

UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP)

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Conservation and Sustainable Management of Land Resources and High Nature Value Ecosystems in the Aral Sea Basin for Multiple Benefits
2. Project Number (i.e. Atlas project ID, PIMS+)	<i>PIMS ID 6463</i>
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Turkmenistan
4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Design
5. Date	15 May 2021

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 project fully supports UNDP's commitment to a human-rights based approach, and supports the universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, but particularly in the case of this project, for the people living in the Lower Amu Darya Basin in Turkmenistan's Dashoguz and Lebap Provinces. The project does this broadly by supporting the sustainable use of natural resources, including access to and use of biological and land resources necessary for the rural communities, including the rural poor, in the project's geographic scope. In addition, the project will ensure and support the human rights principles of participation, inclusion and non-discrimination. More specifically, the project will carry out the following activities that support UNDP's human rights-based approach:

- Throughout all project activities the principles of participation and inclusion will be applied. In practical terms, this means, that all stakeholders will be consulted in planning the details of project activities for the project workplans. Stakeholder groups will be fully represented in the project steering committee, which will have oversight of the project, and provide strategic guidance on project implementation.
- In all aspects of the project, the project will ensure that local communities have meaningful means of raising any concerns, to UNDP or to respective resource management authorities, including government institutions, that are involved in the project. During the project inception phase the project will specifically communicate to all stakeholders and participating communities the specific mechanism and means for raising concerns or grievances to UNDP or to government representatives when activities may adversely affect them.
- The project supports the equality aspect of human rights particularly through supporting the implementation of UNDP's gender mainstreaming policy, as further described in the following question of this SESP.
- During the PPG phase, multiple consultations were held with local communities in the project's target areas. In addition, under activities such as sustainable pasture management under Output 1.4, the project will work with local communities to increase participation and equality in planning how communities will sustainably use their pasture resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods.

- Under Outputs 2.1 and 2.3 the project will work with PA management staff and with local communities to increase the engagement and participation of local communities in the management of PAs. The project will work with PA staff to increase the capacity to engage and educate local community members living near PAs.
- Under Output 1.1 the project will work to improve land use planning and the management of natural resources, and align these processes with LDN principles, by facilitating local communities participation in planning (especially women and youth), access to information, data, and increasing resource management capacity. This will improve the sustainability and equitability of resource management planning in the project's priority districts.

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

The project is fully in-line with and supportive of both the GEF's and UNDP's gender mainstreaming policies. A full gender analysis was completed during the PPG phase, which is the basis of a project Gender Action Plan. Appropriate information gathering and planning has been carried out during the project development involving key stakeholders and including women as much as possible in the local consultations and through the validation workshop. The project supports an appropriate scale of activities to score 2 per the ATLAS Gender Marker. UNDP's gender mainstreaming strategy and Gender Action Plan has identified gender disaggregated indicators, included in the project results framework. There are numerous ways in which gender dimensions are relevant to the project. The project addresses multiple types of agricultural land use, all of which have important gender dimensions, as they relate directly to the sustainability of local livelihoods. The project will work to improve the sustainability of livestock grazing in and around KBAs/IBAs. Although women are not typically directly involved in livestock grazing, they can be involved in decision-making about grazing plans, and in the processing of livestock products. The project will also work on improving land and water management in arable agricultural zones. Women do typically have a more direct role and higher level of involvement in the production of food and fiber crops.

The project will ensure that project activities relating to improved land management, such as local trainings and local decision-making mechanisms have appropriate and adequate gender representation. The project will also be working on improving management of protected areas, and will also ensure the engagement of women in decision-making bodies related to protected areas, such as local management boards. In addition, the project will also work to ensure appropriate gender equality and women's empowerment in project implementation mechanisms, such as on the Project Steering Committee, and amongst the project team of national experts and consultants involved in implementation.

The gender mainstreaming approaches are focusing on three dimensions of gender gaps, consistent with the definitions of the GEF Gender Strategy for implementation in all projects and programs of the Fund, namely: 1) Unequal access to and control over natural resources; 2) Unbalanced participation and involvement in decision making in environmental planning and management at all levels; 3) Unequal access to socio-economic benefits and services¹.

The following gender-related project interventions will be implemented (with more details provided in the Gender Action Plan):

¹ The aspects of inequality in access to socio-economic benefits and services identified in the framework of the gender analysis are addressed in the Gender Action Plan through a set of measures to increase the employment of the local population, including women, and develop alternative sources of income; through the opportunity to participate in grant programs and implement their business and social/environmental projects on their basis.

- Support to the active involvement of women in the implementation of the natural resources planning, and decision making, participation into the inter-sectorial and multi-stakeholders platforms facilitated by the project, to ensure their knowledge and innovation are fully integrated into natural resource strategies and management plans; the project promotes and sustains meaningful representation and active involvement of women in local, district and national committees, coordinating mechanism and other decision-making or networking platforms;
- Organization of tailored capacity building/training sessions for women and youth, on alternative income generation (organization of trees nurseries, eco-tourism, arts and crafts, processing fruits, vegetables and medicinal plants); support to market outreach and participation into fairs and bazaars.
- Strengthen rural women's entrepreneurship skill; promote fair and equitable opportunities to access financing under the Micro-grant components of the project; The project will offer technical and financial support to ensure that benefits are widely accessible to women living in KBAs and their peripheries.
- Seek equitable representation of women on the project team and project board.

Organization of radio and TV talk shows with a segment dedicated to women and women farmers;

Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams sustainability and resilience

To demonstrate environment sustainability, the project uses innovative approaches to mainstream biodiversity in production zones and this is coupled with the use of protected areas as key mechanisms for conserving the most critical ecosystems within the wider landscape. The project strategy addresses the root causes and barriers by supporting resource managers' access to information about biodiversity distribution and about the carrying capacity of lands for livestock and crop production. In addition, the project strategy aims to develop the necessary capacity for implementing an integrated land use approach that integrates biodiversity in the surrounding geographies, while supporting sustainable livelihoods. Component 1 of the project focuses on addressing the degradation of land resources important for critical ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods. The Lower Amu Darya is primarily a production landscape, with intensive agricultural production in the small areas of this arid landscape that have access to irrigation. Therefore enhancing the sustainability of various forms of agricultural production is key for addressing the large-scale land degradation that exists in this region, which is primarily driven by poor land and water management, such as poor irrigation techniques, overgrazing, unregulated forest use and cutting. Key to the integrated approach is appropriate integrated land use planning to ensure the long-term sustainability of land uses for different soil types, ecosystems, and climatic conditions. The integrated approach supports multiple benefits, including improved biodiversity conservation through biodiversity-friendly land uses in and on the margins of KBAs/IBAs and efficient water management. For these high value arid ecosystems it is critical that the agricultural production (both livestock and crops) be undertaken in an integrated, well-planned manner that ensures biodiversity is not threatened, and that land resources are not degraded. The first component of the project supports resource managers and resource users to identify high priority degraded lands, and support the restoration of these lands. Component 2 of the project focuses on ensuring that the PAs in the wider landscape function as they were intended, in order to conserve biodiversity and serve as a source of critical ecosystem services beyond their boundaries. There are 2 existing protected areas in the scope of the project, covering approximately 1,077,554 ha in total. The project will support strengthening the management effectiveness of the PAs through individual capacity development for the PA staff, and the provision of critical management infrastructure and equipment (e.g. for biodiversity monitoring, enforcement, etc.). The project will also support the financial sustainability of the PAs, including business planning. To further strengthen the conservation of biodiversity in the targeted KBAs/IBAs, the project will expand PA coverage by an additional 60,000 ha (increasing PA coverage of targeted KBA by ~5%), either through the expansion of existing PAs, or the establishment of new PAs including Pitnyak upland and the heights of Altykarash, Zheldi and Muyger, part of the water areas of the Sultansanjar and Koshbulak reservoirs and Lake Zengibaba-Goyungirlan (KBAs/IBAs).

