

## Annex 2: UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP)

### SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING TEMPLATE (2021 SESP TEMPLATE, VERSION 1)

The completed template, which constitutes the Social and Environmental Screening Report, must be included as an annex to the Project Document at the design stage. Note: this template will be converted into an online tool. The online version will guide users through the process and will embed relevant guidance.

#### Project Information

Project Information	
1. Project Title	<b>Supporting the Moldovan authorities in the sustainable management of the Dniester River</b>
2. Project Number (i.e. Atlas project ID, PIMS+)	Atlas Project ID: 00139217
3. Location (Global/Region/Country)	Republic of Moldova
4. Project stage (Design or Implementation)	Design (ProDoc stage)
5. Date	06/07/2022

#### Part A. Integrating Programming Principles to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability

QUESTION 1: How Does the Project Integrate the SES Programming Principles in Order to Strengthen Social and Environmental Sustainability?
<p><b>Briefly describe in the space below how the project mainstreams the human rights-based approach</b></p> <p><i>The project has been designed in line with the human rights-based approach which aims at developing the capacities of the “duty-bearers” to meet their obligations and/or of the “rights-holders” to claim their rights.</i></p> <p><i>In that sense, the following would be the contribution of the project to the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:</i></p> <p><i>Article 3. “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person”. The project will directly contribute to the protection of human health and the environment by reducing the impacts caused by the unsound management of water resources within the Dniester Basin and the main water stream of Moldova – Dniester River. As such the project will contribute to protecting people’s right to healthy life.</i></p> <p><i>Article 19. “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and convey information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.” The project will ensure that stakeholders involved in the management of water resources as well as water resources users will be engaged in the project’s implementation, through appropriate consultation mechanisms, workshops and awareness raising events to allow them to participate in the decision-making process as during the project formulation so during its implementation, express their opinions on the project and its intended activities. Furthermore, project activities, objectives and results will be widely disseminated through various media</i></p>

channels throughout the project's implementation. The project will contribute to people's access to information and provide them with opportunities to express their opinions.

Article 23 (2) "Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment". The project will help with further improvements in working conditions of scientists, engineers and technicians occupied in water resources sector. Infrastructure and skills required to manage the water resources within the Dniester Basin will be improved by the project in private and public sectors. As such the project will contribute to protecting people's right to favorable conditions of work and improve work skills to stay competitive in the business.

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

Although the project activities consist in management of the Dniester River and its Basin and thus do not explicitly have a gender dimension, the project team will promote the participation of women in consultation meetings and will address gender inequalities in terms of access to clean water, decision-making when applicable. The relevant gender empowerment needs will be identified during the implementation of the project and will be adequately reported and addressed.

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

Briefly, the project mainstreams environmental sustainability and resilience by promoting the principle of integrated water resource management with the ultimate goal to ensure amount and quality of waters needed for both sustainable socio-economic development and healthy environment. It will be done at two levels: 1) providing assistance to the relevant institutions to further develop the water policy and improvement of regulatory framework, to help the Moldovan institutions ensure the transboundary dialogue with Ukraine as well as the dialogue with the Transnistria region in order to reach and keep the good ecological status of the Dniester River and 2) implementing on-the-ground activities that will directly benefit the River. Altogether the project activities will contribute to the improvement of the ecological status of the Dniester River.

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

As part of UNDP's quality assurance role, UNDP requires adherence to the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards ("SES")<sup>1</sup> for project activities implemented using funds channeled through UNDP's accounts. The SES objectives are to: (i) strengthen the social and environmental outcomes of programmes and Projects; (ii) avoid adverse impacts to people and the environment; (iii) minimize, mitigate, and manage adverse impacts where avoidance is not possible; (iv) strengthen UNDP and partner capacities for managing social and environmental risks; and (v) ensure full and effective stakeholder engagement, including through a mechanism to respond to complaints from project-affected people.

The Standards are underpinned by an Accountability Mechanism with two key functions:

- A Stakeholder Response Mechanism that ensures individuals, peoples, and communities affected by UNDP projects have access to appropriate procedures for hearing and addressing project-related grievances; and,
- A Compliance Review process to respond to claims that UNDP is not in compliance with UNDP's social and environmental policies.

The proposal will not support activities that do not comply with national law and obligations under international law, whichever is the higher standard. In the framework of this proposal support will be provided to the Government of Moldova to adhere to their human rights obligations and empower individuals and groups, to realize their rights and to ensure that they fully participate in implementation of the project proposal.

