

Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework

## **Standard 1 – Environmental and Social Impacts and Risks**

Draft – 15 December 2021



## STANDARD 1: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS AND RISKS

### INTRODUCTION

- 1 This Standard promotes an integrated approach to impact assessment and risk management by ensuring that environmental, climate and social considerations are addressed and taken into account in the decision-making processes.
- 2 This Standard recognises the importance of the promoters' commitment to effective and sustained environmental and social performance through the establishment of an environmental and social management system commensurate with the identified impacts and risks.

### OBJECTIVES

- 3 This Standard outlines the promoter's responsibilities<sup>1</sup> with regard to the process of assessing the potential environmental, climate and/or social impacts and risks associated with the project, and developing and implementing procedures<sup>2</sup> for managing and monitoring these impacts and risks throughout the EIB's project cycle, specifically:
  - a. Identifying, describing and assessing in an appropriate manner, the likely significant effects covering the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, positive and negative effects, as well as any cumulative and transboundary effects associated with the project and its ancillary/associated works/facilities, where appropriate;
  - b. Applying the mitigation hierarchy through the identification of measures to avoid, prevent and reduce any significant adverse effects and, if required, remedy/compensate any residual effects on project-affected people, communities and workers, as well as on the environment;
  - c. Ensuring respect for human rights by integrating human rights impacts and risks into the impact assessment process as described in this Standard;
  - d. Identifying measures to maximise the positive effects of the projects and considering the establishment of project benefit-sharing and/or community development programmes, where appropriate;
  - e. Systematically following up and monitoring the implementation of agreed prevention, reduction and, if required, remedial/compensatory measures, as well as measures to further enhance the environmental, climate and social performance of the projects.

### SCOPE

- 4 This Standard applies to all projects likely to have significant environmental, climate and/or social impacts and risks. These impacts and risks need to be taken into account at the earliest possible stage of planning and decision-making processes, including to ensure consistency with "Do Not Significant Harm" (DNSH) and "Minimum Safeguards" (MS) principles and requirements<sup>3</sup>.

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

- 5 All projects located in the EU and EFTA, Candidate and potential Candidate countries shall comply with the applicable national and EU legislation. Those projects, which are likely to have significant effects on the environment, human health and well-being, shall be subject to an assessment according to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive<sup>4</sup>. While

<sup>1</sup> The promoter's other responsibilities are spelled out in the other Standards, when triggered.

<sup>2</sup> The establishment of an environmental and social management system or equivalent.

<sup>3</sup> As defined in the EU Taxonomy Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 – <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2020/852/oj>.

<sup>4</sup> Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (EIA Directive) as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU.

assessing and managing the environmental impacts<sup>5</sup> at project level, any relevant information obtained or conclusions arrived at pursuant to the application of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive<sup>6</sup>, whenever relevant, should also be taken into account in the assessment process.

- 6 This assessment may be coordinated with and/or complemented by any applicable requirements and/or one or more of the following assessments:
  - a. Arising simultaneously from applicable EU legislation: the Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats<sup>7</sup> and Birds Directives<sup>8</sup>, assessments under the Water Framework Directive (WFD)<sup>9</sup> and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive<sup>10</sup>; and/or,
  - b. Pertaining to specific topics that may require particular attention: biodiversity and ecosystem services, climate change, cultural heritage, social impacts, as relevant and if deemed necessary by the EIB.
- 7 All projects located in the rest of the world shall comply with the applicable national legislation and with the core principles and essential procedural elements laid down by the EU legislation that the EIB considers relevant to the assessment and management of environmental, climate and/or social impacts and risks, particularly those contained in the EIA Directive, which are set out in the paragraphs 14 – 31 and annexes of this Standard. For instance, those projects that are likely to have significant environmental, climate and/or social impacts shall be subject to an Environmental and/or Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process. The assessment of any social aspects is fully embedded in this process and should include considerations of potential human rights risks<sup>11</sup>.
- 8 If deemed necessary by the EIB, based on the nature of the project and country context, the assessment carried out as part of the ESIA process may be coordinated with and/or complemented by any applicable requirements and/or assessments/studies pertaining to specific areas that may require particular attention, as relevant. If so, the assessment process shall also take into account any recommendation provided by the relevant EU guidelines and international good practices relating to the assessment and management of environmental, climate, social and/or human rights impacts and risks.

#### SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

##### ***Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process for projects located in the EU, EFTA, Candidate and potential Candidate Countries***

- 9 For all projects listed in Annex I to the EIA Directive and Annex II in respect of which the relevant competent authorities have concluded that an EIA is required, the promoter shall:

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<sup>5</sup> Within the meaning of Art. 3.1 of the EIA Directive, population and human health as well as material assets and cultural heritage are among the factors to be considered in the assessment process.

<sup>6</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (SEA Directive), including, where relevant, the application of Art 6 of Habitats Directive.

<sup>7</sup> Art. 6 of Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive), as amended.

<sup>8</sup> Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive), as amended.

<sup>9</sup> Art. 4.7 of Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy, as amended, on the derogation from the WFD's environmental objectives due to new modifications to the physical characteristics of a surface water body or alterations to the level of bodies of groundwater, or failure to prevent status deterioration of a body of surface water (including from high status to good status) as a result of sustainable human development activities.

<sup>10</sup> Art. 14 of Directive 2008/56/EC establishing a framework for community action in the field of marine environmental policy, as amended.

<sup>11</sup> Including, *inter alia*, the right to privacy, right to data protection, freedom of assembly and association, non-discrimination.

- a. Prepare and provide the EIB with an Environmental Impact Assessment Report<sup>12</sup> that shall include the relevant information required by Annex IV to the EIA Directive and the conclusions of the assessments referred to in paragraph 6a of this Standard;
  - b. Carry out or otherwise support the competent authorities (as outlined in Standard 2) in carrying out the relevant public participation process<sup>13</sup>, including in a transboundary context<sup>14</sup>, where applicable;
  - c. Provide the EIB with the decision(s) of the relevant competent authorities which include the conclusion of the EIA process and satisfy the requirements set out in the EIA Directive, including relevant information in the event the project is exempted from conducting an EIA<sup>15</sup>;
  - d. Implement all environmental conditions attached to the decision(s) and the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset significant adverse effects on the environment as well as, where appropriate, monitoring measures.
- 10 For all projects listed in Annex II to the EIA Directive in respect of which the relevant competent authorities have concluded that an EIA is not required, the promoter shall provide, upon request, the EIB with:
- a. The information submitted to the relevant competent authorities and used as a basis of their determination<sup>16</sup> (as specified in Annex II.A to the EIA Directive); and,
  - b. The relevant decision that satisfies the requirements set out in the EIA Directive. The promoter shall implement the measures envisaged to avoid and prevent what might otherwise have constituted significant adverse effects on the environment, where applicable.
- 11 To guarantee the completeness and quality of the information included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report<sup>17</sup>, the Bank may require the promoter to confirm that the information required under paragraph 9 is up to date by providing:
- a. An update of the report based on the latest studies, as necessary. The exact scope of the additional information to be provided by the promoter shall be agreed with the EIB; and/or upon request of the EIB,
  - b. A statement from the relevant competent authority, confirming that the information included in the report remains accurate and relevant and properly reflects *inter alia* the baseline conditions, legal requirements, current knowledge and methods of assessment.
- 12 The promoter shall carry out and provide the EIB with all relevant assessments that complement the EIA as defined in paragraph 6b, where applicable.

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<sup>12</sup> The provisions listed in paragraph 22 are also taken into account in the preparation of the EIA Report.

<sup>13</sup> In line with the spirit and principles of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters (Aarhus Convention), available at: <http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/pp/documents/cep43e.pdf>.

<sup>14</sup> In line with the approach defined in the United Nations Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Espoo Convention and its Kiev Protocol), available at: [http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/legaltexts/Espoo\\_Convention\\_authentic\\_ENG.pdf](http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/legaltexts/Espoo_Convention_authentic_ENG.pdf).

<sup>15</sup> Art. 2.4 Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (EIA Directive) as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU.

<sup>16</sup> Art. 4.4 and 4.5 of the Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (EIA Directive) as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU.

<sup>17</sup> This is especially important for projects requiring a long-term preparation process, and where the prediction of the impacts was carried out at an early stage in the project's design, when relevant data may not have always been easily available.

