



Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)

Project title	“Green and inclusive cities”
Country	Mongolia
Implementing Partner	Ministry of Environmental and Climate Change
PIMS number	9605
Version number	
Version date	April 2025
Version stage	Draft



MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Public Consultation/Disclosure Notice

Date: April 2025

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is requesting feedback on the attached draft Environmental and Social Management Framework and associated Social and Environmental Screening Procedures for this project.

Comments and questions can be sent to the following address:

United Nations Development Programme

Physical Address: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Mongolia

UN House, UN Street-14, Sukhbaatar District, Ulaanbaatar-14201

Tel: 976-11-327585

Email: registry.mn@undp.org

Website: <https://www.undp.org/mongolia>

The last date for receiving of comments is April 2025.

Table of Contents

Abbreviations and Acronyms.....	i
1. Executive Summary.....	ii
2. Introduction and Project Description.....	1
2.1 Purpose of this ESMF.....	1
2.2 Project Description.....	1
2.3 Project Context	4
2.4 Scope of this ESMF.....	7
3. Potential Social and Environmental Impacts	9
3.1 Summary of Potential Negative Social and Environmental Impacts.....	9
4. Legal and Institutional Framework.....	17
4.1 Applicable National Policy Framework.....	17
4.2 Applicable International Conventions.....	26
4.3 UNDP’s Social and Environmental Standards (SES).....	27
4.4 Prohibited Actions.....	29
5. Treatment Measures for the Identified SES Risks	29
5.1. Exclusion Criteria.....	29
5.2 Horizontal SES Risk Treatment Measures.....	30
5.3. Specific SES Risk Treatment Measures	36
5.4 Further Screening of Entire Project.....	41
6. Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure Process	42
6.1 Summary of Stakeholder Engagement During Project Development.....	42
6.2 Stakeholder Engagement Requirements for Project and ESMF Implementation	42
6.3 Information Disclosure Processes.....	42
7. Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM).....	43
7.1 UNDP’s Accountability Mechanism.....	43
8. Institutional Arrangements and Capacity Building for ESMF Implementation.....	43
8.1 Roles and Responsibilities.....	43
8.2 Capacity Building	45
9. Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements for ESMF Implementation	46
10. Implementation Action Plan (schedule and budget) for ESMF Implementation	48
11. Annexes and Resources	49

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
EV	Electro vehicle
FPIC	Free, prior and informed consent
FSP	Full Sized Project (GEF)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GRM	Project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism
MSP	Medium Sized Project (GEF)
MECC	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
PIF	Project Identification Form (GEF)
PIR	GEF Project Implementation Report
POPP	Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (UNDP)
PPG	Project Preparation Grant (GEF)
SECU	Social and Environmental Compliance Review Unit (UNDP)
SES	Social and Environmental Standards (UNDP)
SESA	Strategic Environmental Social Assessment
SESP	Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (UNDP)
SCIP	Sustainable Cities Impact Program
SRM	Stakeholder Response Mechanism (UNDP)
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

1. Executive Summary

This Environment and Social Management Framework (ESMF) was prepared for project “Green and inclusive cities in Mongolia”. The GEF-8 Sustainable Cities Impact Program (SCIP) aims to support cities and local governments to undertake integrated urban planning, implement policies and invest in nature-positive, climate-resilient, and carbon-neutral urban development. The SCIP will be implemented through child projects in participating countries. The child projects will have strong emphasis on resolving key urban growth challenges and barriers to achieving the overall SCIP objectives.

The project will implement integrated multi-stakeholder management mechanisms, and support innovative approaches such as the development of catalytic financial mechanisms to achieve restoration at scale. The “Green and inclusive cities in Mongolia” with target cities: capital city Ulaanbaatar, Darkhan and Erdene cities under GEF-8 SCIP has been recently approved by 67th GEF Council meeting in June 2024. The project has three components as follows:

1. “Strengthening policy, regulatory framework and institutions to promote integrated urban planning/development with biodiversity and mitigation benefits”;
2. “Promoting investments in sustainable, nature-positive and resilient urban development by innovative financing instruments”; and
3. “Strengthening knowledge sharing and enhancing capacities”.

Project will contribute GEF-Core Indicators as such

(3) Area of land and ecosystem under restoration of 300.000ha

- Area of degraded agricultural lands restored
- Area of forest and forest land restored
- Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

(4) Area of landscapes under improved practices of 300.000ha

- Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (qualitative assessment, non-certified)
- Area of landscapes that meet national or international third-party certification and that incorporates biodiversity considerations
- Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems
- Area of High Conservation Value Forest loss avoided

(6) Greenhouse gas emission mitigated 8.457.000tCO₂e,

- Carbon sequestered, or emissions avoided in the sector of Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
- Emissions avoided outside Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector

Contextual Sub-Indicators

- Energy saved
- Increase in installed renewable energy capacity per technology

(11) People benefiting from GEF-financed investments. Direct beneficiaries: Cross-cutting strategic areas, 60.000 disaggregated by Sex. Please refer to the Project Document (ProDoc) for details.

This ESMF is based on the Social and Environment Screening Procedure (UNDP’s SESP; ProDoc Annex 6) that was completed as part of the project design phase. This screening identified **11 risks** of which 6

risks are considered **Low** and 5 risks are considered **Moderate**. Thus, the project's overall SESP categorization is **Moderate**.

The identified risks in the project's SESP trigger the following SES Principles and Standards (2021 SES):

- Principle 1: Leave No One Behind
- Principle 2: Human Rights
- Principle 3: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment
- Principle 4: Sustainability and Resilience
- Principle 5: Accountability
- Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable NRM
- Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks
- Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security
- Standard 7: Labor and Working Conditions
- Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency

This ESMF has been prepared based on the project's risk categorization to guide processes during the inception and implementation phases. The framework ensures comprehensive assessment of potential impacts and the identification and development of appropriate risk management measures, in alignment with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES). The ESMF outlines measures and plans to avoid, reduce and mitigate adverse risks and impacts.

The project risks result from the following project outputs and activities:

Outputs 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.10, 3.1 and 3.5

Output 1.1: Next generation inclusive and gender sensitive urban development plans include Green City indicators and metrics adopted in three cities

- Comparative studies on child project cities will be conducted and lessons learned will be applied to urban development plans of target cities. Conduct review of international good practices, frameworks, and guidance that will be relevant for developing Green City indicators and metrics. Based on comparative studies the national green urban policy and standards will be developed. The Green City standards, with relevant indicators and metrics, will be fed back into the urban development planning process to support cities in adopting urban development plans that reflect Green City indicators and targets.
- Foster gender responsive and inclusive approaches in urban planning and programming for accessible and affordable urban infrastructures and services for all citizens

Output 1.2 Inclusive and gender-responsive integrated spatial and land management plans updated for Darkhan-Uul and adopted for UB City, and Erdenet, to reflect sustainable resource management for Green Cities covering total of 882,344.5 ha (total territories of target cities.)

- Climate-resilient integrated land use spatial plan reviewed and updated in a selected city adopting Green Urban/Peri-Urban principles and approaches, including watershed protection, green space, pasture land, crop land, urban transportation, green belts, forests and smart management of urban sprawl.