<sup>1</sup> "Environmental and Social Standards" as approved by UNDP's Organizational Performance Group in June 2014 and effective starting January 1, 2015.

**Part B. Identifying and Managing Social and Environmental Risks**

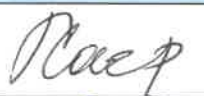
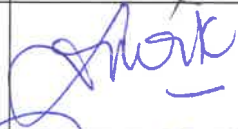
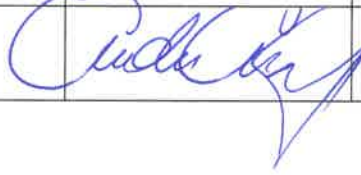
<b>QUESTION 2: What are the Potential Social and Environmental Risks?</b> <i>Note: Complete SESP Attachment 1 before responding to Question 2.</i>		<b>QUESTION 3: What is the level of significance of the potential social and environmental risks?</b> <i>Note: Respond to Questions 4 and 5 below before proceeding to Question 5</i>		<b>QUESTION 6: Describe the assessment and management measures for each risk rated Moderate, Substantial or High</b>
<b>Risk Description</b> <i>(broken down by event, cause, impact)</i>	<b>Impact and Likelihood</b> <i>(1-5)</i>	<b>Significance</b> <i>(Low, Moderate, Substantial, High)</i>	<b>Comments (optional)</b>	<b>Description of assessment and management measures for risks rated as Moderate, Substantial or High</b>
<b>Risk 1:</b> Reproduction of discrimination against women based on gender  Related to: Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment, q. 2	I = 1 L = 1	Low	The activities foreseen to reach the project outputs and objectives of the project are not seen to be gender-sensitive ones. The success of project implementation is based on meritocracy principal – the best experts will be selected regardless the gender aspects.	Even though the meritocracy principle will be governing this project (the best experts will be selected to implement the project activities) active promotion of woman participation in project implementation will apply. Gender-disaggregated data will also be collected.
<b>Risk 2.</b> Conflicts with local farmers during the removal of illegally built dams.  Related to: Principle 3: Environmental Sustainability: Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions	I=3 L=3	Medium		The status of the area as a National Park implies the restoration of the existing natural habitats. That is why dams illegally built years ago by local farmers must be removed. The reason of erecting the dams by local farmer was the retention of the water for agricultural use. Since the activity is conceived to bring plenty of water into the oxbow the reason to keep the dams will disappear as well as the factor generating the conflict. Still to avoid possible misunderstandings the communication with the local stakeholders will be initiated as early as possible during the pre-design stage.
<b>Risk 3:</b> Risk to worker and community health and safety.	I = 1 L = 2	Low	Common Health and Safety Risks associated with transport, loading –	Management of Health & Safety risks is addressed by developing and further implementation during the works of the Health and Safety Management Plan.

Related to: Principle 3: Environmental Sustainability: Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions,			unloading and excavation category of works.	
<b>Risk 4:</b> Generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous).  Related to: Principle 3: Environmental Sustainability: Standard 7: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency, 7.2	I = 1 L = 1	Low	The only source of hazardous waste is possible spills of fuel from machinery.	Best available techniques/environmental practices will be followed to avoid fuel spills. No other specific management measures are required.
<b>Risk 6:</b> Air and water pollution  Related to: Principle 3: Environmental Sustainability: Standard 7: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency, 7.3	I = 1 L = 3	Low		Best available techniques/environmental practices will be followed. Close coordination with and involvement of the Customs Service will be ensured. No specific management measures are required.
<b>Risk 7</b> Adverse impact on birds and fish communities	I = 2 L=3	Moderate		Managed through mitigation measures within Environmental and Social Management Plan elaboration. The main and only principle: no works (noise) during the nesting and spawning period.
	<b>QUESTION 4: What is the overall project risk categorization?</b>			
			<b>Low Risk</b>	<b>X</b>
			<b>Moderate Risk</b>	
			<b>Substantial Risk</b>	
			<b>High Risk</b>	
	<b>QUESTION 5: Based on the identified risks and risk categorization, what requirements of the SES are triggered? (check all that apply)</b>			
	Question only required for Moderate, Substantial and High Risk projects			
	<b>Is assessment required? (check if "yes")</b>	<b>X</b>	<i>Activity 42 – 43 will require EIA</i>	<i>Planned</i>
	<b>Are management plans required? (check if "yes")</b>	<b>X</b>	<i>Health and Safety Management Plan</i>	
	<b>Based on identified risks, which Principles/Project-level Standards triggered?</b>		<b>Comments (not required)</b>	
	<b>Overarching Principle: Leave No One Behind</b>			

