Restoration Plan (see paragraphs 9 and 10 of this Standard) to be publicly disclosed at least 90 days prior to displacement activities.</i> - <i>Ex-post evaluation of livelihood levels to examine if objectives of this Standard were met.</i> <p><u>Develop plans for displacement:</u> <i>When physical displacement or economic displacement is unavoidable, UNDP will integrate into the Project documentation a Resettlement Action Plan or Livelihood Action Plan that has been developed transparently with the individuals and communities to be displaced, and meets the objectives of this Standard. All plans will achieve the following aims and incorporate the relevant specific elements listed in paragraphs 9 and 10 of this standard: (i) identify the persons who will be displaced by the Project, determine who will be eligible for compensation and assistance, and discourage ineligible persons from claiming benefits; (ii) identify how the needs and priorities of potentially affected individuals and communities will be met; (iii) ensure that fair and just compensation is provided, prior to displacement, for any losses of personal, real or other property or goods, including rights or interests in property recognized by Applicable Law; (iv) establish an adequate budget and timeframe for displacement activities; (v) establish the entitlements of all categories of affected persons (including host communities); (vi) ensure that support is provided for communities to return to pre-displacement locations or status when possible; (vii) provide particular attention to the needs of the poor and marginalized and avoid discriminatory activities, including against vulnerable and marginalized groups and individuals; (viii) provide to displaced individuals and communities secure access to necessary services, shelter, food, water, energy, and sanitation;</i></p>
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	<p>and (ix) clarify tenure rights and provide secure tenure consistent with Applicable Law; (x) allow for independent monitoring of displacement and resettlement activities; and (xi) support, as appropriate, efforts to progressively realize rights.</p> <p><u>Livelihood Action Plan:</u> Prior to economic displacement (including situations in which access to resources is restricted but no physical relocation is necessary), a Livelihood Action Plan is required that ensures the following:</p> <p>a. Displaced individuals and communities are compensated for loss of assets or loss of access to assets at full replacement cost. Additional considerations include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — In cases where land acquisition or restrictions on land use affect commercial structures, affected business owners will be compensated for the cost of reestablishing commercial activities elsewhere, for lost net income during the period of transition, and for the costs of the transfer and reinstallation of the plant, machinery, or other equipment. — In cases affecting persons with legitimate tenure rights, whether those rights are formal or informal, replacement property (e.g. agricultural or commercial sites) of equal or greater value will be provided. — Economically displaced persons who are without legally recognizable claims to land will be compensated for lost assets other than land (e.g. crops, irrigation infrastructure, other improvements made to the land), at full replacement cost. <p>b. In addition to compensation for lost assets, if any, economically displaced persons whose livelihoods or income levels are adversely affected will also be provided opportunities to improve, or at least restore, their means of income-earning capacity, production levels, and standards of living. An independent review, considering baseline data, will confirm that capacity, production levels and standards of living have been improved or restored. Additional considerations include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — For persons whose livelihoods are land-based, replacement land that has a combination of productive potential, locational advantages, and other factors at least equivalent to that being lost should be offered as a matter of priority. — For persons whose livelihoods are natural resource-based and where Project-related restrictions on access apply, measures will be undertaken to either allow continued access to affected resources or provide access to alternative resources with equivalent livelihood-earning potential and accessibility. Where appropriate, benefits and compensation associated with natural resource usage may be collective in nature. — In Projects involving involuntary restrictions of access to legally designated parks and protected areas, the nature of restrictions, as well as the type of measures necessary to <p>mitigate adverse impacts, will be determined with the participation of potentially displaced</p>
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		<p>persons. Measures to assist the displaced people to improve their livelihoods, or at least restore them, while maintaining the sustainability of the park or protected area, will be identified. Where the parks or protected areas in question involve the lands, resources and territories of indigenous peoples, paragraph 5 also applies.</p> <p>— If circumstances make it difficult for the Project to provide land or resources as described above, and if evidence exists of mutual agreement with affected people for alternative measures, alternative income earning opportunities may be provided, such as credit facilities, training, or employment opportunities.</p> <p>c. Transitional support is provided to displaced persons and communities as necessary, based on a reasonable estimate of the time required to restore their income-earning capacity, production levels, and standards of living.</p>
6. Indigenous Peoples		NOT REQUIRED FOR LOW RISKS
7. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		NOT REQUIRED FOR LOW RISKS

SESP Attachment 1. Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks	
Principles 1: Human Rights	Answer (Yes/No)
1. Could the Project lead to adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	Yes
2. Is there a likelihood that the Project would have inequitable or discriminatory adverse impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups? ¹	Yes
3. Could the Project potentially restrict availability, quality of and access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups?	Yes
4. Is there a likelihood that the Project would exclude any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups, from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	No
5. Is there a risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project?	Yes
6. Is there a risk that rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	Yes
7. Have local communities or individuals, given the opportunity, raised human rights concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process?	No
8. Is there a risk that the Project would exacerbate conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	No
Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	
1. Is there a likelihood that the proposed Project would have adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	No
2. Would the Project potentially reproduce discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	No

¹ Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, gender, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, religion, political or other opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth or other status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority. References to "women and men" or similar is understood to include women and men, boys and girls, and other groups discriminated against based on their gender identities, such as transgender people and transsexuals.