Output 1.4. Inclusive and Gender Sensitive Capacity Development Program for Green City policy and institutional strengthening

- Providing training programs for municipal staff and modernizing regulatory frameworks to enhance enforcement /Urban development plan, planning, budgeting, implementation, reporting, GHG methodology, monitoring evaluation,/

**Output 2.1. Three low carbon energy pilot investments -UB GAS initiation - Households
UB city and Erdenet city CO-funding. Solar panel, geothermal - one stop shop procurement,
implementation innovation**

- Conduct a feasibility assessment of impactful private financing opportunities for renewable energy
- Support incentivization of Zero chimney zoning
- Replicate and scale up solar and wind energy projects, particularly for ger districts and municipal facilities
- Conduct feasibility assessment for landfill methane harvesting
- Pilot harvesting of landfill methane in Darkhan City
- Pilot small-scale demonstration of green waste biogas generation in Darkhan

Output 2.2 Low-carbon transportation solutions piloted in target cities

- Support increase of the number of EV charging networks through PPP.
- Support the transition of public transportation to electric solutions.
- Expand basic urban infrastructure to encourage public walking, biking, and cycling practice.

Output 2.3 Three low-carbon, circular, nature-positive building solutions piloted

- Promote water-sensitive urban design for stormwater management and reuse Support the introduction of rainwater harvesting systems in 3 public buildings in target cities
- Blue infrastructure .
- Support retrofitting public buildings with energy-efficient technologies.
- Organize Green building technology and innovation fair
- Promote low-energy and CDW circular construction materials /baseline survey conducted by Singapore National University during project development phase/

**Output 2.4 Land restoration and SLM: 39720 ha of land under improved management
(Darkhan - 38971,3 ha, Erdenet -50813,6 ha, UB city - 67246,9 ha area should be restore)
Land restoration (50 ha Darkhan, 39640 ha Orkhon, Ulaanbaatar 60 ha)**

- Support the restoration of degraded area:
- Strictly protected area (Bogd khan uul SPA) there has forest restored
- Area of degraded agricultural lands restored-Darkhan-Uul
- Area of natural grass and shrublands restored- Orkhon

Output 2.5 Flood control and riparian ecosystem restoration, including 2,300 ha of reforestation

- Support improvement of flood risk management system in target cities by conducting site-based assessment of flood control systems and restoration measures proposed.
- Support improvement of ecosystem services in river riparian zones of target cities
restoration - 70 ha Erdenet, 30 ha Darkhan.

Output 2.6 Enhanced and improved urban green spaces

- Support the increase of green spaces or urban and peri-urban areas through both public park and household landscaping (71 ha)

Output 2.10 Technology transfer for water management efficiency

- Scale-up installation of smart water meters to reduce water loss in target cities
- Support technology demonstration for gray water re-use
- Support expansion of water distribution kiosks with innovative technologies in ger districts of target cities
- Establish artificial water reservoirs in targeted cities
- Blue infrastructure -10 ha/
- Support improvement of integrated water management database

Output 3.1 Capacity Building for Integrated Sustainable Urban Planning

- Green Infrastructure and Nature-Based Solutions: Training land manager and engineers on integrating nature-based solutions like green corridors, permeable surfaces, and flood mitigation systems, Essential Life Support Areas assessment (ELSA) of Integrated spatial management plan
- Climate Adaptation and EIA Processes: Build capacity for climate risk assessments, EIAs&SESP/ESMF
- Integrated water resource management: build capacity for water resource information system (water management system service, water management data, etc...)
- Capacity building for integrated waste management system: decision-makers and waste sector stakeholders (transportation service and incinerator with PPP) of target cities
- Support monitoring activities to ensure the sustainable operation of waste incineration plants in Ulaanbaatar city (incinerator with PPP) of Ulaanbaatar cities
- Capacity building for integrated food system: decision-makers and food sector stakeholders of target cities
- Strengthen institutional capacity for effective gender mainstreaming in urban sectors to promote adoption of gender-responsive urban planning and programming
- Create training programs for urban professionals on inclusive design approaches that consider marginalized groups (e.g., informal settlers, low-income communities, persons with disabilities)
- Analytical skills training for the application of remote sensing and machine learning in combination with pasture photo monitoring
- Develop creative programs for a circular economy and resource circularity with a focus on key waste streams, advancements, and innovation in multistakeholder integrated waste and water management, and advance circularity among sub-national and urban planning, policies, and practice
- Train women stakeholders of target cities on women leadership to enhance women participation in decision-making in urban planning and programming
- Build knowledge, capacities, and partnerships to support the scaling up of agroforestry initiatives at national, and local levels
- Possible study tours or exchange programs with cities facing similar challenges (e.g., Kazakhstan, Central Asia, or Nordic countries with harsh climates) to share successes in sustainable urban management

Output 3.5 Inclusive Community Engagement and Awareness

- Public education campaigns on topics like climate change adaptation, sustainable living standards,
- Multi-stakeholders integrated waste management system: behavior change, change waste transportation logistic system
- Consumer education on sustainable food: Public education about the environmental and health impacts of food choices, including the benefits of seasonal, local, and organic foods, can encourage consumers to make more sustainable choices
- Targeted capacity-building initiatives to empower ger district residents including women and marginalized households with skills for community-led upgrading projects, livelihood development, and resilience-building

The stakeholder engagement plan is included as Annex 8 of the Prodoc, which summarizes the key partners and stakeholder organizations and institutions, with their main institutional responsibilities. The proposed project's stakeholders and partners comprise of five groups – (1) Government line ministries and agencies, including their local branches, local authorities; (2) Scientific institutions and academia; (3) National and international civil society organizations; (4) Small-scaled agricultural producers/farming

units, land owners, herders, and local communities; (5) International development partners. During the project development phase the full range of stakeholders were consulted, and their inputs, priorities, and suggestions were incorporated in the project design. Stakeholder organizations were met on a one-on-one basis throughout the project development process, as outlined in Annex 8. In situations where it was not possible to meet in person, remote meetings and phone calls were used to consult with stakeholders about the project. Finally, the project stakeholder validation workshop was attended by more than 70 individuals representing stakeholder organizations from civil society, government, development partners and others. The workshop produced numerous qualitative comments that were further reflected in the project design. The approach to stakeholder engagement and participation will adhere to principles deemed significant according to UNDP stakeholder engagement guidelines.

This ESMF was developed in consideration of the project's categorization and the triggered Principles and Standards. It outlines the principles, rules, guidelines and procedures for screening, assessing, and managing the potential social and environmental impacts during project implementation.

During project inception and implementation, the ESMF outlines steps for developing management plans for moderate risks and conducting further screening of activities. These plans encompass the revision and updating of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Gender Action Plan, and a Grievance Redress Mechanism, with a focus on women and vulnerable groups. The ESMF defines roles, responsibilities, budgets and monitoring plans, and outlines the screening process. It includes the preparation of scoped ESIA and ESMP for downstream activities, and a scoped SESA to assess upstream activities supporting scaling innovative integrated approaches to ecosystem restoration and conservation in high value landscapes.

The activities that might potentially cause adverse social and environmental impacts cannot begin until the appropriate management measures are in place, according to the rules and procedures of this ESMF and the subsequent management plans.