- 13 In addition, for projects located in Candidate and potential Candidate countries, the promoter shall:
- Consider any timeframes and difficulties encountered for achieving compliance with specific EU environmental legislation arranged between the European Union and the Candidate and potential Candidate countries through bilateral agreements and/or action programmes;
  - Take into account as part of the EIA process the relevant social considerations described below and in the applicable Standards.

***Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) process for projects located in the rest of the world***

- 14 For projects located in countries covered by the EU European Neighbourhood and Partnership policies, the promoter shall apply the provisions of this section of the Standard. In addition the requirements of paragraph 13 may also apply, where applicable.
- 15 In order to enhance the efficiency of the ESIA at project level, promoters are encouraged to use the SEA-type approach<sup>18</sup> to ensure that environmental, climate and social considerations and alternatives are addressed as early as possible in plans or programmes that establish the framework for the development of specific projects, whenever relevant. The SEA should address direct and indirect effects, as well as the cumulative impacts<sup>19</sup>.
- 16 The ESIA process may involve some or all of the following steps: (i) the determination of the need for an ESIA; (ii) the scope and level of details of the assessment; and (iii) the preparation of an ESIA Report and an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). Engagement with the project stakeholders<sup>20</sup> is an integral part of this process. Detailed requirements regarding stakeholder engagement are outlined in Standard 2.

***Determining the Need for an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment***

- 17 An environmental and/or social impact assessment is required for projects listed in Annex I to the EIA Directive and/or when an ESIA is required by national legislation or based on the determination carried out according to paragraphs 18 and 19 of this Standard.
- 18 For those projects listed in Annex II to the EIA Directive and/or in the national legislation, the need to carry out an environmental and/or social impact assessment is determined through a case-by-case examination and taking into account the criteria specified in Annex 1a of this Standard.
- 19 In determining the need for an environmental and social impact assessment, the promoter collects and provides the EIB with the information specified in Annex 1b of this Standard. The information should be comprehensive enough to provide the basis for the promoter's determination. The outcomes of the determination, including its justification, are communicated to the EIB and considered in its due-diligence process.

***Scope and Level of Detail of the Assessment***

- 20 If deemed necessary by the EIB or required by national legislation, this step determines those environmental, climate and/or social impacts and risks as well as areas of concern that are likely to be of the utmost importance and should therefore be addressed in greater detail. The assessment should be commensurate with and proportionate to the potential impacts and risks.

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<sup>18</sup> As the requirements to undertake an SEA-type approach are increasingly incorporated into the national legal systems (e.g. EIA, natural resources or sectors laws and regulations), the outcomes of the process vary and might take different forms: SEA report, EIA/ESIA report, etc.

<sup>19</sup> Cumulative effects should be considered as impacts of individual projects that may be minor when considered in isolation, but significant when the projects are viewed collectively.

<sup>20</sup> See footnotes 12 and 13.

Their nature, likelihood and magnitude shape the scale and extent of the assessment, including those assessments/studies referred to in paragraph 8.

- 21 In order to identify the significant environmental, climate and social effects to be addressed in-depth, the promoter should analyse the following aspects<sup>21</sup>:
  - a. The baseline studies required to understand the existing status of the environment, including the need for and level of detail of any additional investigations;
  - b. The prevailing socio-economic context so as to enable the identification of persons and/or groups that are vulnerable, marginalised, discriminated against or excluded on the basis of their socio-economic characteristics;
  - c. The alternatives that ought to be considered, including the “do nothing” scenario;
  - d. The methods to be used to predict the magnitude of environmental, climate and social effects; and
  - e. The criteria against which the significance of the effects should be evaluated.
- 22 The assessment of environmental, climate and/or social impacts and risks also takes into account the impacts and risks that encompass one or more of the following, as appropriate, even if not financed by the EIB:
  - a. The ancillary/associated works/facilities constructed, expanded or planned to be constructed that can be considered as an integral part of the project, by virtue, inter alia, of their purpose, nature, characteristics and/or location;
  - b. Supporting/enabling activities/facilities owned by or under the control of parties (such as sub-contractors) contracted for the construction and/or operation of the proposed project;
  - c. The ancillary/associated works/facilities that may be owned by a separate legal entity and without which the project would not be technically viable.

