



Biodiversity and ecosystems (Standard 4)

Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF)

Public consultation webinar series

We will be starting this session shortly

Wednesday 30 June 2021

Moderators: Catherine McSweeney, Civil Society Officer
Olivia Saunders and Beatriz Marin Dawid

Interpretation



Ce webinaire a une [interprétation](#) de et vers le **français**.

De votre PC, tapez « **app.interactio.io** » dans votre browser et introduisez le code: **ESSF** ou téléchargez l'application « Interactio » sur votre téléphone.

This webinar has [interpretation](#) to and from **English**.

Type “**app.interaction.io**” in your browser and use “**ESSF**” as a password, or download the app on your phone.

WELCOMING REMARKS

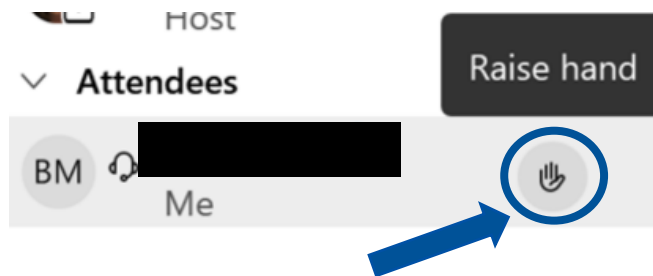
Catherine McSweeney, Civil Society Officer



How to participate in the discussions



- Go to **sli.do** on your browser and insert the code **#ESSF**
- Alternatively, **raise your hand** if you wish to speak
- State your name & organization and provide a succinct comment or question
- **Lower your hand** if you no longer wish to speak



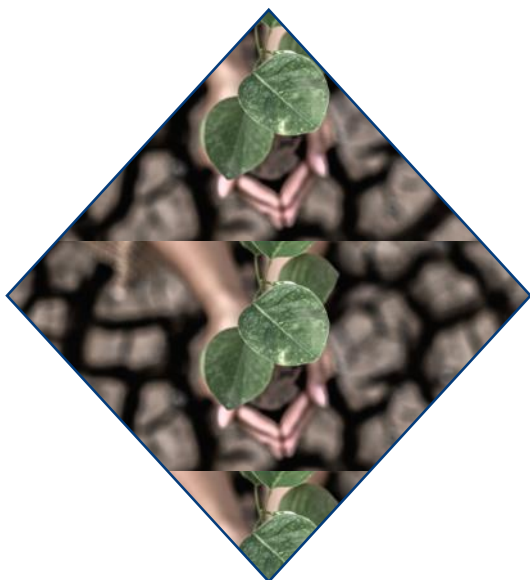
The slides and a summary of the discussion will be made available on our consultation webpage

Agenda

- Introduction
- Presentation on the [EIB Standard 4 on Biodiversity and ecosystems](#) by **Eva Mayerhofer**, Lead environmental and biodiversity specialist
- Discussion with EIB panel
- [Closing remarks](#) by **Stephen O'Driscoll**, Head of Division, Environmental, Climate and Social Office

Introduction: what are we consulting on?

New EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy



11 EIB Environmental and Social Standards



Introduction

Today: Standard 4, Biodiversity and Ecosystems

The Standard outlines the promoters' responsibilities with regard to the identification, assessment, management and monitoring of the impacts and risks affecting ecosystems that result from the projects that the EIB finances.



There are many topics to discuss today.

We are here to listen! Here are some of our questions...

Please share your views...

- Is it **clear** that this Standard is seeking to achieve **'no net loss'** and **'a net positive impact'** on biodiversity in EIB-supported projects?
- Do you see any possible **challenges** in the implementation of this Standard, for example in view of your local context?
- Will this Standard be **effective** in delivering its purpose?
- What, in your view, could be a **practical requirement** that could be undertaken by the promoter to avoid conditions at project level that would facilitate the transmission of zoonotic diseases?
- Are **nature-based solutions (NBS)** and green infrastructure useful paths to explore?
- Are there any **other opportunities** to enhance biodiversity through its financial instruments that the EIB should further explore?
- Are the **requirements** in areas of critical habitat **robust** enough?
- The Bank is due to publish a good **practice note** on animal welfare for the operations it finances. Where and how else would you suggest embedding animal welfare requirements?
- Are the requirements for assessing and avoiding or minimising impacts on biodiversity and protected areas sufficient?