2. Introduction and Project Description

2.1 Purpose of this ESMF

The Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) serves to describe the social and environmental impacts and related safeguards requirements for the UNDP-supported GEF-financed project “Green and inclusive cities in Mongolia”. As further described below, this project has been screened with the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP); categorized as **Moderate Risk**; and determined to require an ESMF given that *[there are multiple sub-projects and/or there are project components that cannot be fully assessed until additional details are defined during the project cycle]*. Therefore, this ESMF provides an operational and control framework to ensure that the sub-project/activities are screened and assessed and that appropriate management measures are in place prior to their implementation. This ESMF contains measures and plans to avoid, and where avoidance is not possible, to reduce, mitigate and/or offset adverse risks and impacts. The ESMF specifies the most likely applicable social and environmental policies and requirements and how those requirements will be met through procedures to be implemented during project implementation. This includes procedures for social and environmental screening, assessment, approval, mitigation, monitoring and reporting of social and environmental risks and impacts associated with the activities to be supported.

The ESMF also specifies the inter-institutional arrangements, roles/responsibilities, capacities and budget for implementation. This Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been prepared for UNDP in collaboration with Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Mongolia.

2.2 Project Description

The proposed child project’s Theory of Change is directly built on and corresponds to the global Sustainable Cities Integrated Program Theory of Change. The Program Objectives, the **five transformation levers** and three program components are the core part of the Theory of Change. The project strategy and Theory of Change will contribute to achieving the overall program objective to support cities and local governments to undertake integrated urban planning, implement policies and invest in nature-positive, climate- resilient, and carbon-neutral urban development. As described above, Mongolia’s cities face a multitude of threats, which have a number of key drivers, include rural-urban migration, economic pressures, and rapid urban expansion. The project Theory of Change is designed to address three key barriers to sustainable urban development, highlighted above: the policy-regulatory barriers, the financial barriers, and the knowledge and engagement barriers. The project’s integration of the five transformation levers is described below.

To **advance policy integration and coherence** the project will establish cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms and monitoring for Green City planning and development. The project will support city governments in updating sustainable urban planning policies and plans to take integrated approaches promoting the holistic, systems-based solutions and approaches that are needed to achieve greater impact and reduce costs.

To **scale up financing and support the new generation of project investment** the project will further develop and expand multiple financial mechanisms, including debt financing, public-private-partnerships (PPPs), and the strengthening of municipal Green City financial management capacity to support

increased investment. For example, with respect to PPPs, the project will support the identification of revenue generating opportunities through concessions in Green City linked investments, such as efficient water management, or waste management.

To **promote urban innovation** the project strategy takes a multi-pronged approach, drawing on global best practices and local innovation opportunities. The project will support the piloting of new and emerging sustainability technologies (e.g., smart meters) that can play important roles in meeting urban sustainability challenges related to energy efficiency, water use efficiency, transportation and waste management. The project will establish urban innovation labs that will coordinate with academic institutes to encourage experimentation, creation, and prototyping of Green City innovations. The project will also conduct innovation contests for Green City solutions in each city, with solutions shared across all cities. The project will also promote the use of technology to support advanced planning approaches, and stakeholder engagement.

With respect to **deepening and broadening partnerships**, the project takes a whole of society approach to urban sustainability, supporting engagement and partnerships with all stakeholder types, and particularly the private sector. Leveraging UNDP's existing partnerships and convening power, the project will bring together financial institutions, development banks, the private sector, academia, civil society, and local government to strengthen political buy-in and stakeholder ownership. The project will help institutions mainstream integrated approaches into decision-making and policy development.

Regarding the fifth transformation lever of **strengthening knowledge management and create global public goods** the project applies a comprehensive knowledge management and capacity development strategy. Knowledge sharing and capacity building will be a fundamental element for the project to empower cities and catalyze transformative urban solutions. The project applies the five steps of the knowledge management chain: consolidating lessons learned and global good practices; creating knowledge through testing, piloting, and training; sharing knowledge through learning events and knowledge networks; applying knowledge by integrating insights and lessons in policies, planning and catalytic Green City investments; and co-creation of global public goods through innovative approaches, technologies, and urban sustainability innovations. Particularly for the case of Mongolia, the Green and Inclusive Cities project will provide valuable contributions to the knowledge base for Green City approaches in cold climates. The project supports multiple capacity development activities to enhance the knowledge of decision-makers and urban managers. For example, the project will create training programs for urban professionals on inclusive design approaches that consider marginalized groups.

Component 1: Strengthening policy, regulatory framework, institutional capacities, and financial mechanisms, to scale-up integrated urban planning and development with biodiversity and mitigation benefits.

In line with the global program, this component will catalyze an integrated approach at local and national levels. The project will develop and enable territorial planning, policies, and regulatory frameworks, required to mainstream nature-positive, low-carbon, climate-resilient, and inclusive development. This will be achieved through the project's work to contribute to next generation inclusive and gender sensitive urban development and spatial land management plans with Green City metrics and indicators. The project will have a strong emphasis on integrating nature into planning to address urban challenges such as urban heat, increased climate and health risks, and biodiversity loss. For example, the project will work with Erdenet city to support the further development of green spaces, green belts, and green mobility corridors. This component supports the achievement of the outcome through cross-sectoral coordination

mechanisms, and inclusive stakeholder engagement. The project will also work with all three cities to integrate climate-resilient watershed protection, and sustainable land management in peri-urban areas. In addition, under this component the project will further develop and strengthen financial mechanisms and Green City financial management. Through this component the project will increase the number of cities that have the necessary tools to support integrated urban strategic planning processes, and will increase the number of major policies, regulation, measures and strategies to support urban sustainability. The project will increase the number of women participating in decision-making for urban planning strategies. The project will also result in new inclusive Green City project financing proposals, with gender considerations integrated, that will be developed and submitted to funders. The project's work will also allow the participating cities to analyze and increase the percentage of local government budgeting targeting Green City outcomes.

Component 2: Promoting investments in sustainable, nature-positive and resilient urban development, and adopting innovative financing mechanisms

Component 2 and the associated Outcome 2 are further aligned with the global program, and represent the primary opportunity for the project to support the scaling up of integrated Green City solutions through piloting and demonstration to catalyze transformative finance. The project will work with a wide range of public and private sector actors to promote innovative solutions to key urban challenges, including clean energy, energy efficiency, climate resilience, low-carbon urban development, flood control, water management, waste management, and sustainable urban food systems. This will be achieved by working with cities to pilot renewable energy solutions to reduce reliance on fossil fuels (e.g., coal), such as solar and geothermal, landfill methane capture, and passive heating and cooling technologies for buildings. The project will further support Nature-based solutions for sustainable land management, restoration of land and forests in the peri-urban area, flood control, and enhanced urban green spaces. By collaborating with the public and private sectors, as well as academia and civil society, the project will unlock investment and innovative financing through early engagement in the design and development of innovative solutions for urban sustainability. The project will catalyze at least \$5 million in additional investment, and will achieve results such as increasing the number of trees per citizen in urban areas, increasing the percentage of green space in the urban area, and increase access to green space. The project will reduce urban flood vulnerability by reducing the area of high flood risk zones. Through pilot and demonstration investments, the project will also increase the efficiency of natural capital use, as measured by increased recycling and decreased waste generation, and reducing the amount of water wasted in municipal water management systems.

