

Annex 5: Social and Environmental Screening

Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	Generate global environmental benefits through environmental education and raising awareness of stakeholders.
2. Project Number	5309
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Armenia

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

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the Overarching Principles in order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?

Briefly describe in the space below how the Project mainstreams the human-rights based approach

The project supports the meaningful participation and inclusion of all stakeholders, during the design, implementation and monitoring of the project. It is anticipated that they will participate to capacity development activities supported by the project and the project will support the development of an enabling environment conducive to the participation of stakeholders in the management of natural resources. This approach is consistent with the participation and inclusion of human rights principle.

During the project formulation, consultation sessions and meetings have been conducted with a wide range of key stakeholders to exchange experience and knowledge and to assess the baseline of the project, including stakeholder workshops to review and validate the project strategy drafted on the basis of information collected from stakeholders. It is anticipated that these consultations, cooperation and coordination efforts during the formulation of the project will prove to be effective in generating efficient and effective stakeholder engagement during project implementation. Such consultations also assure that the interest of potentially marginalized individuals and groups are taken into account in the implementation. The approach for stakeholder engagement is consistent with a human rights-based approach to development programming.

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

Gender sensitivity and gender considerations have been taken into account in the formulation of the project; proposing gender sensitive approaches where needed, including the need to pay attention to gender equality. Every effort will be made to incorporate gender issues in the implementation of this project. Roles of men and women to participate in activities of the project will be equally assigned without any discrimination. The project will take steps to ensure that women account for at least 40% of all training and capacity building in the project. Moreover, the project will strengthen data collection and monitoring programmes – gender segregation of data collection and monitoring will be introduced as a basis for ensuring long-term gender benefits. This gender inclusive project will foster gender equality in environmental management and women's empowerment and participation in environmental management. This approach will facilitate a focus on gender-based environmental issues and gender-based solutions.

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

This project is a direct response to the GEF-funded *National Capacity Self-Assessment (NCSA)* project conducted in Armenia during the period of 2003-2004, which identified public awareness and environmental education as one key crosscutting capacity area hampering an effective implementation of Armenia's environmental obligations. It found that there was an insufficient training and knowledge for relevant organizations and staff to implement effective environmental management practices; a low level of decision-makers' awareness about global environmental issues and multilateral environmental agreements; and a low level of environmental education and lack of "environmental culture" among the population. The project is well aligned with the *UNDAF 2010-2015*, particularly with the fourth priorities "*Environment and disaster risk reduction is integrated into national and local development frameworks*". Through environmental education and awareness raising activities, the project will contribute to the integration of environment and disaster risk reduction into national and local development frameworks. The project is also aligned with the *Armenia Development Strategy (ADS) for 2014-2025* that states, "*the cornerstone of the environmental component of sustainable development is the protection of the balanced environment through conducting a resource efficient economy*" and also with the *Concept of Creation of a Holistic and Integrated National System for Environmental Education and Awareness-Raising* and the *2011-2015 Plan of Activities* that was formulated for the Implementation of this Concept




However, despite the existence of numerous activities in this area in Armenia, the project will address the need to coordinate and harmonize better a national programme on environmental education and ensuring that an adequate enabling environment is in place and conducive to the implementation of a national programme on environmental education and environmental awareness raising in Armenia. The project will target the development of capacities at the individual and organizational level, strengthening technical skills to develop and implement environmental education programmes. The project will also support activities to strengthen the coordination between key sectors to address biodiversity, climate change and land degradation issues at systemic and institutional levels. There are no environmental risks involved with the implementation of this project.

Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks

QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks? <i>Note: Describe briefly potential social and environmental risks identified in Attachment 1 – Risk Screening Checklist (based on any “Yes” responses).</i>	QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks? <i>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 6</i>			QUESTION 6: What social and environmental assessment and management measures have been conducted and/or are required to address potential risks (for Risks with Moderate and High Significance)?
<i>Risk Description</i>	<i>Impact and Probability (1-5)</i>	<i>Significance (Low, Moderate, High)</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Description of assessment and management measures as reflected in the Project design. If ESIA or SESA is required note that the assessment should consider all potential impacts and risks.</i>
Risk 1: None	I = P =	N/A	N/A	N/A
QUESTION 4: What is the overall Project risk categorization?				
Select one (see SESP for guidance)				
<i>Low Risk</i>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<i>Moderate Risk</i>				<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>High Risk</i>				<input type="checkbox"/>
QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are relevant?				
Check all that apply				
<i>Principle 1: Human Rights</i>				<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment</i>				<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>1. Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management</i>				<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>2. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</i>				<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>3. Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions</i>				<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>4. Cultural Heritage</i>				<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>5. Displacement and Resettlement</i>				<input type="checkbox"/>

	6. <i>Indigenous Peoples</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	None required
	7. <i>Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	None required

Final Sign Off

<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
QA Assessor 	24.03.2015	Armen Martirosyan, Environmental Governance Portfolio Analyst, UNDP Armenia
QA Approver 	24.03.2015	Claire Medina, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Armenia
PAC Chair 	24.03.2015	Claire Medina, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Armenia

SESP Attachment 1: Social and Environmental Risk Screening Checklist

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks		Answer (Yes/No)
Principles 1: Human Rights		
1.	Could the Project lead to adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups?	No
2.	Is there a likelihood that the Project would have inequitable or discriminatory adverse impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups? ¹	No
3.	Could the Project potentially restrict availability, quality of and access to resources or basic services, in particular to marginalized individuals or groups?	No
4.	Is there a likelihood that the Project would exclude any potentially affected stakeholders, in particular marginalized groups, from fully participating in decisions that may affect them?	No
5.	Are there measures or mechanisms in place to respond to local community grievances?	No
6.	Is there a risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project?	No
7.	Is there a risk that rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	No
8.	Have local communities or individuals, given the opportunity, raised human rights concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process?	No
9.	Is there a risk that the Project would exacerbate conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	No
Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment		
1.	Is there a likelihood that the proposed Project would have adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women and girls?	No
2.	Would the Project potentially reproduce discriminations against women based on gender, especially regarding participation in design and implementation or access to opportunities and benefits?	No
3.	Have women's groups/leaders raised gender equality concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process and has this been included in the overall Project proposal and in the risk assessment?	No
3.	Would the Project potentially limit women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services? <i>For example, activities that could lead to natural resources degradation or depletion in communities who depend on these resources for their livelihoods and well being</i>	No
Principle 3: Environmental Sustainability: Screening questions regarding environmental risks are encompassed by the specific Standard-related questions below		
Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management		
1.1	Would the Project potentially cause adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services? <i>For example, through habitat loss, conversion or degradation, fragmentation, hydrological changes</i>	No