The project applies a precautionary approach to the management of environmental resources in multiple ways. Sustainable management of environmental resources requires a reasonable level of data and information about the existing pressures on those resources, the state of the resources, and current responses to supporting sustainable management. However, in many cases and particularly in Turkmenistan, there is insufficient information regarding pressures and the state of resources. In this case, wherever adequate data is lacking, the project will support the use of biological and natural resources (e.g. forest resources, pasture resources) in a precautionary manner, i.e. at a level that would be the most conservative feasible level under a precautionary approach.

The project is highly relevant to and consistent with Turkmenistan's national priorities related to land degradation and biodiversity conservation, as outlined in key national policy documents.

The project's sustainability is further anchored in, and aligned with, the national priorities and the country's international commitments under the main UN Environmental Conventions. The project is directly supporting the implementation of Turkmenistan's NBSAP 2018-2023 aligned with a) Goal II "Sustainable use of biodiversity and habitats influenced by anthropic" particularly Objective 3 "By 2023 develop and adopt a long term programme for sustainable management of natural pastures"; Objective 5 "By 2023 develop and start implementing programs for rational use of water resources of Turkmenistan, which include biodiversity" and Target 6 "By 2023, develop and implement sustainable use of water and biological resources"; and b) Goal IV "Development of natural protected areas for improving environmental protection and socio economic benefits ", Target 10 "By 2023, effective management of the protected territories will be significantly strengthened". The project supports improved policies for use of natural resources, improves the management of protected areas and raises the engagement of communities in their management, all of which are priorities within NBSAP. The project addresses key ecological gaps identified under the CBD POWPA work plan, integrates PAs into the wider landscape and involves communities in conservation efforts. The need for conservation of rare species of the high value ecosystems of the Amu Darya basin is prominent in Turkmenistan's 5th National Report to CBD. It also demonstrates an integrated approach to the improved management of PAs for under-represented ecosystems (i.e. arid ecosystems), covering a number of topics, ranging from technical aspects (capacity building of existing and new protected areas, harmonization of PA management planning, development and implementation of a comprehensive monitoring system for biodiversity and ecosystems) to socio-economic dimensions (support for alternative income-generating activities for local communities such as ecotourism, and apiculture, to integration of PAs with biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use in adjacent areas. The project directly supports the achievement of Aichi Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained. Through the landscape approach it substantially contributes to the following Aichi Targets:

- Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.
- Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.
- 10 • Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

11 The project is further aligned with Turkmenistan's international commitments under UNCCD through the technical support for the development of the National Strategy and Action Plan on Combating Desertification and implementation of LDN compliant measures as well as support to LDN enabling frameworks including measures to enhance the resilience of communities and ecosystems to drought. The project further supports the country's commitments under the recently ratified Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention) by facilitating cross-border wild ungulates conservation measures and joint programmes. The project aligns with the National Climate Change Strategy of Turkmenistan (2012) which includes priorities on the optimisation of agricultural production with focus on drought and salt resistant crops, improved land management (e.g. crop and pasture rotation), soil desalination and drainage measures and sustainable pasture management. The project also aligns with the Nationally Determined Contribution of Turkmenistan (2014) and with the adaptation policies which identifies agriculture and water resources as core sectors vulnerable to climate change, with a preliminary estimate of adaptation costs at approximately \$ 10.5 billion.

12 The project is aligned with the priorities set out in the main legislative framework in agriculture and water sector such as : (i) the Water Code of Turkmenistan, which stipulates (inter-alia) that inter-farm irrigation and drainage belongs to the state water management organizations, while water users are having direct responsibility for operation of irrigation and drainage network and hydrotechnical facilities at their own costs. In August 2012, Turkmenistan acceded to the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes. By joining the Convention, Turkmenistan undertook the

review of the Water Code to meet some of the basic provisions of the Convention, including the rational use of water by the transition to the basin principle of water resources management, involvement of water users in the management of water resources, and improving tariffs for water supply services to ensure its more efficient use. The programme for water management of Turkmenistan for 2018 – 2030 is currently under development; (ii) the Land Code of Turkmenistan, lists the measures for efficient use of land resources, procedures for state land management, maintenance of state land resources and monitoring, measures for improving soil fertility and conservation of natural resources.

The project further aligns with the main national policies and programmes such as: (i) The “Strategy of Economic, Political, and Cultural Development of Turkmenistan Until 2030” which sets out targets in relation to agricultural outputs. A considerable proportion of irrigated agricultural lands is planned to be transferred to the private sector enterprises. The private sector tenants will include joint-stock companies, daikhan (farmer) cooperatives and unions. These categories of land users are expected to introduce more effective and efficient water use technologies and water saving practices. At a broader level the Strategy states that the overarching national development goal is to shift to a growth model based on innovation and sustainable development; (ii) The Programme of Social and Economic Development of Turkmenistan, 2019-2025, which outlines Turkmenistan’s social and economic development objectives for the next years and reflects the main principles, priority directions, required actions and expected outcomes. The primary objectives of this programme are to continue implementation of market reforms and transition to a market-led economy, economic diversification, rational use of natural resources, improving human capital, and improving the living conditions of the population; (iii) The National Action Plan on Gender Equality 2015–2020, sets the country's strategy on achieving gender equality, and highlights 15 targets and 60 activities that include increasing women’s competitiveness in labor markets, improving maternal and child health outcomes, and the creation of gender-responsive legislation; and (iv) The “Programme for the Development of Specially Protected Natural Areas of Turkmenistan 2030” which makes provisions for the increase of the total PAs network up to the 7.18% of the territory, including KBAs/IBAs and Ramsar wetlands, ecological corridors and reserves.

Briefly describe in the space below how the project strengthens accountability to stakeholders

Through its various activities the project promotes accountability to project partners and stakeholders.