Component 3: Strengthening knowledge sharing and enhancing capacity

Knowledge-sharing and capacity-building are the project's fundamental instruments to build a knowledge base to strengthen the cities' expertise and technical capacity to catalyze transformative urban solutions into Green City development. The project is committed to strengthening the capacities of participating cities and will carry out capacity-building programs at the project level and engage in the learning activities led by the Global Platform. The Green and Inclusive Cities in Mongolia project will also contribute to the global knowledge exchange, bringing its experiences and lessons learned, and providing examples to other cities in similar geographic and development contexts. For example, Mongolia looks forward to sharing its experience as one of the few cold-climate countries participating in the SCIP. In addition, this component encompasses key elements of the project's approach on innovation, with establishment of Green City Knowledge and Innovation Hubs in each of the participating cities, which will support diverse stakeholder engagement, including civil society, the private sector, and academia. The Knowledge and Innovation

Hubs will support activities such as innovations contests and hackathons for innovative green city solutions. Also within the scope of this component is the promotion of digital tools for public engagement and city planning. In addition, this component includes the project's monitoring and evaluation activities.

2.3 Project Context

Socio-economic Context

The population of Mongolia reached 3,504,741 in 2023, of which women account for 51% of the population. Ulaanbaatar, Darkhan, and Erdenet cities are home to more than half of the Mongolian population. Though a largely homogenous nation with 80-86% of the population estimated to be of Khalkh Mongol origin, Mongolia is home to more than 10 ethnic minorities historically residing within the current state boundaries. For centuries, animal husbandry has not only been a major social and economic source but also the bearers and creators of Mongolian nomadic culture, history, and heritage. 26.4% (248,296) of the total households are a family with livestock, of which 73.5% are herder households. Since the rapid transition to a free economy began in the late 1990s, urban migration has continued unabated.

Moreover, Mongolia's internal migration has intensified since 2000, with 46% of the population living in Ulaanbaatar. As a result, the population of rural areas is deserted along with slow development in the soum level, which led to the wide disparity between urban and rural lives

In 1981, Mongolia became one of the first countries in the world to ratify the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. By most human development indicators, Mongolia ranks highly globally and within the EAP region. Mongolia ranks among the countries with "high human development" with a Human Development Index (HDI) value of 0.741 in the 2023/24 UNDP Human Development Report. After a decline in most human development indicators through the political and economic transitions in the 1990s, HDI trends in Mongolia have been improving steadily.

Mongolia also ranks 80th on the Gender Inequality Index in terms of dimensions of reproductive health, empowerment and labour market. Regarding gender equality, however, progress in the country has been uneven. Some indicators, such as maternal mortality, have improved dramatically over the past 30 years and others, such as gender parity in education, have been maintained at a high level. However, some gender gaps have persisted and widened, including most notably a gap in life expectancy.

Mongolian women face challenges in labor market including accessing jobs, career opportunities, unequal pay, the persistent decline of women's participation in labor market and women's concentration in low-paid sectors and informal work. While men's health remains to be a major concern given the increasingly high morbidity and mortality rates due to risk-taking behavior contributing to the increased prevalence of non-communicable diseases and injuries. The mortality rate of men is 1.5 times higher than women.

Globally, climate change is acknowledged to be causing specific impacts, often driven by preexisting gender inequalities. Climate change, internal migration, and gender issues are closely interlinked in the Mongolian context. Rural residents, particularly those reliant on traditional herding lifestyles, and urban residents in informal ger settlements are experiencing the impacts of climate change more intensely and have a lower ability to cope.

Women are more likely to migrate and to drive migration decisions within the household. At the same time, women are exposed to greater challenges upon migration to urban areas such as fewer and lower-paying job opportunities. For instance, current climate crises such as dzud and flood exacerbate the existing inequalities. The high prevalence of GBV incidents, internal migration, and lack of social services in response to climate-related shocks hinder sustainable cities in Mongolia planning the urban development of Mongolian cities. The rapid growth of population in urban areas leads to greater unemployment, air and soil pollution within the poorly serviced ger areas, and the surge in the number of

schools and kindergartens in Ulaanbaatar, Darkhan and Erdenet. Consequently, available seats have become scarcer and existing schools, kindergartens and hospitals have become overcrowded. Traffic has significantly increased over the last decade, resulting in women and children suffering a loss of economic opportunity and quality of well-being. Women and girls experience sexual harassment in public transportation and related incidents involving child safety due to car accidents.

In Ulaanbaatar, poverty is a significant concern, especially in the ger districts where many people lack essential services such as running water and sanitation. These areas also face challenges related to inadequate urban services, congestion, and poor planning, which are exacerbated by the fact that nearly half of Mongolia's population resides in the city. The city has seen mixed progress in poverty reduction, with some improvements in income levels and access to services, but challenges persist due to rapid urbanization and infrastructure constraints.

Similarly, Darkhan has experienced fluctuations in poverty rates over recent years. While efforts have been made to improve economic conditions and reduce poverty, the region still faces challenges related to financial instability and limited access to quality services. Like other urban areas in Mongolia, Erdenet city has seen some progress in poverty reduction. However, the region continues grappling with unemployment and inadequate infrastructure, contributing to persistent poverty.

Since 1990, Mongolia's population has seen a gradual increase in the elderly demographic. There are about 232,029 elderly individuals, making up 7% of the total population in 2024. Since 2000, the proportion of the elderly population, median age, and ageing index have all risen. In 2020, the annual growth rate of the elderly population was 5.9%.

The sex ratio among the elderly has been declining due to differences in life expectancy, with females living longer than males. By 2023, life expectancy is 76.9 years for females and 67.6 years for males, creating a gap of 9.3 years. Projections indicate that the elderly population will increase to 16.7% by 2040 and 20% by 2050. This growth suggests that more elderly individuals may face poverty, especially in remote and peri-urban areas where access to elderly care and urban services has been limited due to the sharp increase in rural-to-urban migration since 2000.

According to the World Bank, Mongolia's economy is projected to grow by 4.8% in 2024, driven by an expanding mining sector, robust private consumption, and fiscal expansion. However, the agriculture sector is expected to contract due to harsh climate conditions. The medium-term growth outlook remains favourable, with economic growth expected to average 6.4% over 2025-2026, driven by increased production at Oyu Tolgoi, the country's largest copper mine.

Moreover, Darkhan, Erdenet, and Ulaanbaatar face unique economic challenges that impact their development and the well-being of their residents. In Darkhan, the third largest city in Mongolia, the urban population has grown significantly, leading to the development of informal settlements known as ger areas. These areas lack proper infrastructure and services, contributing to high poverty rates, especially in ger districts where poverty incidence is around 44%.

Environmental Context

Climate of Mongolia is harsh and continental due to its unique geographical location in the center of Eurasian continent such as highly elevated position above sea level, surrounded by high mountains and long distance from the seas. Therefore, climate of Mongolia is characterized by high seasonality with very distinct four seasons, high amplitude of temperature and low precipitation. Latitudinal and altitudinal spatial distribution of climate variables could be clearly distinguished in any part of the territory. Pasture based livestock and rainfed crop production as the key sectors of the national economy, as well as the traditional livelihood based on these and other sectors greatly exposed to natural hazards are making local communities in Mongolia more vulnerable to the global climate change with notable regional impact.