	<b>Human Rights</b>		
	<b>Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</b>		
	<b>Accountability</b>		
	<b>1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</b>	X	
	<b>2. Climate Change and Disaster Risks</b>		
	<b>3. Community Health, Safety and Security</b>	X	Addressed through Health & Safety Plan, best practice, trainings.
	<b>4. Cultural Heritage</b>		
	<b>5. Displacement and Resettlement</b>		
	<b>6. Indigenous Peoples</b>		
	<b>7. Labour and Working Conditions</b>	X	Addressed through Health & Safety Plan, best practice, trainings
	<b>8. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</b>		

#### 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**

<b>Checklist Potential Social and Environmental Risks</b>		<b>Answer (Yes/No)</b>
<b>Principles 1: Human Rights</b>		
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? <sup>2</sup>	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.	Is there a risk that duty-bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the Project?	NO
6.	Is there a risk that rights-holders do not have the capacity to claim their rights?	NO
7.	Have local communities or individuals, given the opportunity, raised human rights concerns regarding the Project during the stakeholder engagement process?	NO
8.	Is there a risk that the Project would exacerbate conflicts among and/or the risk of violence to project-affected communities and individuals?	NO
<b>Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment</b>		
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
4.	Would the Project potentially limit women's ability to use, develop and protect natural resources, taking into account different roles and positions of women and men in accessing environmental goods and services? 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.	NO
<b>Principle 3: Environmental Sustainability - screening questions regarding environmental risks are encompassed by the specific standard-related questions below</b>		
<b>Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management</b>		
1.1	Would the Project potentially cause adverse impacts to habitats (e.g. modified, natural, and critical habitats) and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services? For example, through habitat loss, conversion or degradation, fragmentation, hydrological changes.	NO
1.2	Are any Project activities proposed within or adjacent to critical habitats and/or environmentally sensitive areas, including legally protected areas (e.g. nature reserve, national park), areas proposed for protection, or recognized as such by authoritative sources and/or indigenous peoples or local communities?	<b>YES</b>
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	NO

<sup>2</sup> 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		Answer (Yes/No)
	species?	
1.8	Does the Project involve significant extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction.	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? 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.	NO
<b>Standard 2: Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</b>		
2.1	Will the proposed Project result in significant <sup>3</sup> 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 vulnerability to climate change now or in the future (also known as maladaptive practices)? For example, changes to land use planning may encourage further development of floodplains, potentially increasing the population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding	NO
<b>Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions</b>		
3.1	Would elements of Project construction, operation, or decommissioning pose potential safety risks to local communities?	YES
3.2	Would the Project pose potential risks to community health and safety due to the transport, storage, and use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. explosives, fuel and other chemicals during construction and operation)?	NO
3.3	Does the Project involve large-scale infrastructure development (e.g. dams, roads, buildings)?	NO
3.4	Would failure of structural elements of the Project pose risks to communities? (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure)	NO
3.5	Would the proposed Project be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, and 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 <b>physical</b> , chemical, biological, and radiological hazards during Project <b>construction</b> , operation, or decommissioning?	YES
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
<b>Standard 4: Cultural Heritage</b>		
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

<sup>3</sup> In regards to CO<sub>2</sub>, '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		Answer (Yes/No)
4.2	Does the Project propose utilizing tangible and/or intangible forms of cultural heritage for commercial or other purposes?	NO
<b>Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement</b>		
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? <sup>4</sup>	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
<b>Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples</b>		
6.1	Are indigenous peoples present in the Project area (including Project area of influence)?	NO
6.2	Is it likely that the Project or portions of the Project will be located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	NO
6.3	Would the proposed Project potentially affect the human rights, lands, natural resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples (regardless of whether indigenous peoples possess the legal titles to such areas, 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)? If the answer to the screening question 6.3 is “yes” the potential risk impacts are considered potentially severe and/or critical and the Project would be categorized as either Moderate or High Risk.	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
6.5	Does the proposed Project involve the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	NO
6.6	Is there a potential for forced eviction or the whole or partial physical or economic displacement of indigenous peoples, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, and resources?	NO
6.7	Would the Project adversely affect the development priorities of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	NO
6.8	Would the Project potentially affect the physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	NO
6.9	Would the Project potentially affect the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?	NO
<b>Standard 7: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency</b>		
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 <u>local</u> , regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	YES
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? For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Stockholm Conventions on Persistent Organic Pollutants or the Montreal Protocol.	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

<sup>4</sup> 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.