- a) The project enables active local community engagement and participation in decision making on the use of natural resource management, actively promoting participation of women, youth and disadvantaged groups. Land use planning (Output 1.1.), sustainable water management planning (Output 1.3.), sustainable pasture management regimes (Output 1.4/1.2), designation of new PAs (Output 2.2), setting up ecological corridors and community supported improved biodiversity management regimes (Output 2.3), participation in supporting grant schemes (Output 2.3) and training initiatives (Output 4.1) benefiting from agricultural extension services (Output 4.1) etc. these are all major project milestones, implemented with embedded mechanisms for meaningful participation of all the stakeholders affected, particularly those at risk of being left behind.
- b) The project ensures that everybody has access to information, through transparency of all the programmatic interventions, provision of timely and accessible information regarding supported activities (primarily captured under Component 4), including on potential environmental and social risks and impacts and necessary management measures that will be implemented based on local consensus, facilitated with the support of Local Project Committees in Dashoguz and Lebap regions and in addition. In addition, in case of designation of new PAs and ecological corridors, the Process Framework will be deployed, in an inclusive and participative manner, supported at local level by project experts and Local Advisory Committees/People Councils (Act. 2.1.1. and 2.2.2) . Transparency and access to information will empower stakeholders to accelerate transition towards accountable decision making processes and more sustainable livelihoods.
- c) The project ensures that all the stakeholders can communicate their concerns and have access to rights-compatible complaints redress processes and mechanisms. The project will ensure that in all interactions with stakeholders (consultations, meetings, web sites) information is available on how to access complaints processes. The Project’s Stakeholder Engagement Plan will ensure the stakeholder’s are engaged and informed about all activities. In addition to the UNDP Stakeholder Response Mechanism² which is embedded in all UNDP projects, this project will set up the project- level Grievance Redress mechanism(GRM) and will designate the Project Board/Local Project Coordination Committees, included in the Project Management Arrangements (please see Section VI project Document) as the project-GRM to ensure first of all that all the people and communities are informed of project-level grievance entry points and avoid/minimize risks of retaliation and reprisal against people who may seek information on project activities or express concerns and/or access project level grievances.
- d) The project will monitor environment and social risk management measures through effective and where possible, participatory engagement of the stakeholders. In addition, the LDN monitoring mechanism (Output 1.1.) will ensure adherence to the LDN principles (e.g. Human rights, Good governance, Participatory processes; Balanced economic, Social and Environmental Sustainability) further strengthening accountability.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

<p>QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks?</p> <p>Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.</p>	<p>QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks?</p> <p>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 5</p>	<p>QUESTION 6: Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High</p>
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² <https://www.undp.org/accountability/audit/secu-srm>

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
<p>Risk 1. The modification of land use planning in the two targeted regions may lead to land use decisions that are failing to integrate the interests and concerns of the vulnerable people. This may lead to a short term limitation of access to natural resources. This could disproportionately disadvantage women and rural poor.</p> <p><i>SES Principle 2 Human Rights, P5</i> <i>SESP principle 2 Human Rights, P6</i> <i>SES Principle 3, Gender, P10</i> <i>SES Principle 3, Gender, P11</i> <i>Principle 5, Accountability, P13</i> <i>Principle 5, Accountability, P14</i> <i>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.2</i> <i>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.4</i></p>	<p>I = 3 L = 2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>A key element of the project is the improvement of land governance in the country by implementing Land Degradation Neutrality, through LDN-centred land use planning. To this end, the project will identify and implement Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets and actions to attain and monitor progress towards land degradation neutrality (under Output 1.1.) and will promote LDN-compatible sustainable land management (SLM) measures in the production zones (Output 2.1; 2.3)</p> <p>Land use planning in Turkmenistan is highly centralised and despite its efforts, the project could fail to consider all rural poor's concerns and land use decisions may lead to failure to fully consider the effects of the temporary restrictions in the use of land resources (e.g. temporary grazing limitations on degraded pastures).</p>	<p>The risks will be managed through the implementation of SESA and screening against LDN Check List; implementation of the Stakeholders Engagement Plan, Process Framework, Gender Action Plan and Grievance Redress Mechanism.</p> <p>The risk is partially mitigated by the project activities. One of the requirements for reaching and maintaining land degradation neutrality (LDN) and advancing land restoration and rehabilitation is the adherence to the LDN principles. Among the LDN principles underpinning the vision of LDN there are several principles that are highlighted below, which will be uphold. The project will hire qualified national and international land use and LDN experts to guide local authorities and the LDN land use planning activities to ensure the adherence to the LDN principles.</p> <p>The mere adherence to these principles and the screening against the LDN Checklist (per project Annex 26 LDN Checklist/ activity 1.1.3 and activity 1.1.4) should be able to provide the means to manage the risk of failing to appropriately take into consideration and mitigate the potential economic displacement resulting from LDN centered land use plans. LDN is anchored by several principles that are ensuring a human rights approach, balanced economic-social-environmental sustainability and participatory and inclusive mechanisms. These principles are key in mitigating risk and will be uphold.</p> <p>However, those plans will nonetheless be prepared following an appropriately scoped/scaled SESA</p>

				<p>approach (with a subsequent ESMF if determined necessary per the SESA for compliance with the SES and national law).</p> <p>The knowledge and information generated from the land degradation neutrality (LDN) target setting and subsequent implementation and monitoring LDN progress and reporting LDN benefits (Act 1.1.4) further enhances accountability and monitoring of adherence to LDN principles. This knowledge can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions in maintaining land-based natural capital (e.g. the outcomes of counterbalancing mechanism), to consider the effectiveness of safeguards (e.g. protection the rights of local people) and to inform future land use management decisions.</p>
<p>Risk 2: The modification of resource management regimes through the implementation of sustainable land management (SLM) measures (e.g. forests, pastures, agricultural lands) implemented in support of long-term sustainability could affect short-term access and use of resources by local communities, including the rural poor and women.</p> <p><i>SES Principle 2 Human Rights, P5</i> <i>SESP principle 2 Human Rights, P6</i> <i>SES Principle 3, Gender, P10</i> <i>SES Principle 3, Gender, P11</i> <i>Principle 5, Accountability, P13</i> <i>Principle 5, Accountability, P14</i></p>	I = 3 L = 2	Moderate	<p>The project will be supporting improved management of agricultural lands, pasture resources, and sensitive ecosystems encompassing Key Biodiversity Areas, through the promotion of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) measures that in the medium and long term will lead to an increased land productivity and improved livelihoods. When modifying existing resource use and management regimes, there is always a possibility of some modification to the enjoyment of human rights or potential economic displacement of individuals living near or otherwise using territory included in the targeted area.</p> <p>The Risk is preventatively rated Moderate. However, UNDP has extensive experience working in</p>	<p>Targeted assessments of potential economic displacement will be carried out by qualified experts in a participatory manner with stakeholders during inception phase. The assessment will evaluate potential economic displacement impacts associated with the planned activities (as noted in the ESMF). Identification of timebound measures to avoid, reduce, mitigate and manage potential impact will be captured in an assessment report and revised SESP. If determined necessary by the targeted assessment, then a stand-alone management plan (i.e. Livelihood Action Plan) will be prepared to capture those management measures (please see ESMF Annex as a separate report/Project Document).</p> <p>In addition, the SESA will cover the Pasture management plans (Output 1.4), Sustainable Water Management Plans (Output 1.3) and Sustainable LDN compatible Land use Plans (Output 1.1.) in order to evaluate the potential social and environmental effects of the project's upstream activity which impacts on resource management regime.</p>