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

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks		
1.2	Are any Project activities proposed within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	No
1.3	Does the Project involve changes to the use of lands and resources that may have adverse impacts on habitats, ecosystems, and/or livelihoods? (Note: if restrictions and/or limitations of access to lands would apply, refer to Standard 5)	No
1.4	Would Project activities pose risks to endangered species?	No
1.5	Would the Project pose a risk of introducing invasive alien species?	No
1.6	Does the Project involve harvesting of natural forests, plantation development, or reforestation?	No
1.7	Does the Project involve the production and/or harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species?	No
1.8	Does the Project involve significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? <i>For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction</i>	No
1.9	Does the Project involve utilization of genetic resources? (e.g. collection and/or harvesting, commercial development)	No
1.10	Would the Project generate potential adverse transboundary or global environmental concerns?	No
1.11	Would the Project result in secondary or consequential development activities which could lead to adverse social and environmental effects, or would it generate cumulative impacts with other known existing or planned activities in the area? <i>For example, a new road through forested lands will generate direct environmental and social impacts (e.g. felling of trees, earthworks, potential relocation of inhabitants). The new road may also facilitate encroachment on lands by illegal settlers or generate unplanned commercial development along the route, potentially in sensitive areas. These are indirect, secondary, or induced impacts that need to be considered. Also, if similar developments in the same forested area are planned, then cumulative impacts of multiple activities (even if not part of the same Project) need to be considered.</i>	No
Standard 2: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation		
2.1	Will the proposed Project result in significant ² greenhouse gas emissions or may exacerbate climate change?	No
2.2	Would the potential outcomes of the Project be sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change?	No
2.3	Is the proposed Project likely to directly or indirectly increase social and environmental <u>vulnerability to climate change</u> now or in the future (also known as maladaptive 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
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions		
3.1	Would elements of Project construction, operation, or decommissioning pose potential safety risks to local communities?	No
3.2	Would the Project pose potential risks to community health and safety due to the transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	No
3.3	Does the Project involve large-scale infrastructure development (e.g. dams, roads, buildings)?	No
3.4	Would failure of structural elements of the Project pose risks to communities? (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)	No

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

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks		
3.5	Would the proposed Project be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme climatic conditions?	No
3.6	Would the Project result in potential increased health risks (e.g. from water-borne or other vector-borne diseases or communicable infections such as HIV/AIDS)?	No
3.7	Does the Project pose potential risks and vulnerabilities related to occupational health and safety due to physical, chemical, biological, and radiological hazards during Project construction, operation, or decommissioning?	No
3.8	Does the Project involve support for employment or livelihoods that may fail to comply with national and international labor standards (i.e. principles and standards of ILO fundamental conventions)?	No
3.9	Does the Project engage security personnel that may pose a potential risk to health and safety of communities and/or individuals (e.g. due to a lack of adequate training or accountability)?	No
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage		
4.1	Will the proposed Project result in interventions that would potentially adversely impact sites, structures, or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or intangible forms of culture (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)? (Note: Projects intended to protect and conserve Cultural Heritage may also have inadvertent adverse impacts)	No
4.2	Does the Project propose utilizing tangible and/or intangible forms of cultural heritage for commercial or other purposes?	No
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement		
5.1	Would the Project potentially involve temporary or permanent and full or partial physical displacement?	No
5.2	Would the Project possibly result in economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to resources due to land acquisition or access restrictions – even in the absence of physical relocation)?	No
5.3	Is there a risk that the Project would lead to forced evictions? ³	No
5.4	Would the proposed Project possibly affect land tenure arrangements and/or community based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources?	No
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples		
6.1	Are indigenous peoples present in the Project area (including Project area of influence)?	No
6.2	Is it likely that the Project or portions of the Project will be located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No
6.3	Would the proposed Project potentially affect the rights, lands and territories of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether Indigenous Peoples possess the legal titles to such areas)?	No
6.4	Has there been an absence of culturally appropriate consultations carried out with the objective of achieving FPIC on matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, territories and traditional livelihoods of the indigenous peoples concerned?	No
6.4	Does the proposed Project involve the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	No

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

Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks		
6.5	Is there a potential for forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources?	No
6.6	Would the Project adversely affect the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	No
6.7	Would the Project potentially affect the traditional livelihoods, physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	No
6.8	Would the Project potentially affect the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?	No
Standard 7: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency		
7.1	Would the Project potentially result in the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or <u>transboundary impacts</u> ?	No
7.2	Would the proposed Project potentially result in the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	No
7.3	Will the proposed Project potentially involve the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous chemicals and/or materials? Does the Project propose use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs? <i>For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Stockholm Conventions on Persistent Organic Pollutants or the Montreal Protocol</i>	No
7.4	Will the proposed Project involve the application of pesticides that may have a negative effect on the environment or human health?	No
7.5	Does the Project include activities that require significant consumption of raw materials, energy, and/or water?	No