

G. GCF POLICIES AND STANDARDS

G.1. Environmental and social risk assessment (max. 750 words, approximately 1.5 pages)

270. A Social and Environmental Screening assessment was undertaken to identify and address any potential social and environmental risks that could arise from project activities. The proposed project has been screened against the UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards Procedure and deemed a Moderate Risk (World Bank/International Finance Corporation Category B) project. As such, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (EMSF) has been prepared, and has is included as part of Annex 6.

Environmental considerations

271. The project is likely to have some short-term, small-scale environmental impacts during implementation, but will ultimately have considerable, long-term environmental benefits (See Section E.3.1).

272. Holistic planning in the form of soum-level resilience based watershed management plans will enable consideration of multiple activities over extended periods of time and therefore minimize adverse cumulative impacts. The project is not expected to have any long-term or substantive adverse environmental impacts relative to the rehabilitation of existing water infrastructure or the construction of water supply facilities. In fact, the conservation of water resources in the natural environment emphasized by project activities is expected to lead to significant environmental co-benefits associated with improved agricultural-pastoral practices and land use under climate change conditions. Any adverse environmental impacts are expected to short-term and limited to the construction of hydraulic works. Activities include both structural and ecosystem based measures to promote water security and may include: fencing of springs; small dams/ponds (water reservoirs) and water harvesting structures; planting of fodder crops; establishing windbreaks; soil protection (from erosion); rehabilitation of water resources; establishment of deep wells; rehabilitation/establishment of shallow wells. The formation of user groups and producer groups, along with implementation of agreements, will result in better use and management of resources, this in turn will limit the risk of over exploitation.

273. The project makes provision for a complaint's register along with a two-tiered Grievance Redress Mechanism consistent with the UNDP's Stakeholder Response Mechanism: Overview and Guidance (2014) and World Bank Group Safeguards Policies. The Grievance Redress Mechanism has further been designed in consideration of the specific local context and draws on existing processes and procedures for the resolution of complaints and grievances in Mongolia. The Grievance Redress Mechanism established goals and objectives along with eligibility requirements to make a complaint and/or grievance. It has been designed that all parties will act in good faith throughout the process and more importantly, that is will be arbitrary in nature in trying to achieve mutually acceptable resolutions for all parties. The Grievance Redress Mechanism also provides for the covering of costs for legitimate complaints or grievances so as individuals and/or groups are not disadvantaged by bring complaints to the attention of MET. Furthermore, environmental complaints by communities and people affected by the project can be submitted to UNDP's Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU). SECU will respond to claims that UNDP is not in compliance with applicable environmental and social policies. Complaints can be submitted by e-mail to project.concerns@undp.org or the UNDP website. Project-affected stakeholders can also request the UNDP Country Office for access to appropriate grievance resolution procedures for hearing and addressing project-related social and environmental complaints and disputes. Environmental and social grievances will be monitored and reported in the Annual Project Report.

Social considerations

274. The project targets the very vulnerable and poor, for whom there is little scope to pay for the capital costs associated with the interventions. Activities, such as watershed management plans, rangeland use agreements and policy reform, will be undertaken in a participatory manner so that community concerns and needs can be heard and taken into account. This engagement will increase ownership in outcomes.

275. Taken together, the interventions will help to reduce volatility (and thus loss from climate shocks), diversify household income, reduce pressure on rangelands resources, and mitigate the potential for future conflicts over dwindling resources. This will contribute to improving the socioeconomic conditions of vulnerable households through reducing livelihood pressures. By its simultaneous focus on improving rural household livelihoods, lowering climate risks, and implementing appropriate location-specific, adaptation measures, the project brings together the crucial elements needed for improving social circumstances in the targeted areas.

G.2. Gender assessment and action plan (max. 500 words, approximately 1 page)