<p>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.2 Standard 5 Displacement; 5.4</p>			<p>Turkmenistan on similar types of interventions.</p>	<p>The risks are not deemed to be significant due to the fact that the envisaged Sustainable Land Management(SLM) and resilient measures will be implemented on farm land, on farmer associations' areas where the land is already allocated on the basis of long-term leases and only based on their agreement to participate in the project activities. Therefore, issues such as customary rights or land tenure are unlikely to be triggered by the project. A participatory planning and decision-making process will ensure that any potential restrictions on the use of resources will not be imposed on the members, but defined through a collective decision-making process at the community level.</p> <p>Part of the Stakeholders Engagement Plan a project-level Grievance and Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be established and published so that all stakeholders, including remote communities are aware of its existence. The Project Manager and Local Field Coordinators will be responsible for documenting all grievances and ensuring they are addressed in a timely manner.</p> <p>During the project inception phase, the Daikhan Associations will be contacted and the selected areas for demonstration activities will be validated. The Screening, Assessment and Management activities at the demonstration site are captured in the ESMF.</p> <p>Throughout the implementation, the project will continue to be working closely with all stakeholders to ensure that they are adequately consulted and their considerations integrated in the modification of resource-use regimes. In any cases where there may be adverse impacts, mitigation and compensation measures will be developed and implemented.</p> <p>The project activities are designed to be implemented on the lands leased by participating farmers with their prior consent, or alternatively, in partnership with local authorities and based on</p>
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				will supervise the implementation of the Gender Action Plan.
<p>Risk 3: Expansion of PAs system could lead to potential limitations or restrictions of the use of natural resources.</p> <p>Strengthening management of existing PAs, such as improved PAs zoning, strengthening the sanctuaries' protection regimes, and/or creation of ecological corridors could further restrict access to and use of biodiversity resources by local communities, affecting livelihoods.</p> <p><i>SES Principle 2 Human Rights, P5</i></p> <p><i>SESP Principle 2 Human Rights, P6</i></p> <p><i>SES Principle 3, Gender, P10</i></p> <p><i>SES Principle 3, Gender, P11</i></p> <p><i>Principle 5, Accountability, P13</i></p> <p><i>Principle 5, Accountability, P14</i></p> <p><i>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.2</i></p> <p><i>Standard 5 Displacement; 5.4</i></p>	I=3 L=3	Moderate	<p>The project will design two new PAs under Output 2.2. (Act. 2.2.2) based on initial assessments during the PPG and a dialogue with the national authorities. The 40,000 ha Pytniak upland and surroundings and the 20,000 ha Zengibaba Lake have been selected for PA designation.</p> <p>Local communities in the project area could face economic displacement due to the expansion of the PAs system (new PA designation in Darganata and Ruhubelent districts). Certain land use activities would likely be prohibited or restricted as part of these processes.</p> <p>Together with the significant environmental benefits that come with the designation of new PAs and delineation of community endorsed ecological corridors, there are potential risks for example restrictions/limitations of the use of natural resources that may be at odd with the current agricultural practices of the local communities in project areas. There is a risk that not all key user groups of natural resources at project sites are consulted in project implementation and they will be affected by the restrictions on the use of natural resources. Especially since the targeted protected areas are</p>	<p>The risk management measures will be implemented primarily through the Process Framework, Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Gender Action Plan and project level GRM.</p> <p>The project's qualified experts (specialised safeguards experts/consultancy company; conservation biologists, environmental economist, pasture and forest expert and community outreach officers), local coordinators, technical support staff and ministry counterparts will support the implementation of the Process Framework, in order to ensure the management of the economic displacement risk</p> <p>During the consultations, the project manager supported by the project's field coordinators and local community outreach will ensure that any potential risk of economic displacement in the affected communities, resulting from the designation of new PAs will be mitigated through the <i>Process Framework</i> (as per SES requirements, please see ESMF annexes as a separate report). The Process Framework would include the following elements: (i) Assessments of the socio-economic conditions of the local communities, highlighting the type and extent of the community use (and use by men and women) of natural resources in the targeted areas, and the exiting rules and institutions for these and management of natural resources, including customary use rights; (ii) Assessment of threats and impacts on the relevant areas and local communities from various activities (e.g. poachers, traders, development activities) ; (iii) Assessment of the potential livelihoods impacts on men and women of new restrictions on the use of natural resource management in the proposed areas. (Please see Annex 16 Stakeholders Engagement Plan, including the Process Framework template).</p> <p>Facilitation of local round table meetings will be supported by the Local Advisory Committees (People Councils) in the respective districts/villages and by the daikhan associations managing the land. Evaluation of the necessity of compensatory mechanisms and eligibility criteria, describing the measures that will assist the potential affected persons to improve their livelihoods will be</p>

			<p>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 that are likely to be on the verge of exclusion.</p>	<p>identified as the result of these assessments and discussions. The project manager will ensure that Information and guidance to local communities about the UNDP Conflict resolution and grievance mechanism is provided. The formal process of the new PAs designation will not commence before/unless securing consensus with the local communities over the PAs border, management arrangements and monitoring measures (please see Annex 16 Stakeholders Engagement Plan / Process Framework Template; and Annex 5, SESP) .</p> <p>Furthermore, the Stakeholders Engagement Plan contains meaningful engagement measures and stakeholders roles and responsibilities. During the project implementation, the Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be updated to fulfill the requirements of Standard 5 in the first year of implementation before the relevant activities begin management. Designation of PAs and any changes to the natural resources regime identified as having the potential to lead to limitations and restrictions of access to resources, will not be implemented until/unless suitable, agreed management measures are in place. All the necessary approvals will be obtained from national and local authorities (particularly the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection) before the activities, and in line with the Process Framework (and UNDP SES).</p>
<p>Risk 4. Enforcement of PAs regime and of wildlife corridors, following applicable environmental norms and legislation could pose risks to conflicts between rangers and local communities engaged in traditional livelihoods and practices.</p> <p><i>SES Principle 2 Human Rights, P2</i></p>	<p>I=3 L=3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Enforcement issues of the environmental regulations in the new PA may lead to conflicts between the rangers and the local community or among different local community members.</p> <p>When working in developing countries there exists a risk that the entity responsible for PA management (be it governmental authority or community organization) does not have the full</p>	<p>The Management measures will be addressed through the Process Framework, Stakeholders Engagement Plan, Gender Action Plan and project level Grievance and Redress Mechanism.</p> <p>In addition, the project will ensure that management measures will be include in the new PAs management plans (Sanctuaries, IUCN IV) to be further embedded under in the corresponding larger State Reserves management Plans (i.e. Gaplanyr and Amudarya) , as these Sanctuaries will fall under the jurisdiction of one or the other of above-mentioned state nature reserves. The project’s qualified experts, including</p>