Fluctuation of climate parameters like air temperature, precipitation and wind speed etc. which exceed the span of the regular climate variabilities is a great concern in respect of time needed for effective adaptation to new climate condition.

Climate: Mongolia has a severe continental climate with long-lasting cold winter and relatively hot and short summer. The annual mean air temperature ranges between minus 6 and minus 10°C in the Altai, Khangai, Khentii and Khuvsgul mountains ranges, in the depressions between mountains ranges, also along the valley of big rivers, while less than -10°C in near mountain peak, warmer than 2.0°C in desert steppe and warmer than 6.0°C in south Gobi region. The warmest place was indicated in Shinejist soum of Bayankhongor province, where at Ekhiingol meteorological station (978 m above sea level) annual mean air temperature was 9.1°C. Annual precipitation exceeds 400 mm at high mountain belts, but in generally 300-400 mm in the Khangai, Huvsgul, and Khentii mountains and the Khalkh river basin in the Eastern region, 250-300 mm in Mongol Altai and forest-steppe, 150-250 mm in the eastern steppe region, and 50-150 mm in Gobi and desert region. In the southern, inner-facing side of the Altai Mountain range, annual precipitation is typically less than 55 mm. In Mongolia, 85% of the total precipitation falls in the warm season; no more 3% of participation is the snow that falls during the winter. Sunshine is abundant in Mongolia with clear sky days range about 230-260 days in a year. The total duration of sunshine during a year is about 2,600-3,300 hours. Mongolian steppe and desert-steppe regions are very windy with the annual average wind speed of 4-6 m/s. Therefore, the possibility to use solar and wind as an energy resource is relatively high.

Land resource: Mongolia's total land area is 1,564,116 km². The distance between the most western and most eastern points is 2,392 km, and between northern to southern points is 1,259 km and the total length of the national border is 8,252.7 km. Mongolia, in term of territory is the seventh largest country in Asia and the 19th largest in the world. According to the revised in 2002 Law on Land, the land in Mongolia is classified into six categories: 44 Fourth National Communication of Mongolia agricultural land; land of cities, villages and other urban settlements; land under roads and infrastructure networks; land for special needs or purposes; land with forest resources, and land with water resources. Based on this classification, as of 2022, 72.6% of the territory of Mongolia is agricultural land, 16.7% is land for special needs, 9.1% is land with forest resources, including bush and shrubs; 0.6% is urban areas, 0.4% is land with water resources and 0.5% is land under roads and infrastructure. Land category changed recently, and depending on definition and classification terms, the percentage of forest cover appears to be different in some sources (ALAMGaC, 2023).

Land use: According to the report by the Agency for Land Administration and Management, Geodesy and Cartography, a total of 4.8 million ha area were degraded nationwide by 2022. A 4.7 million ha of pasture land and 81.5 thousand ha of cultivated area were degraded. Also, 10.5 thousand ha of settlement land, 56.8 thousand ha of forested area, and 0.2 thousand ha of water reservoirs were affected by some degree of degradation. A part of 14.3 thousand ha from these areas were affected heavily or damaged by digging and other form of land use. As of 2020, there are a total of 120 specially protected areas (31 million ha), including 21 strictly protected areas (13.8 million ha), 37 national parks (13.5 million ha), 48 nature reserves (3.6 million ha and the Government decision to confirm an additional 1.68 million hectares is awaited), and 14 monuments (0.098 million ha and the government decision to confirm an additional 0.002 million hectares is awaited) contributing to the preservation of the nature, and ensuring the ecosystem balance. In addition, as of 2023, there are 1,401 locally protected areas covering 24.5 million ha and 15.7% of the total territory of Mongolia (EIC, 2024).

Mongolia is a country with scarce water reserves and the most of the bigger rivers have outgoing flows. Precipitation is the only source for surface water and groundwater. Therefore water resources depend mostly on rivers flowing out of the country. Mongolia has three watersheds. The rivers belong to the inland catchments basins of the Arctic Sea, the Pacific Ocean and the Central Asia Inland Basin. In the north and west mountains, the water network featured by relatively high density. The south, central and south-east parts have a fewer rivers and other water resources, as a rule, available in depressions with no outflow. Annual water resources are estimated at around 564.8 km³ out of which 500.0 km³ (88.5%) accumulates in the lakes, 34.6 km³ (3.4%) forms in river systems, 19.4 km³ (6.1%) is in glaciers, and 10.8 km³ (1.91%) in groundwater. An average river runoff is estimated to be 34.6 km³/year where river runoff 30.6 km³ forms within Mongolian territory and remaining 4 km³ of river runoff forms in the neighboring countries and flows through Mongolian territory, and the reachable groundwater resource is estimated to be 10.8 km³. The surface water census covered 6,356 rivers, 584 mineral water, 13,222 springs, and 4,057 lakes and ponds in 2020 (NSO, 2021a).

The GHG inventory has been conducted for key economic sectors that support Mongolia's economic development. The emissions/removals have been estimated from five sectors which are energy, industrial processes and product use, agriculture, land use, land use change, and forestry and waste, defined by the 2006 IPCC GLs. 49 Fourth National Communication of Mongolia In 2020, total GHG emissions of Mongolia were 43,081.62 Gg CO₂e (excluding LULUCF). This represents 82.17% increase from the 1990 level of 23,648.79 Gg CO₂e and 6.20% decrease from the 2019 level of 45,927.72 Gg CO₂e. Net GHG emissions in 2020 were 12,909.10 Gg CO₂e (including LULUCF). This represented a 340.02% increase from the 1990 level of -5,378.40 Gg CO₂e and 17.92% decrease from 2019 level with 15,726.84 Gg CO₂e.

2.4 Scope of this ESMF

This Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been prepared to assist in managing the potential adverse social and environmental impacts associated with activities of the proposed project activities in line with the requirements of UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. The implementing partners of the project and the project management unit (PMU) will monitor the ESMF implementation, starting with Project Inception stage to ensure the environmental and social risks and impacts are fully assessed and management measures are in place prior to the implementation of the relevant project activities.

The ESMF forms the basis upon which the Implementing Partner/Responsible Party will develop their specific Environmental and Social Management Plan(s) ESMP, to ensure that significant adverse environmental and social impact mitigation and management measures are implemented and monitored as required. It identifies the steps for detailed assessment of the project's potential social and environmental risks, and for preparing and approving the required management plans for avoiding, and where avoidance is not possible, reducing, mitigating, and managing the identified adverse impacts of this project.

This ESMF will be publicly disclosed within 30 days in line with UNDP's Information Disclosure Policy and SES. At this stage, not all the activities have been fully specified in terms of specific locations and interventions, and as such they cannot be fully assessed for all the potential social and environmental risks and impacts. This ESMF has been therefore prepared to set out the principles, rules, guidelines, and procedures for screening, assessing, and managing the potential social and environmental impacts of the project as they are developed and designed.

This ESMF has been prepared based on the project's risk categorization to guide processes during the inception and implementation phases. The framework ensures comprehensive assessment of potential impacts and the identification and development of appropriate risk management measures, in alignment with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES). The ESMF outlines measures and plans to avoid, reduce and mitigate adverse risks and impacts.