#### *Content of an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Report*

- 23 Where an environmental and social impact assessment is required, the promoter shall prepare a report that takes into account all relevant stages of the project and includes, at a minimum, the information specified in Annex 2a of this Standard.

#### *Environmental and Social Management Plans*

- 24 Taking into account the findings of the ESIA process, the conclusions of any other relevant assessments/studies and the outcomes of the stakeholder engagement process, the promoter shall develop and implement a set of measures to address the identified impacts and risks, as well as any opportunities for improvement of the project’s environmental and social performance. These may be documented in an environmental and social management plan (ESMP) or equivalent. The level of detail and complexity as well as the prioritisation of the identified measures shall be commensurate with the nature and magnitude of the project’s impacts and risks.
- 25 The ESMP or equivalent may consist of some documented combination of the organisational structure, responsibilities, practices, procedures, processes and resources for its implementation and monitoring, measurable actions to address the identified impacts and risks and related supporting documents (including legal agreements, if applicable) and shall include, at a minimum, the information specified in Annex 2b of this Standard.

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<sup>21</sup> The list is not exhaustive.

- 26 The promoter is also responsible for the proper implementation of any specific requirements set out in the ESMP or equivalent that is carried out by contractors or subcontractors. Effective contractor management includes due consideration to relevant ESMP provisions in respect of:
  - a. Tender documents, as appropriate, including criteria (such as knowledge, skills and resources) to determine potential contractors'/first-tier suppliers' capacity to meet the requirements;
  - b. Contractual requirements for contractors/first-tier suppliers to comply with the relevant Standards and to remedy any identified non-compliance;
  - c. Monitoring of contractor/first-tier supplier compliance with the above requirements; and
  - d. In the case of sub-contracting, the contractors/first-tier suppliers are required to have similar arrangements with their subcontractors.
- 27 The promoter may engage with stakeholders and/or third parties, such as independent experts, local communities and/or non-governmental organisations (NGOs), to support the implementation of monitoring requirements as defined in the ESMP or equivalent or to facilitate community-driven monitoring.
- 28 The promoter shall periodically report on the implementation of the ESMP, as well as the fulfilment of obligations and/or undertakings incorporated into the legal documentation signed with the EIB. The promoter shall notify the EIB of any environmental and social-related accident or incident, including incidents of gender-based or other types of violence and harassment, that has significant adverse effects and take immediate actions to address and prevent any recurrence.

#### ***Promoter's Organisation Capacity and Competencies***

- 29 The promoter shall establish an integrated Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS) or equivalent as a dynamic, adaptive, and continuous process that is commensurate with the size and nature of the impacts and risks of the activity. The ESMS may be endorsed by the management and adequately communicated internally and externally, where appropriate.
- 30 The ESMS outlines the set of management processes and procedures that allows the promoter to ensure compliance with the relevant environmental, climate and social legal framework, international best practices and the EIB requirements, where applicable. The ESMS may be subject to external audits, where relevant and as deemed necessary by the EIB.
- 31 The promoter shall establish, maintain, and strengthen, as necessary, the organisational structure that defines clear roles and responsibilities to implement and monitor the efficiency of the ESMS. The promoter shall ensure that adequate human and financial resources are provided on an ongoing basis to achieve effective and continuous improvement in performance of the ESMS.
- 32 The responsibilities related to the Paris alignment of counterpart's activities are defined in the EIB Paris Alignment of Counterparties Framework<sup>22</sup>.

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<sup>22</sup> [https://www.eib.org/attachments/publications/the\\_eib\\_group\\_path\\_framework\\_en.pdf](https://www.eib.org/attachments/publications/the_eib_group_path_framework_en.pdf).