<p>SES Principle 2 Human Rights, P7</p>			<p>capacity necessary to fulfill their duties in terms of governance, administration, and management of natural resources. The enforcement personnel need to be appropriately trained to implement legal enforcement and manage relationship with local residents.</p>	<p>the Capacity Development experts, local coordinators, technical support staff and ministry counterparts will work with the Local Advisory Committees (People Councils) and facilitate the assessments, local dialogue and round table meetings that the process involves.</p> <p>In addition, the project will train PA personnel, border inspectors and central and local authorities with an emphasis on human rights principles (in line with the SES).</p> <p>Some of the trainings will target specifically community outreach related topics , and addressing illegal activities "<i>Interaction with local communities</i>" (<i>opportunities for engaging local population in biodiversity conservation, joint patrolling of territories, protection of key sites</i>)- Act. 2.1.3. A total number of 10 training workshops for the PAs staff; 3 trainings for central and local authorities and 2 trainings for border inspectors will be supported by the project.</p> <p>Furthermore, the project will facilitate regular meetings between PA managers, ranger patrol staff, communities, inspectorates, border security in or in the proximity of the core areas to analyse trends in monitoring and legal compliance, aiming at addressing ongoing threats in a collaborative manner, including issues related to cross-border migration of wildlife (Activity 2.1.5.).</p> <p>Per the project's design, the "<i>Council for the Management of Protected Areas</i>" will be set-up under the coordination of the Department of Environmental Protection and Hydrometeorology within the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection, in order to coordinate the implementation of measures to prevent illegal activities, and keep a closer communication with</p>
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				<p>local communities, involving them in as much as possible in the development of alternative sources of income. The Council for the Management of Protected Areas will then facilitate the creation of joint teams in Dashoguz and Lebap provinces, of gamekeepers together with representatives of United Society of Hunters and Fishermen, the Nature Conservation Society, representatives of Forestry Enterprises and employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and environmental protection departments of the province authorities to ensure compliance with anti-poaching measures and involve local population in species monitoring. SES Requirements will be mainstreamed in the TORs of the Council. This will strengthen accountability and will lead in the long terms to responsible conscientious local communities, transitioning to sustainable biodiversity friendly practices.</p>
<p>Risk 5 Government resource management authorities may not have the capacity to fulfill all aspects of their mandate, and rural resource users may not have the capacity to claim their rights, which could potentially lead to the violation of human rights.</p> <p><i>SES Principle 2 Human Rights, P2</i> <i>SES Principle 2 Human Rights, P3</i></p>	<p>I = 3 L = 3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>There is a risk that institutional government duty-bearers related to the management of high value Aral basin ecosystems and land resources do not have the capacity to meet their obligations.</p> <p>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 be 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</p>	<p>Based on the SES screening the risk has been revised at PPG stage and rated Moderate. 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.</p> <p>It is expected that the risks will be mitigated by the project's targeted trainings of the local and national decision makers as well as natural resource users on specific themes such as: LDN and no-net-loss approach and Integrated Land Use Planning (Act 1.1.1) ; Efficient water use and integrated water management planning (Act 1.3.1; 1.3.2) ; Sustainable pastures management (Act 1.4.1); Environmental legislation enforcement, PAs patrolling, Human rights (Act 2.1.3-2.1.5); Sustainable management of regional water resources/Water Diplomacy (Act 3.1.1-3.1.2); Strengthening Extension services (Act 3.1.1). The project implementation will include national and local stakeholders' consultation during</p>

			<p>those rights. There is a risk that rights holders may not have the legal, self-organizing, or financial means to claim their rights. The risk is assessed based on situation and context that the project will be working in. 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.</p>	<p>the development of the training modules and other/different handouts and information materials that will be used during the training seminars and some of them will be based on Training Needs Assessments. The training seminars will include evaluation forms and training formats will be flexible to adapt to participants needs.</p> <p>Multiple stakeholder consultation sessions during all relevant aspects of the project will ensure that all parties are aware of and understand the relevant obligations and rights.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>Risk 6: Project activities intended to reduce threats to critical habitats and environmentally sensitive areas could potentially end up harming them</p> <p><i>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.1</i> <i>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.2</i> <i>SES Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.7</i> Standard 8; 8.2</p>	<p>I=3 L= 3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>The project specifically targets the conservation and sustainable management of critical habitats, environmentally sensitive areas, and legally protected areas in the high value ecosystems of Turkmenistan’s Lower Amu Darya basin. The conservation, protection, and sustainable use of these areas is the objective of the project. Therefore, the likelihood of these risks is “moderately likely”. 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 considered limited in scale and manageable through applicable standard practices . Although the social and environmental risks are</p>	<p>Based on the SES screening the risk has been revised at PPG stage and rated Moderate. The ESMF further identifies the steps for detailed screening and assessment of the risks, potentially related to the undefined activities and for preparing and approving the required management plans for avoiding, and where avoidance is not possible, reducing, mitigating and managing these potential adverse impacts The project will conduct targeted impact assessment at sites for activities that are not fully defined.</p> <p>The qualified project’s conservation biologists/landscape biologists will work with the safeguards experts/company to properly identify risks and proposed mitigation options for both upstream and downstream activities.</p> <p>During the project inception the exact location of the sites selected at PPG stage with the representatives of the Daikhan Associations, will be clarified , and aligned with the re-structuring process of the</p>

			<p>considered moderate, limited in scale and with the likelihood of being reasonably managed, and the sites are at sufficient distance from the protected areas, there will be nevertheless minor changes to the farm landscape, existing flora and fauna species at the construction sites and local settlements such as minor changes in land cover and potential damage to the vegetation type; temporary disturbance of rodent burrows or bird nests may be possible.</p>	<p>Daikhan Farms that was ongoing during the PPG phase. Therefore new screening and assessments of each proposed activities and demonstration site will be implemented prior to the implementation of activities to ensure that any impacts are identified, significance established and management measures selected.</p> <p>Based on the screening of the potential risks during PPG assessments, several management measures have been included in the project design, (e.g. Output 1.3 Act 1.3.3 and Output 1.2/Act 1.2.2) . The project will select several areas in order to demonstrate sustainable agricultural practices around Protected Areas (PAs) or Key Biodiversity Areas (outside PAs). These demonstrative activities will be agreed with the local authorities, respective land managers (lessees) and project specialists. The project design includes activities with no or minimal risk to the critical or sensitive habitats.</p> <p>The technologies envisaged to be implemented by the project have been previously tested by various donor supported initiatives including UNDP: e.g. efficient irrigation technologies (drip, sprinkler etc.); cleaning of small portions of the on-farm irrigation canals; leveling and land management; land stabilization (planting of trees); wells rehabilitation; use of organic fertilizers. The project will in any case conduct targeted screening and assessments at intervention sites.</p> <p>The project will ensure alignment with applicable legislation and UNDP Social and Environmental Safeguards , including that these provisions are included in the third party contractual agreements.</p> <p>As a precautionary measure contractual terms (for subcontracts who will be involved in restoration / conservation activities) are going to fully integrate regular step-by-step monitoring of each phase of a conservation / restoration activity and only proceed</p>
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				to the next stage when no harm confirmed. In case any of the contractor's activities going off track, the contracts will have a clause for the subcontractor to rectify (on his own account) any deviation from the targeted result that the TOR envisage.
<p>Risk 7: The project activities re-planting native tree species could have unforeseen ecological consequences.</p> <p>Standard 1 Biodiversity and NRM, 1.8</p>	<p>I = 2 L = 2</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>The planned project activities include small amounts of reforestation. Output 1.2 includes reforestation of high value arid saxaul forest ecosystems. The assisted regeneration of a small portion of tugai forest ecosystem will be further supported by the project. The project team will work with the partner local forestry services and qualified project experts 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 with a limited impact in case of a potential adverse effect. The overall environmental impact – considering the benefits of the planted trees – is expected to be positive. The purpose of the activity is to restore areas of forest that have been degraded.</p>	<p>No measures needed as the risk is low.</p>
<p>Risk 8: The expected project impacts of the conservation of endangered and threatened species, restoration of degraded land, and sustainable management of forest and pasture resources could be sensitive to changing climatic conditions in the future.</p>	<p>I=3 L=2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Adverse impacts of extreme climatic events (drought; sand and windstorms; seasonal floods) can affect project's interventions in the field and the livelihoods of local communities living in the target areas.</p>	<p>Based on the SES screening the risk has been revised at PPG stage and rated Moderate. The management measures will be implemented through the project's envisage climate risk assessments and through activities that will demonstrate and put in place sustainable land management measures grounded by scientific principles and participatory mechanisms that will enable stakeholders to adapt the management of natural resources to any given context and threats. Attention to the current and</p>