The project risks result from the following project outputs and activities:

Output 1.1 Next generation inclusive and gender sensitive urban development plans include Green City indicators and metrics adopted in three cities

- Possible risks of unequal impacts on women and poor due to baseline existing gender imbalances in the Possible risks of unequal impacts on women and poor due to baseline existing gender imbalances in the participation of urban development plans

Output 1.2 Inclusive and gender-responsive integrated spatial and land management plans updated for Darkhan-Uul and adopted for UB City, and Erdenet, to reflect sustainable resource management for Green Cities covering total of 882,344.5 ha (total territories of target cities.)

- Possible risks of unequal impacts on women and poor due to baseline existing gender imbalances in the Possible risks of unequal impacts on women and poor due to baseline existing gender imbalances in the participation of urban development plans
- Risks of potential exclusion of affected stakeholders in spatial planning process
- Potential generic sustainability and resilience risks related to practical implementation of project activities on capacity development, SESA, spatial planning, and assessment of watershed protection, green space, pasture land, crop land, urban transportation, green belts, forests and smart management of urban sprawl.

Output 1.4 Inclusive and Gender Sensitive Capacity Development Program for Green City policy and institutional strengthening

- Possible risks of unequal impacts on women and poor due to baseline existing gender imbalances in the Possible risks of unequal impacts on women and poor due to baseline existing gender imbalances in the participation of urban development plan, planning, budgeting, implementation, reporting, GHG methodology, monitoring evaluation

Output 2.1. Three low carbon energy pilot investments -UB GAS initiation - Households UB city and Erdenet city CO-funding. Solar panel, geothermal - one stop shop procurement, implementation innovation

- Possible risks of unequal impacts on women and poor due to baseline existing gender imbalances in the use of and access to natural resources.
- Possible risk of increased sensitivity to climate impacts – Replicate and scale up solar and wind energy projects, particularly for ger districts and municipal facilities done by project could be done in a way that is not sufficiently climate resilient.
- Possible increased risks related to community health and safety - Pilot harvesting of landfill methane in and pilot small-scale demonstration of green waste biogas generation in Darkhan.

Output 2.2 Low-carbon transportation solutions piloted in target cities

- Possible risks of unequal impacts on women and poor due to baseline existing gender imbalances in the use of and access to natural resources.
- Possible risk of increased sensitivity to climate impacts – restoration actions done by project could be done in a way that is not sufficiently climate resilient.

- Possible risk of introduction of IAS through planting and restoration measures, although restoration materials will be sourced locally and only native species or non-invasive species already present in Mongolia will be used.
- Possible risk of use of pesticides by project partners such as forest management staff or local communities in restoration areas, such reforested or agroforestry areas.

Output 2.4 Land restoration and SLM: 39720 ha of land under improved management (Darkhan - 38971,3 ha, Erdenet -50813,6 ha, UB city - 67246,9 ha area should be restore) Land restoration (50 ha Darkhan, 39640 ha Orkhon, Ulaanbaatar 60 ha)

- Possible risk of increased sensitivity to climate impacts if project support investments are not sufficiently screened for climate risks in advance.
- Possible risk of unintended consequences on sensitive habitats and soil due to excavation of land
- Possible risk of unintended consequences on legally protected areas.
- Possible risks to cultural heritage sights spread throughout the target landscape through rehabilitation of degraded land
- Possible risk of unintended consequences on sensitive habitats

Output 2.5 Flood control and riparian ecosystem restoration, including 2,300 ha of reforestation

- Possible risk of unintended consequences on legally protected areas.
- Possible risk of increased community health and safety - support improvement of flood risk management system in target cities by conducting site-based assessment of flood control systems and restoration measures proposed.

Output 2.6 Enhanced and improved urban green spaces

- Possible risk of unintended consequences on sensitive habitats and soil due to improved urban green spaces.
- Possible risks to cultural heritage sights spread throughout the target landscape through some increase in green spaces.

Output 2.9 Technology transfer for water management efficiency

- Possible risk of unintended consequences on sensitive habitats and soil due to establishment of artificial water reservoirs in target cities
- Possible community health and safety risks associated with the establishment of open artificial reservoirs.
- Possible risk of unintended consequences on sensitive habitats and soil due to establishment of water reservoirs.
- Possible risks to cultural heritage sights spread throughout the establishment of water reservoirs.

3. Potential Social and Environmental Impacts

During project development, the UNDP Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) was used to identify potential social and environmental risks associated with this project. The potential negative potential impacts are described next, in line with the SESP (Prodoc [Annex 5](#)).

3.1 Summary of Potential Negative Social and Environmental Impacts

During the PPG phase, the project has been reviewed against UNDP SESP. The analysis identified a range of potential social and environmental impacts associated with the project activities. The SESP template (Project Document Annex5) details the applicable specific environmental and social risks. The significance of each risk, based on its likelihood of occurrence and extent of impact, has been estimated as being either low, moderate, substantial, or high. The SESP identified 8 social and environmental risks of which 5 risks

are considered **Low**; and 3 risks are considered **Moderate**. Based on the significance of these individual risks, the project has been allocated an overall SESP risk categorization rating of **Moderate**.

Moderate Risk: is defined by UNDP's SES¹ as "*Projects that include activities with potential adverse social and environmental risks and impacts that are limited in scale, can be identified with a reasonable degree of certainty, and can be addressed through application of standard best practice, mitigation measures and stakeholder engagement during Project implementation.*"

The following risks have been identified during the SESP:

¹ UNDP SES, page 47.

Table 1: Summary of project activities and potential SES risks

SES Risk Causes - Project Outputs/Activities	SES Risk descriptions as per the SESP	SES Risk Events	SES Risk Significance	SES Risk Management Measures (codes)
Outcome 1: Strengthened integrated urban planning, institutional and policy framework, and improved financial mechanisms and procedures for integrated green urban development with enhanced stakeholder participation				
1.1 Next generation inclusive and gender sensitive urban development plans include Green city indicators and metrics adopted in three cities	<p>Risk 1: Possible risks of unequal impacts on women and poor if project activities on training, capacity development, and other support measures fail to adequately engage women and poor.</p> <p>Risk 2: Possible risks of potential exclusion of affected stakeholders;</p> <p>Risk 3: Possible risks of grievances</p>	<p>Lack of capacity at the local government agencies across multiple sectors to develop and implement environment and green development policy framework in target cities in a sustainable and inclusive manner.</p> <p>Some stakeholders (including marginalized groups) are excluded from planning processes that affect them, or do not take their needs, interests and knowledge into full account leading to grievances</p>	Low	<p>Overarching Principle: One Leave No Behind (Human Rights): P2</p> <p>Principle: Gender Equality and Women's empowerment P.9 and P 11</p> <p>Accountability: P13</p>
1.2 Inclusive and gender-responsive integrated spatial and land management plans updated for Darkhan-Uul and adopted for UB City, and Erdenet, to reflect sustainable resource management for Green Cities covering total of 882,344.5 ha (total territories of target cities.)	<p>Risk 1: Possible risks of unequal impacts on women and poor if project activities on training, capacity development, and other support measures fail to adequately engage women and poor.</p> <p>Risk 2: Possible risks of potential exclusion of affected stakeholders;</p> <p>Risk 3: Possible risks of grievances</p>	<p>Weak stakeholder analysis and/or lack of targeted outreach and inclusive strategies to ensure the participation of all stakeholders, but especially marginalized groups in the planning and implementation of all Outputs</p> <p>Exclusion of traditional knowledge, limited access to information, and a lack of culturally-appropriate ways of learning and engagement</p>	Low	<p>P3.0 screenings</p> <p>P4.13 Stakeholder consultations</p> <p>P4.14 GRM</p> <p>Implementation of Gender Action Plan, ensuring adequate engagement of women.</p>
1.4 Inclusive and Gender Sensitive Capacity Development Program for Green City policy and institutional strengthening	<p>Risk 1: Possible risks of unequal impacts on women and poor if project activities on training, capacity development, and other support measures fail to adequately engage women and poor.</p> <p>Risk 2: Possible risks of potential exclusion of affected stakeholders;</p> <p>Risk 3: Possible risks of grievances</p>	<p>Some stakeholders (including marginalized groups) are excluded from planning processes that affect them, or do not take their needs, interests and knowledge into full account leading to grievances</p>	Low	<p>P.13 and P 14</p> <p>Implementation of Gender Action Plan, ensuring adequate engagement of women.</p>