## **ANNEX 1A – CRITERIA TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR AN ESIA (REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 18)**

1. Characteristics of the project, with particular regard to, as relevant:
  - the size and, and where relevant, its ancillary/associated works;
  - cumulation with other projects and activities (existing and/or approved);
  - the use of land and natural resources<sup>23</sup>, including formal and informal/customary land and natural resources rights and uses;
  - the production of waste;
  - pollution and nuisances;
  - the risks of major accidents and/or disasters, including those caused by climate change;
  - the risks to human health and any likely social impact as described in Standards 6 to 9.
2. Location of the project considering the environmental sensitivity and any relevant social aspects of the geographical area likely to be affected, with particular regard to, as relevant:
  - the existing and planned land use, including land take;
  - the relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources<sup>24</sup> in the area;
  - the absorption capacity of the natural environment<sup>25</sup>;
  - areas in which there has already been or is likely to be a failure to meet the environmental quality standards;
  - densely populated areas;
  - socio-economic characteristics of the area;
  - areas known to have a high occurrence of social risks as described in Standards 6 to 9 (such as presence of indigenous people, violation of human rights, including any actual and potential discrimination, conflict and/or social violence, gender-specific risks, labour rights<sup>26</sup>), as well as any conflict-affected and fragile situations;
  - landscapes and sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.
3. Nature and significance of the potential effects of the project, with particular regard to:
  - the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (such as the geographical area and amount of project-affected people and communities);
  - the nature (including the transboundary nature), intensity and complexity, probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact;
  - cumulation of the impact with the impact of other projects and activities;
  - the possibility of effectively reducing the impact.

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<sup>23</sup> In particular land, soil, water, and biodiversity.

<sup>24</sup> Including soil, land, water, and biodiversity.

<sup>25</sup> With particular attention paid to areas classified for a biodiversity assessment as described in Standard 3, areas classified or protected under national legislation and areas protected by international instruments.

<sup>26</sup> The list is not exhaustive and may include sexual and other types of violence, human trafficking and/or forced labour, sexual exploitation and abuse, high concentration of internally displaced people, migrant workers or refugees.

**ANNEX 1B – INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED BY THE PROMOTER IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE NEED FOR AN ESIA (REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 19)**

1. The project description, including the physical characteristics of the project.
2. A description of the location of the project, with particular regard to the environmental sensitivity and any relevant social aspects of the geographical area likely to be affected.
3. Country context-related information relevant to the specific social-related risks at project level, such as human rights, labour conditions, enabling environment for public participation, gender-based and other types of violence and harassment, including risks of reprisals, socio-economic inequalities including those related to gender, as well as any impacts and risks specific to conflict-affected and fragile situations.
4. A description of the environmental, climate and/or social aspects and the identification of the project-affected people and/or communities likely to be significantly affected while paying particular attention to the impacts on persons and/or groups that are vulnerable, marginalised, discriminated against or excluded on the basis of their socio-economic characteristics.
5. A description of any likely significant effects (to the extent possible based on the information available) on the environment, climate, human health and well-being, as well as socio-economic inequalities resulting from: (i) the expected residues, emissions and production of waste, where relevant; (ii) the use of natural resources, in particular soil, land, water and biodiversity; (iii) any expropriation of land and/or easements resulting in displacement and involuntary resettlement, likely related restrictions on access to land, shelter and/or livelihood and subsistence strategies and/or voluntary land acquisition.

## **ANNEX 2A – RECOMMENDED TABLE OF CONTENTS FOR THE ESIA REPORT (REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 23)**

1. A description of the applicable environmental and social legal framework, including a gap analysis indicating the differences between the relevant national legislation and EIB standards, as applicable.
2. The description of the country context relevant to the specific social-related risks at project level, such as human rights, labour conditions, enabling environment for public participation, gender-based and other types of violence and harassment, including risks of reprisals, socio-economic inequalities including those related to gender, as well as any impacts and risks specific to conflict-affected and fragile situations.
3. The description of the project, including in particular:
  - a. the location, site, design, size;
  - b. the physical characteristics of the project (including any demolition or land-use requirements);
  - c. the technical capacity and the characteristics of the operational phase;
  - d. an estimate of any residues, emissions and quantities and type of waste produced.
4. The description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of project design, technology, location, size and scale) which are relevant to the proposed project, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental and social effects.
5. The description of the baseline scenario against which the project's impacts are assessed. This should be based on adequate and appropriate quantitative and qualitative, primary and secondary data on the relevant aspects.
6. The description of the environmental, climate and/or social aspects<sup>27</sup> likely to be affected by the proposed project, including comprehensive and context-specific identification and analysis of people and communities likely to be affected, as well as other relevant stakeholders, paying particular attention to persons and/or groups that are vulnerable, marginalised, discriminated against or excluded on the basis of their socio-economic characteristics.
7. Assessment of the likely significant environmental and social effects of the proposed project (also taking into account the outcomes of any complementary assessments and/or focused studies as referred to in paragraphs 9 and 10, if applicable), resulting from inter alia:
  - a. the construction and existence of the project;
  - b. the use of natural resources, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources;
  - c. the technologies and substances used;
  - d. the emissions of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, and the disposal and recovery of waste;