<p><i>SES Standard 2 Climate Change Vulnerability, 2.2</i></p> <p><i>SES Standard 2 Climate Change Vulnerability, 2.4</i></p>				<p>potential impacts of climate change has been built-in to all aspects of the project.</p> <p>The project team will work with qualified experts and will conduct climate-risk assessment (Act. 1.3.1) to identify the most appropriate mitigation measures. In fact, several multi-disciplinary land and water resources assessments including climate risk assessments, the results of which will inform LDN compliant integrated land use plans and rationalised water management practices in the targeted districts.</p> <p>The climate risks and vulnerability assessments for the water sector includes hydroclimate projections under different climate change scenarios to inform integrated water management planning in the targeted districts. The prioritised climate risks will be followed by the validation of appropriate combination of SLM measures that will address these risks and will consider unique risks posed to vulnerable groups including women. Furthermore, the project adheres to LDN Principles and will screen the activities against the LDN Checklist. The ecosystem management benefits will be mostly associated with the resilience of land and water management resources, sustainable management regimes and rationalised and efficient use of water resources for improved management of land and forests</p> <p>The project will further ensure that the partners and stakeholders will apply the best available climate change forecasts data for Turkmenistan’s lower Amu Darya basin, and will ensure that all project activities and plans take potential future climate impacts into consideration. For example, the project’s land restoration demonstrative areas will prioritize “LDN hot spots” support for the cultivation of trees, shrubs and herbaceous halophytes on salt resistant crops is of significant ecological importance in Turkmenistan, helping local communities adapt to these conditions.</p>
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				be included in the specifications for the new equipment.
<p>Risk 9: Project activities involving local/field interventions and close engagement with local communities may inadvertently contribute to the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>Standard 3 Community Health, Safety and Security, 3.4</p>	I=3 L=3	Moderate	Activities at local level are based on participatory approaches, and most of the times will include meetings and local consultations. There are a number of training workshops and awareness events, round table meetings etc.	The risk will be mitigated through adequate safeguards such as: (i) clear procedures in place in case of COVID19 reinstatement of restrictions, approved during project inception (ii) use of protective equipment, maintaining social distancing and using remote methods of engagement whenever possible (iii) if adequate safeguards cannot be put in place, activities that entail close local communities engagement will be put on hold if necessary, and work programme/budget will be revised as needed. wherever possible on-line meeting platforms will be used and travel decreased. All project meetings will be organized mindful of government regulations and healthy standards and other appropriate safeguards (including those of UNDSS).
<p>Risk 10: The project may inadvertently contribute to potential perpetuation of discriminations against women. There are lingering disparities between men and women, particularly in rural areas and in the patriarchal cultures of some of the ethnic minority communities, which could be inadvertently replicated.</p> <p><i>SES Principle 3, Gender, P10</i></p>	I=2 L=3	Moderate	The Project could potentially perpetuate discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities. In the pilot farmers associations and livestock farming sector, women account for around 51-52% of the population. They are mainly engaged in housekeeping, teaching, and administrative support services. Many more women form part of the unpaid family labor in home farming and lease of agricultural lands.	The management of this risk will be done primarily through the implementation of the Gender Action Plan (GAP) and will be monitored by the project specialized experts. The project design has consistently mainstreamed gender sensitive approaches and has created opportunities for tackling women's needs, ranging from designing tailored training activities to organizing dedicated segments of radio programmes for women farmers. The project will provide ample opportunities for women to learn about LDN and SLM measures and resilient livelihoods and integrate best practices into their farm practices. Though the training programs and Farmer Field Schools, women will also be able to access the capacity building and training required to practice climate-resilient agriculture, as well as to diversify their livelihoods in more resilient ways. The project will ensure gender balance in project activities (e.g. seminars, community level events) including in the membership of different decision-making bodies (Working groups; Project Boards; People Councils; Evaluation Committees) including

				access to project financial assistance (grant scheme). Gender considerations will inform any community level vulnerability analysis linked to local infrastructure or demonstration plot development through consultation regarding needs and preferences on types of training and investment. The project will also gather gender-disaggregated data for evaluation purposes and use gender sensitive indicators (particularly around beneficiaries) to facilitate planning, implementation and monitoring. Complaints will be addressed through the project level Grievance redress mechanism.
<p>Risk 11 The project may fail to ensure that labor rights, especially of vulnerable groups, are respected by local subcontractors. There could be risk of forced child labor at project sites.</p> <p><i>SES Standard 7; 7.1</i> <i>SES Standard 7; 7.3</i></p>	I=2 L=3	Moderate	Turkmenistan ratified all ILO main conventions. The information on the ILO website with regard to application of labor standards in Turkmenistan reveal no major observations and issues. There are however independent media streams revealing that forced labor is still practiced ³ .	<p>The Risk is rated Moderate. The project will ensure that national working standards (Labor Code) are respected for all the project activities</p> <p>The requirements of this Standard are to be applied in an appropriately-scaled manner based on the nature and scale of the project, its specific activities, the project's associated social and environmental risks and impacts, and the type of contractual relationships with project workers.</p> <p>The management procedures will be that specific requirements of the terms and conditions of the employment will be established, that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Comply with minimum age requirements set out in International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions or national legislation (whichever offers the greatest protection to young people under the age of 18) and keep records of the dates of birth of all employees verified by official documentation - Check the activities carried out by young workers and ensure that children under 18 are not employed in hazardous work, including in contractor workforces. Hazardous work will normally be defined in national legislation and will be likely to include most tasks in construction and several in agriculture. - Assess the safety risks relating to any work by children under 18 and carry out regular

³ <https://www.solidaritycenter.org/children-forced-labor-turkmenistan-cotton-fields/>