SES Risk Causes - Project Outputs/Activities	SES Risk descriptions as per the SESP	SES Risk Events	SES Risk Significance	SES Risk Management Measures (codes)
1.6 New and Updated Inclusive and Gender Sensitive Green City Policies and Implementation	Risk 3: Possible risks of unequal impacts on women and poor if project activities on training, capacity development, and other support measures fail to adequately engage women and poor.	Weak stakeholder analysis and/or lack of targeted outreach and inclusive strategies to ensure the participation of all stakeholders, but especially marginalized groups in the planning and implementation of all Outputs	Low	Implementation of Gender Action Plan, ensuring adequate engagement of women. Principle: Accountability: P.13 and P 14
Outcome 2: Increased investment in replicable and scalable nature positive, low carbon solutions to address urban sustainability challenges and increase climate resilience				Targeted assessment GEIA/DEIA/ESMP of potential displacement risks. P3.0 screenings Scoped SESA. P4.13 Stakeholder consultations P4.14 GRM
2.1. Three low carbon energy pilot investments -UB GAS initiation - Households UB city and Erdenet city CO-funding Solar panel, geothermal - one stop shop procurement, implementation innovation	Possible risk of increased sensitivity to climate impacts – to supply gas stove and establishment of gas distribution stations. Possible risk of community health and safety when implementing pilot harvesting landfill methane and small scaled demonstration of green waste generation in Darkhan. Possible pollution risks (air pollution) associated with the piloting of a methane capture and biogas facility	Lack of capacity at the local government agencies across multiple sectors to develop and implement environment and green development policy framework in target cities in a sustainable and inclusive manner.	Moderate	Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management: S 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 1.7 and 1.8 Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster risks S2.2 Standard 7: Labor and working condition: S7.
2.2 Low-carbon transportation solutions piloted in target cities	Possible risk of increased sensitivity to climate impacts – support increase of the number of EV charging networks could be done in a way that is not sufficiently climate resilient. Possible risk of community health and safety when implementing expansion of basic urban infrastructure to encourage public walking, biking and cycling practice.	Lack of capacity at the local government agencies across multiple sectors to develop and implement environment and green development policy framework in target cities in a sustainable and inclusive manner.	Moderate	Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management: S 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 1.7 and 1.8 Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster risks S2.2 Standard 7: Labor and working condition: S7.1

SES Risk Causes - Project Outputs/Activities	SES Risk descriptions as per the SESP	SES Risk Events	SES Risk Significance	SES Risk Management Measures (codes)
	Possible risk of unintended consequences on sensitive habitats and soil due to potential increased nature-based solutions for low carbon transportation in target cities.			
<p>Outcome 2.4: Land restoration and SLM: 39720 ha of land under improved management (Darkhan - 38971,3 ha, Erdenet - 50813,6 ha, UB city - 67246,9 ha area should be restored)</p> <p>Land restoration (50 ha Darkhan, 39640 ha Orkhon, Ulaanbaatar 60 ha)</p> <p>Support the restoration of degraded area: Strictly protected area (Bogd Khan Uul SPA) there has forest restored Area of degraded agricultural lands restored - Darkhan-Uul Area of natural grass and shrublands restored - Orkhon</p>	Risk 5: Possible risk of unintended consequences on sensitive habitats and soil due to potential increased technology transfer for water management efficiency; unintended consequences on legally protected areas	<p>Adverse impacts on natural habitats, ecosystems and ecosystem services, including in critical habitats, sensitive areas and habitats occupied by globally significant species, triggered by possible risk of use of pesticides by project partners such as forest management staff or local communities in restoration areas, such as reforested or agroforestry areas.</p> <p>The community livelihoods activities may involve support the increase of green spaces or urban and peri-urban areas through both public park and household landscaping, berry tree planting.</p>	Moderate	<p>Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management: S 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 1.7 and 1.8 Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster risks S2.2 Standard 7: Labor and working condition: S7.1</p>
Output 2.5 Flood control and riparian ecosystem restoration, including 2,300 ha of reforestation	Risk 6: Possible risk of unintended consequences on sensitive habitats and soil due to potential increased nature-based flood control activity, and/or establishment of flood control facilities.	<p>The project's outputs are affected by extreme impacts of climate change and disasters such as supporting Flood control and riparian ecosystem restoration, including 2,300 ha of reforestation.</p> <p>The project's outputs are affected by extreme impacts of climate change and disasters such as supporting Flood control and riparian ecosystem restoration, including 2,300 ha of reforestation.</p>	Moderate	<p>Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks: S 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 Standard 7: Labor and working condition: S7.1</p>

SES Risk Causes - Project Outputs/Activities	SES Risk descriptions as per the SESP	SES Risk Events	SES Risk Significance	SES Risk Management Measures (codes)
Output 2.6. Enhanced and improved urban green spaces	Risk 7: Possible risk of unintended consequences on sensitive habitats and soil due to potential increased technology transfer for water management efficiency.	The community livelihoods activities may involve support the increase of green spaces or urban and peri-urban areas through both public park and household landscaping, berry tree planting.	Moderate	Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management: S 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 1.7 and 1.8 Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster risks S2.2 Standard 7: Labor and working condition: S7.1
Output 2.10 Technology transfer for water management efficiency	Possible risk of unintended consequences on sensitive habitats and soil due to potential increased technology transfer for water management efficiency. Possible community health and safety risk (drowning) associated with establishment of open artificial reservoir	Establishment of artificial reservoir may result in adverse impacts on soils and sensitive habitats. Similarly, community members, and especially children may be exposed to greater health and safety risks if there is an unsecured artificial reservoir in the nearby vicinity.	Moderate	Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management: S 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 1.7 and 1.8 Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster risks S2.2 Standard 7: Labor and working condition: S7.1
Outcome 3: Increased Green City knowledge and partnership capacity across the full range of urban stakeholders for implementation and scaling of green city solutions				
3.1 Capacity Building for Integrated Sustainable Urban Planning	Possible risks of unequal impacts on women and poor if project activities on training, capacity development, and other support measures fail to adequately engage women and poor.	Some stakeholders (including marginalized groups) are excluded from planning processes that affect them, or do not take their needs, interests and knowledge into full account leading to grievances	Low	Implementation of Gender Action Plan, ensuring adequate engagement of women. P4,13 and 4.14 GRM
3.5 Inclusive Community Engagement and Awareness	Possible risks of unequal impacts on women and poor if project activities on training, capacity development, and other support measures fail to adequately engage women and poor	Lack of capacity at the local government agencies across multiple sectors to develop and implement environment and green development policy framework in target cities in a sustainable and inclusive manner.	Low	Overarching Principle: One Leave No Behind (Human Rights): P2 Principle: Gender Equality and Women's empowerment P.9 and P 11 Accountability: P13
3.5 Global Sustainable cities Integrated Program Knowledge Exchange	None identified.	-		
3.6 Project Monitoring and Reporting	None identified.	-		
3.7 Project Evaluation	None identified.	-		

4. Legal and Institutional Framework

4.1 Applicable National Policy Framework

The following policies and legislations are relevant to the implementation of the Project.