3.	Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process and has this been included in the overall Project proposal and in the risk assessment?	No
4.	Would the Project potentially limit 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? <i>For example, activities that could lead to natural resources degradation or depletion in communities who depend on these resources for their livelihoods and well being</i>	Yes
Principle 3: Environmental Sustainability: Screening questions regarding environmental risks are encompassed by the specific Standard-related questions below		
Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management		
1.1	Would the Project potentially cause adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services? <i>For example, through habitat loss, conversion or degradation, fragmentation, hydrological changes</i>	No
1.2	Are any Project activities proposed within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including 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?	Yes
1.3	Does the Project involve changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? (Note: if restrictions and/or limitations of access to lands would apply, refer to Standard 5)	Yes
1.4	Would Project activities pose risks to endangered species?	No
1.5	Would the Project pose a risk of introducing invasive alien species?	No
1.6	Does the Project involve harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	Yes
1.7	Does the Project involve the production and/or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	No
1.8	Does the Project involve significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? <i>For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction</i>	No
1.9	Does the Project involve utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development)	No
1.10	Would the Project generate potential adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No

1.11	<p>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?</p> <p><i>For example, a new road through forested lands will generate direct environmental and social impacts (e.g. felling of trees, earthworks, potential relocation of inhabitants). The new road may also facilitate encroachment on lands by illegal settlers or generate unplanned commercial development along the route, potentially in sensitive areas. These are indirect, secondary, or induced impacts that need to be considered. Also, if similar developments in the same forested area are planned, then cumulative impacts of multiple activities (even if not part of the same Project) need to be considered.</i></p>	No
Standard 2: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation		
2.1	Will the proposed Project result in significant ² greenhouse gas emissions or may exacerbate climate change?	No
2.2	Would the potential outcomes of the Project be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change?	Yes
2.3	<p>Is the proposed Project likely to directly or indirectly increase social and environmental vulnerability to climate change now or in the future (also known as maladaptive practices)?</p> <p><i>For example, changes to land use planning may encourage further development of floodplains, potentially increasing the population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding</i></p>	No
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions		
3.1	Would elements of Project construction, operation, or decommissioning pose potential safety risks to local communities?	No
3.2	Would the Project pose potential risks to community health and safety due to the transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	No
3.3	Does the Project involve large-scale infrastructure development (e.g. dams, roads, buildings)?	No
3.4	Would failure of structural elements of the Project pose risks to communities? (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)	No
3.5	Would the proposed Project be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme climatic conditions?	No
3.6	Would the Project result in potential increased health risks (e.g. from water-borne or other vector-borne diseases or communicable infections such as HIV/AIDS)?	No

² In regards to CO₂, 'significant emissions' corresponds generally to more than 25,000 tons per year (from both direct and indirect sources). [The Guidance Note on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation provides additional information on GHG emissions.]

3.7	Does the Project pose potential risks and vulnerabilities related to occupational health and safety due to physical, chemical, biological, and radiological hazards during Project construction, operation, or decommissioning?	No
3.8	Does the Project involve support for employment or livelihoods that may fail to comply with national and international labor standards (i.e. principles and standards of ILO fundamental conventions)?	No
3.9	Does the Project engage security personnel that may pose a potential risk to health and safety of communities and/or individuals (e.g. due to a lack of adequate training or accountability)?	No
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage		
4.1	Will the proposed Project result in interventions that would potentially adversely impact sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: Projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	No
4.2	Does the Project propose utilizing tangible and/or intangible forms of cultural heritage for commercial or other purposes?	No
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement		
5.1	Would the Project potentially involve temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement?	No
5.2	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)?	Yes
5.3	Is there a risk that the Project would lead to forced evictions? ³	No
5.4	Would the proposed Project possibly affect land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	Yes
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples		
6.1	Are indigenous peoples present in the Project area (including Project area of influence)?	No
6.2	Is it likely that the Project or portions of the Project will be located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.3	Would the proposed Project potentially affect 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,	No

³ Forced evictions include acts and/or omissions involving the coerced or involuntary displacement of individuals, groups, or communities from homes and/or lands and common property resources that were occupied or depended upon, thus eliminating the ability of an individual, group, or community to reside or work in a particular dwelling, residence, or location without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protections.

	<p>whether the Project is 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)?</p> <p><i>If the answer to the screening question 6.3 is "yes" the potential risk impacts are considered potentially severe and/or critical and the Project would be categorized as either Moderate or High Risk.</i></p>	
6.4	Has there been an 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	Does the proposed Project involve the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.6	Is there a potential for 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	Would the Project adversely affect the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	No
6.8	Would the Project potentially affect the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No
6.9	Would the Project potentially affect the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?	No
Standard 7: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		
7.1	Would the Project potentially result in 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
7.2	Would the proposed Project potentially result in the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	No
7.3	<p>Will the proposed Project potentially involve the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous chemicals and/or materials? Does the Project propose use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs?</p> <p><i>For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Stockholm Conventions on Persistent Organic Pollutants or the Montreal Protocol</i></p>	No
7.4	Will the proposed Project involve the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	No
7.5	Does the Project include activities that require significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No