				<p>monitoring of their health, working conditions and hours of work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure that any workers aged 13-15 are only doing light work outside school hours, in accordance with national legislation, or working in a government-approved training programme - Ensure that contractors have adequate systems in place to check workers' ages, identify workers under the age of 18 and to ensure that they are not engaged in hazardous work, and that their work is subject to appropriate risk assessment and health monitoring <p>In addition, the Project will ensure that appropriate wages will be paid per assigned tasks. Security and safety standards will also be respected and enforced. In addition to the UNDP Stakeholder response mechanism, the project will set up a project-Grievance Redress Mechanism to provide for a fair and free from influence entry point for their potential complaints and/or grievances. The Complaints Register and Grievance Redress Mechanism will provide an accessible, rapid, fair and effective response to concerned stakeholders, especially any vulnerable group who often lack access to formal legal regimes.</p>
<p>Risk 12 There is a risk that the choice of irrigation technology may lead to an increase in the use of surface water.</p> <p><i>SES Standard 8; 8.6,</i> <i>SES Standard 1; 1.11</i></p>	I=3 L=3	Moderate	<p>The project's work under Output 1.3. will result in approximately 100,000 ha of irrigated land under sustainable water management. Under this output the project will demonstrate small scale local farm level repairs and improvement of irrigation systems (e.g. pumps; canals). The plans are expected to be funded and implemented by the government; therefore the impact is considered Moderate. Although the water management planning will indicate the technology to be used in order to reduce water wastage and improved</p>	<p>This risk will be managed through SESA/ESMF (as needed) In addition, the project's deployment of qualified specialists (hydrologists, engineers) will ensure that the development of the Sustainable Water Use Plans (Act. 1.3.1) and will entail guidelines and specifications for the most efficient irrigation technology and cost effectiveness deliberations are included in the cost benefit analysis. In addition the Sustainable Water Use Plans will include a Monitoring mechanism to be implemented by local authorities and daikhan farms in order to monitor water use trends. With regard to the demonstration activities at sites (Act. 1.3.3.) the project's specialists will ensure that the appropriate technology is used, improvement works are designed and implemented</p>

			<p>resource efficiency, there is the risk that the choice of water irrigation technology would lead to increase water consumption.</p>	<p>in an appropriate manner and resource efficiency is considered. UNDP has accumulated solid experience in successful demonstration and promotion of water and energy efficient practices, which will be used through this project. The irrigation technologies that UNDP promotes are efficient in terms of rational water use and leave minimal or no drainage waters. Furthermore, more innovative and emission and waste-free options are rigorously being investigated now within the ongoing projects, such as solar-powered water pumping and treatment facilities to satisfy both household and agricultural needs, primarily in remote desert areas, where traditionally diesel is used for similar purposes. Thus, resource efficiency will become the backbone for defining and implementing technologies and equipment at the project's proposed sites, each of which will have a dedicated action plan and a cost-estimate.</p> <p>The design of demonstration projects featuring new water saving technologies will be based on careful hydrological studies in the chosen locations , that follow SES requirements and includes targeted screening at site (as necessary), and that would take into account the hydrographic parameters of the landscape, available water sources, their quantity and quality. Experienced local experts, drawing on international expertise as necessary, will carry out these engineering and hydrological studies. Irrigation technologies will also be monitored to assess water consumption trends.</p>
<p>Risk 13 The project's small scale, on-the-ground works may pose safety risks to community members.</p> <p>SES Standard 3; 3.3; 3.6</p>	<p>I=3 L=2</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>Project activities that entail possible public health concerns are not envisaged, quite the contrary, the project will contribute to enhancing public health, as it seeks to improve the social and economic environment as well as the physical environment. All the works envisaged at project sites are at the lowest level of the irrigation system (i.e. at the level of</p>	<p>The risk is managed through the targeted assessments at site. Targeted assessments are envisaged for all the project activities and restoration works, including specific impact assessment at sites for other activities that are not fully defined.</p> <p>The project will primarily focus on restoring degraded and saline lands and support small repair of on-farm irrigation system. The contractors will ensure that structural elements and services (e.g. transportation) are designed, constructed, operated</p>

			<p>farm canals/pumps/wells) but some risks of ground work infrastructure malfunction that could pose some safety risks may exist (e.g. repairs of wells) or minor disturbance of top soil where slipping or other small safety hazards are not excluded.</p>	<p>and decommissioned in accordance with the legal requirements and good international practice. Structural elements of any infrastructure that may pose significant health and/or safety analysis will be constructed by qualified engineers and professionals and include appropriate measures for supervision, quality assurance, operation and maintenance. The project’s specialists including the safeguards expert will ensure that actions are taken to avoid or minimize any potential safety risks. The safety specialists appointed by the construction company will ensure compliance with applicable safety rules during the repair works. Appropriate signage and delineation of the works area on the ground will be ensured and temporary used access point should be as close as possible to the project site in order to produce a minimum disturbance on the surrounding environment. Health and Safety Plans will be implemented by sub-contractors for all construction activities according to the applicable legislation. Regular monitoring will be conducted for compliance with national construction norms and standards.</p>
<p>Risk 14 The project supported demonstration activities may inadvertently be implemented at/in proximity of significant cultural and historical significance sites.</p> <p><i>SES Standard 4; 4.1; 4.2</i></p>	<p>I=3 L=3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>The project sites for outputs 1.3; 1.4 have been carefully selected during the PPG based on several criteria chiefly among which is the land condition and water irrigation system and proximity to PAs. The demonstration areas are located on daikhan farm estate and have been already used for decades for agriculture and animal husbandry. The selected sites are located around PAs. There is very low risk that these sites or other demonstration sites that could be further selected (for output 1.2), be overlapping with cultural and/or historically significant sites.</p>	<p>The mitigation of this risk will be done through the Process Framework, Stakeholder Engagement Plan and SESA/ESMF. The presence of the sites of cultural or historical significance will be re-assessed during the land use planning activities under Output 1.1.. Moreover, during the inception stage, the comprehensive stakeholders consultations will validate the sites selected at PPG stage. Where potential adverse impact is detected and if deemed significant, then a Cultural Heritage Management Plan should be developed, part of the ESMP. The project will ensure that <i>chance find</i> procedures are included in all plan and contracts regarding project-related constructions, including excavations, movement of earth or other changes to the physical environment, and that these procedures will include notification of relevant authorities. The mitigation of</p>

			<p>Turkmenistan has three sites under the List of World Heritage Sites. In the project targeted regions, there is only one site included in the World Heritage List namely the Soltan Tekesh Mausoleum, situated in Dashoguz province in Konye-Urgench city, located on the south side of Amudarya River. All the project's demonstration sites are located in the PAs surrounding geographies and although Dashoguz is one of the targeted project's region, none of the demonstration activities come near this site. However, there may be other culturally significant sites that the project could inadvertently impact. This risk will be monitored attentively, especially because the government has proposed other sites to be included in the List of the World Heritage, and there are two PAs under the project's scope, featuring among them, namely Repetek Biosphere Reserve and Amudarya Nature Reserve.</p>	<p>any potential risk will involve consultation with local authorities and stakeholders.</p>
<p>Risk 15 There is a risk that the marginalized and vulnerable groups/ farmers cannot access agricultural extension services strengthened by the project's activities and/or are excluded from benefiting from access to technical knowledge</p> <p><i>SES Principle 2 Human Rights,P3</i> <i>SES Principle 2 Human Rights P5</i></p>	<p>I=3 L=3</p>	<p>Moderate</p>	<p>The project beneficiaries are small and medium size private farmers and farming enterprises. One of the project's activity is aimed at making agricultural extension services and resilience advice more accessible to farmers (Act 3.2.1). There is a risk that marginalized and vulnerable groups cannot access extension services or are excluded from the direct project support through Outputs 3.2 and 3.3. This risk is preventatively assessed moderate</p>	<p>The risk management and mitigation measures are included in the project design.</p> <p>(i)For example the project includes partnerships with other initiatives (e.g. Adaptation Fund Project) and cooperation with the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, in order to strengthen extension service providers (Act 3.1.2). The AF Project builds on the process of vulnerability screening for better targeting the agricultural extension service providers while using technology such as mobile extension services, and as such, expanding the network of accessible demonstration plots for</p>