Standard 4: Biodiversity and Ecosystems



4. Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Recognises that protecting and conserving biodiversity and ecosystems and maintaining the ecological functions and processes of such ecosystems are fundamental to environmental and social sustainability;

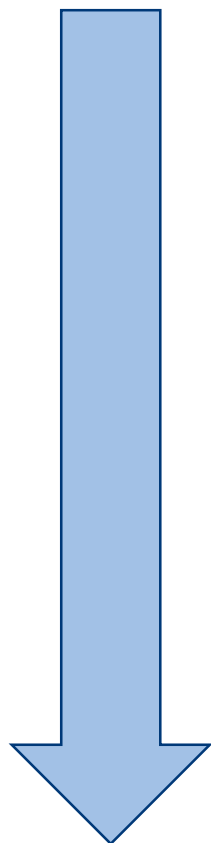
Promotes a holistic and human-rights responsive approach to the conservation and protection of biodiversity and ecosystems as well as to the sustainable use of natural resources;

Applies the mitigation hierarchy and the precautionary approach in the design and implementation of projects that could have an impact biodiversity, ecosystems and their services;

Promotes the sustainable management of living natural resources where the promoter is involved in primary production and harvesting of such resources.

Standard 4: Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Key changes



Clarifying the requirements that are to be applied to all projects that potentially affect biodiversity or habitats, either directly or indirectly, or that depend upon biodiversity for their success;

Clarifying applicability as determined during the environmental and social impact assessment process for: (i) areas of high biodiversity value; (ii) critical habitat; (iii) legally protected areas or internationally recognized areas of biodiversity value; (iv) ecosystem services;

Emphasising the need for a human rights-responsive approach recognising the need to consider the livelihood of project affected parties and the positive role these parties and Indigenous Peoples play in biodiversity conservation;

Specifying and strengthening the requirements for implementing compensation and offset measure;

Clarifying the requirements for the management of living natural require where these may have a potential on local, nearby or ecologically linked habitats, biodiversity and communities.

Standard 4: Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Process-oriented approach: aligning with the project cycle and taking a biodiversity inclusive impact assessment approach

**EU, EFTA, CC
& pCC**

- clarifying the key legal requirements (EU legal framework being the benchmark) and the information to be provided to EIB to sufficiently demonstrate compliance with EU legislation*

**Rest of the
World**

- translating the “principles of EU legislation” (“what does it mean”) into requirements

**The promoter may be asked to supplement the formal engagement process carried out by relevant competent authorities, or otherwise needed in relation to the requirements set out in the other EIB Environmental and Social Standards whenever applicable, with any action deemed necessary by the EIB.*

Standard 4: Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Key considerations – incorporated into EIB project cycle for a biodiversity inclusive impact assessment process

Impacts & risks on biodiversity and ecosystems and their services

- Adequate characterization of baseline conditions
- Landscape - ecosystem approach to mitigation
- Application of the mitigation hierarchy applicable to all projects
- Adaptive management taking into account climate change

Critical Habitat assessment and minimisation

- All condition have to be met for project to go ahead
- Net positive impact a requirement
- Link of critical habitat to Art. 12-14 on strict protection

Sustainable Management of living natural resource

- Supply chain assessment related to impacts and risks to biodiversity
- Management of living natural resources through the application of relevant EU standards and good international practice and accredited certification

Standard 4: Biodiversity and Ecosystems



Landscape and/or ecosystem-based approach that links nature and communities specifically where a project:

- affects the lands, territories or resources that IPs customarily own, occupy or otherwise use;
- Significantly affects the livelihoods of communities depend on the local ecosystems services;
- Addresses the drivers of loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems;
- Empowers project-affected communities including women in managing natural resources and in the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems

Discussion with EIB Panel



Sladjana Cosic
Senior Social
Development Specialist



Angela Filipas
Principal Advisor,
Environmental, Climate
and Social Office



Cinzia Losenno
Senior Climate Change
Specialist



Eva Mayerhofer
Lead Environmental &
Biodiversity Specialist



Giovanni Munoz
Senior Agricultural
Engineer

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Closing Remarks



Stephen O'Driscoll

Head of Division, Environmental,
Climate and Social Office

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

3 JUNE TO 6 AUGUST 2021

WHAT IS UP FOR CONSULTATION?



- 1) The new EIB Group Environmental and Social Policy
- 2) The EIB's 11 Environmental and Social Standards

pollution prevention **intermediated finance** labour rights
stakeholder engagement **climate change** management of risks
vulnerable groups and Indigenous Peoples health and safety
cultural heritage **biodiversity** **involuntary resettlement**

HOW TO PARTICIPATE



COMPLETE THE QUESTIONNAIRE

Fill it out online

You can then save your answers in draft format, share it with colleagues, and come back to it later. You can also attach supporting documents.

OR

Download it and send it back to:
essfconsultation@eib.org



JOIN OUR WEBINARS

22 JUNE TO 9 JULY

These online events will cover the Environmental and Social Policy, each Standard and our approach to human rights.

Thank you!

- Join us for our next webinar tomorrow, **Thursday 1 July** to discuss **Standard 5, Climate Change**
- Submit your contribution before **6 August**
- Email us with your outstanding questions at essfconsultation@eib.org
- Give us your feedback on this session on **Slido**

All information is available on our consultation hub (consult.eib.org).