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<sup>27</sup> The list is not exhaustive and may include: population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land (for example land take), soil (for example organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydromorphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects and landscape, and, whenever possible, sex disaggregated socio-economic data.

- e. the risks to human health, well-being, persons and/or groups that are vulnerable, marginalised, discriminated against or excluded on the basis of their socio-economic characteristics, cultural heritage or the environment;
- f. the cumulation of effects with other projects and/or activities.

The description should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-, medium- and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the project.

8. A description of the forecasting methods or evidence used to identify and assess the significant environmental, climate and social effects, including details of difficulties related to technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge, as well as the main uncertainties involved.
9. A description and justification of the measures planned to prevent, reduce and where possible, compensate/remedy any significant environmental, climate and/or social adverse effects as outlined in the environmental and social management plan (ESMP), as defined in paragraph 24.
10. A description of the expected significant environmental, climate and/or social adverse effects deriving from the vulnerability of the project to risks of major accidents and/or disasters that are relevant to the project concerned, including those caused by climate change. Where appropriate, a description of the measures planned to prevent such risks, as well as measures regarding preparedness for and response to emergencies (as required by Standards 3 and 9), should be included in the ESMP.
11. A description of opportunities and measures to further enhance the environmental and social performance of the project and augment its positive impacts.
12. Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of impact management and any positive enhancement action, where applicable, measured as part of the overall environmental and social management plan and system, which should include appropriate qualitative and quantitative indicators and draw on feedback from both internal and external sources, including affected stakeholders.
13. A summary of the stakeholder engagement process undertaken with different groups of affected men and women and/or communities, as well as other relevant stakeholders, including its results and how those results have been incorporated/taken into account or otherwise addressed (full stakeholder engagement process is described in Standard 2).
14. Arrangements for grievance mechanisms and the steps that will be taken to ensure effective access to remedy for affected stakeholders; such mechanisms should reflect prevailing social norms and cultural context to ensure that they are culturally and socially appropriate to and inclusive of the intended users, in line with the relevant requirements set out in Standard 2.
15. A non-technical summary (or equivalent) of the information provided under the above-mentioned headings.

## **ANNEX 2B – MINIMUM INFORMATION TO BE INCLUDED IN THE ESMP (REFERRED TO IN PARAGRAPH 25)**

1. The mitigation and/or compensatory/remedial measures, reflecting the mitigation hierarchy and determining the monitoring arrangements. Where stakeholders are identified as disadvantaged, excluded, vulnerable or marginalised (as defined in Standard 7), the ESMP/equivalent shall include differentiated measures so that adverse impacts do not fall disproportionately on them and they are not disadvantaged in sharing any development benefits and opportunities resulting from the project.
2. Opportunities to achieve additional environmental and social benefits of the project including, when applicable, community development programmes noting clearly that any positive contributions shall not be used to offset any adverse environmental and social effects.
3. Procedures to: (i) evaluate the effectiveness of the mitigation and/or compensatory/remedial measures, including appropriate qualitative and quantitative indicators (disaggregated by sex, age and any other relevant socio-economic characteristics, wherever possible), targets or acceptance criteria; and (ii) identify any hitherto unforeseen adverse effects that draw on feedback from both internal and external sources, including affected stakeholders. In addition, the promoter may use third parties, such as independent experts, local communities or NGOs, to complement or verify its own monitoring information.
4. Allocation of resources (including financial), responsibilities and timeframe for its implementation and monitoring. As appropriate, the ESMP or equivalent shall recognise and incorporate the role of relevant actions and events controlled by third parties to address identified risks and impacts. It may also include provisions for the involvement of impacted men and women, communities and other stakeholders as appropriate, e.g. as mentioned above.