<p>SESP Principle 2 Human Rights, P6</p> <p>SES Principle 3, Gender, P10</p> <p>Principle 5, Accountability, P14</p>			<p>as access to knowledge within the framework of this project that promotes new innovative practices is deemed essential to achieving the intended outcomes and there is a risk that the vulnerable communities representatives, may not even hear about or be informed about the existence of these services and/or not be able to access due to remoteness of their location.</p>	<p>climate resilient technologies and on-farm consultations.</p> <p>(ii) In addition, this GEF project will implement ample awareness raising activities (Act 3.1.2) in order to reach out to all farmers and especially those located in remote areas and will strengthen the government's extension services in the targeted regions.</p> <p>(iii) The project's support envisages targeted radio programmes for farmers, including a dedicated segment for women farmers. These tailored radio programmes will test the opportunity and feasibility of setting up radio extension services to reach out to remote locations, and will include targeted programmes, designed based on farmers' needs. The project will work with a PR media company in order to implement these activities. The TORs for this assignment will include specific tasks to mitigate these risks i.e. carry out research and consultations with the representatives of vulnerable groups or remote communities in order to reflect their needs in the design of the awareness campaign and bespoke radio extension services.</p>
QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?				
Low Risk		<input type="checkbox"/>		
Moderate Risk		x		
Substantial Risk		<input type="checkbox"/>		
High Risk		<input type="checkbox"/>		
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")	x		Status? (completed, planned)	

	if yes, indicate overall type and status		X	Targeted assessment(s)	Completed during PPG: gender analysis, stakeholder analysis
			x	SESA (Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment)	Planned during implementation
	Are management plans required? (check if "yes)	X			
	If yes, indicate overall type		X	Targeted management plans (e.g. Gender Action Plan, Emergency Response Plan, Waste Management Plan, others)	Completed during PPG: Gender Action Plan, Stakeholder Engagement Plan Planned during implementation: Process Framework, Livelihood Action Plan (if needed)
			x	ESMF (Environmental and Social Management Framework)	Completed during PPG An ESMF will follow the SESA (during implementation) as needed.
	Based on identified risks, which Principles/Project-level Standards triggered?			Comments (not required)	
	Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind				
	Human Rights	X			
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment	X				

	Accountability	X	
	1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	X	
	2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks	X	
	3. Community Health, Safety and Security	X	
	4. Cultural Heritage	X	
	5. Displacement and Resettlement	X	
	6. Indigenous Peoples	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	7. Labour and Working Conditions	X	
	8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	X	

Final Sign Off

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

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.

SESP Attachment 1. Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks		
<p>INSTRUCTIONS: The risk screening checklist will assist in answering Questions 2-6 of the Screening Template. Answers to the checklist questions help to (1) identify potential risks, (2) determine the overall risk categorization of the project, and (3) determine required level of assessment and management measures. Refer to the SES toolkit for further guidance on addressing screening questions.</p>		
Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind		Answer (Yes/No)
Human Rights		
P.1	Have local communities or individuals raised human rights concerns regarding the 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 project?	Yes
P.3	Is there a risk that rights-holders (e.g. project-affected persons) do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	Yes
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
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? ⁴	Yes
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 project-affected communities and individuals?	Yes
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		
P.8	Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the project, (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	No
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
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?	Yes
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? <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
P.12	exacerbation of risks of gender-based violence?	No

⁴ Prohibited grounds of discrimination include race, ethnicity, sex, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, 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 and transsexual people.

<i>For example, through the influx of workers to a community, changes in community and household power dynamics, increased exposure to unsafe public places and/or transport, etc.</i>	
Sustainability and Resilience: Screening questions regarding risks associated with sustainability and resilience are encompassed by the Standard-specific questions below	
Accountability	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
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?	Yes
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?	No
Project-Level Standards	
Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>	
1.1 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>	Yes
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?	Yes
1.3 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)	No
1.4 risks to endangered species (e.g. reduction, encroachment on habitat)?	No
1.5 exacerbation of illegal wildlife trade?	No
1.6 introduction of invasive alien species?	No
1.7 adverse impacts on soils?	Yes
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? <i>For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction</i>	Yes
1.12 handling or utilization of genetically modified organisms/living modified organisms? ⁵	No

⁵ See the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and its [Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety](#).

1.13	utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development) ⁶	No
1.14	adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No
Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
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? <i>For example, through increased precipitation, drought, temperature, salinity, extreme events, earthquakes</i>	Yes
2.3	increases in vulnerability to climate change impacts or disaster risks now or in the future (also known as maladaptive or negative coping practices)? <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>	No
2.4	increases of greenhouse gas emissions, black carbon emissions or other drivers of climate change?	Yes
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
3.1	construction and/or infrastructure development (e.g. roads, buildings, dams)? (Note: the GEF does not finance projects that would involve the construction or rehabilitation of large or complex dams)	No
3.2	air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, injuries, physical hazards, poor surface water quality due to runoff, erosion, sanitation?	No
3.3	harm or losses due to failure of structural elements of the project (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)?	Yes
3.4	risks of water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g. temporary breeding habitats), communicable and noncommunicable diseases, nutritional disorders, mental health?	Yes
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)?	No
3.6	adverse impacts on ecosystems and ecosystem services relevant to communities' health (e.g. food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)?	Yes
3.7	influx of project workers to project areas?	No
3.8	engagement of security personnel to protect facilities and property or to support project activities?	No
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
4.1	activities adjacent to or within a Cultural Heritage site?	Yes

⁶ See the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#) and its [Nagoya Protocol](#) on access and benefit sharing from use of genetic resources.

4.2	significant excavations, demolitions, movement of earth, flooding or other environmental changes?	Yes
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: 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		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
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)?	Yes
5.3	risk of forced evictions? ⁷	
5.4	impacts on or changes to land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	Yes
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
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 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)? <i>If the answer to screening question 6.3 is “yes”, then the potential risk impacts are considered significant and the project would be categorized as either Substantial Risk or High Risk</i>	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? <i>Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 5 above</i>	No

⁷ Forced eviction is defined here as the permanent or temporary removal against their will of individuals, families or communities from the homes and/or land which they occupy, without the provision of, and access to, appropriate forms of legal or other protection. Forced evictions constitute gross violations of a range of internationally recognized human rights.

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? <i>Consider, and where appropriate ensure, consistency with the answers under Standard 4 above.</i>	No
Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to: (note: applies to project and contractor workers)</i>		
7.1	working conditions that do not meet national labour laws and international commitments?	Yes
7.2	working conditions that may deny freedom of association and collective bargaining?	No
7.3	use of child labour?	Yes
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 project life-cycle?	No
Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
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? <i>For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Montreal Protocol, Minamata Convention, Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention</i>	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?	Yes