National Legal and Institutional Framework

Mongolia is a parliamentary republic with a unicameral parliamentary legislature called the State Great Khural (SGKh). Representatives of the SGKh are elected through direct universal suffrage for four-year terms. The Constitution of Mongolia, adopted in 1992, restructured the government's legislative branch and defines the character, composition, and powers of key state executive, legislative, and judicial bodies. In November 2019, Mongolia approved the second set of amendments to its 1992 Constitution. These amendments were novel because of the extent of deliberation and public engagement also Presidential elections which took place every four years have been changed to once every six years with the incumbent allowed to service in the office only once instead of two.

On May 31, 2023, the Mongolian parliament passed a major constitutional reform to enlarge the legislative body from 76 members to 126. The change will impact Mongolia's electoral system and governance. The change will impact Mongolia's electoral system and governance. The key elements of the current amendment are the enlargement of the legislature, re-introduction of a proportional component to the parliamentary elections, introduction of indirect presidential elections, and changes to the constitutional court.

The fundamental rights of Mongolian citizens are set out in the 1992 Constitution, including "the right to a healthy and safe environment, and to be protected against environmental pollution and ecological imbalance". The constitution imposes on its citizens a sacred duty "to protect nature and environment" and empowers the GoM "to undertake measures on the protection of the environment and on the rational use and restoration of natural resources". More specifically, the constitution imbues the State with the right to hold landowners responsible in connection with the land, to exchange or confiscate it with compensation on the grounds of special public need or if it is used in a manner adverse to the health of the population, the interests of environmental protection or national security.

Administratively, Mongolia is divided into Aimags, which are further divided into soums (districts). The lowest level of administration is the Bag, or sub-district and consists of a Bag Governor, Civic Registration Officer, and Section Leaders. The Governor's responsibilities are defined by legislation. Each Bag has its own budget regulated by law, although the soum Governor's Office typically manages the budgets. Bags have limited discretion over maintenance costs, pensions, and honorary prizes for exemplary workers, citizens, and taxpayers.

At the Aimag and soum levels, self-governing bodies called Citizens Representative Khurals (CRK) or khurals are responsible for local governance. At the Bag level, the self-governing body is the Bag General Meeting. Khurals are elected for four-year terms and have the authority to discuss and make decisions on

economic, social, and organizational matters, except for those legally defined within the powers of higher-level government bodies. At the soum level, funding is primarily delegated from the national government.

The Aimag-level government institutions mirror those at the national level, with the Governor being the central authority. Governors represent the State and directly report to higher-level Governors. The Governor of Aimag or city is nominated by the respective Khural and appointed by the Prime Minister. A typical Province Governor's Office consists of various departments, including Public Administration Management, Legal, Investment, Development Policy and Planning, Social Policy, Finance and Treasury, Monitoring, Evaluation and Internal Audit, Veterinary, and Military Section. The number of staff in Province Governor's Office may vary based on local characteristics, territory size, population, and economic and industrial development scale.

The 2019 constitutional reform represents a tremendous political shift in Mongolia's governance, political parties, and local councils. There are four changes related to the administrative divisions. Following the initiatives of the Government, the parliament would be allowed to delegate functions of the administrative divisions to the cities or towns and to change the administrative divisions on the basis of proposals of local citizens. In order to encourage local economic development, the amendments would allow the local councils (the Khurals of Citizen Representatives) in Aimags, capital city, counties and districts to fix the amount of taxes and to manage ownership within the limits defined by law. Moreover, the presidiums of local councils, which currently exercise most of the powers of the local councils during the interval period between the sessions of the local councils, would be eliminated so that the local councils fully exercise their respective powers.

National Legislation Related to the Project Framework

The project will entirely operate within the Mongolian national laws as identified below (Table 1).

Energy sector:

Table 1. Related laws and brief description

No	Laws	Year	Description
1	Law on energy	February 2001	It defines the legal framework of the sector, describes the duties and responsibilities of stakeholder like the Mongolian parliament, government, ministry and energy regulatory commission and other parties, owner-ship form, classification of energy facilities, and license and energy tariff issues. According to this law Mongolian energy sector was uncoupled and divided into classifications of generation, transmission grid, distribution grid, dispatching and consumer. The Mongolian Law on Energy (2001) and Mongolian Government Resolution No. 97 of 18 March 2020, stipulates the establishment of protection zones or Right of Way (RoW) for transmission lines. Articles 7.3 and 29.1.7 of the Law of Energy refer to the protection zone, and Article 33 (full article) is entitled "Power transmission network protection zone". The Energy Law does not specify the width of the ROW, however authorizes governors of aimags and soums to set the RoW in accordance with safety rules for lines and determined RoW in Resolution No. 97.

			<p>The Resolution No. 97 sets out specific RoWs (Table 3). The requirements for 220 kV lines are highlighted. Any activities that may interrupt energy transmission are prohibited within the RoW. This includes prohibition of infrastructure development within the RoW and any activities in the RoW area will require approval from the powerline owner.</p> <p>No trees and any agricultural plantation are allowed within 25 m surrounding substations or any power distribution infrastructure. Owners of trees or shrubs planted or growing within the RoW shall be obliged to move or cut them, if the former may possibly cause damage to the network or obstruct inspection or maintenance of the powerlines.</p>
2	Law on Renewable Energy	January 2007	<p>The law brought additional legal framework for the supply and utilization of electricity from renewable energy resources like wind, solar and hydro. The law described all duties and responsibility of stakeholders and the feed-in tariffs for the renewable energy sources, validation time of feed-in tariffs and power purchase agreements.</p> <p>The Mongolian grid code provides information on terms and definitions and procedures, is one of the main legal frameworks for grid connected operation.</p>
3	Law on energy conservation	2015	<p>This law regulates matters associated with efficient use of energy and its conservation. The main provisions of the law include: powers of central and local regulators on the energy conservation matters; rights and obligations of energy users; incentives of energy savings; professional services for energy conservation measures; and designation of Energy Manager position for those whose energy use exceeds Government allocated limit.</p>
4	Law on construction	February 2016	<p>The law provides information on construction processes in Mongolia.</p>
5	Law on licensing	June 2022	<p>The law regulates relations with respect to issuing, suspending and revoking a license to conduct certain business activities that may negatively affect the public interest, human health, environment and national security and that require specific conditions and expertise. Specific requirements that apply to this project include issuing licenses and permits to construct transmission lines and sub-stations including licenses for using construction materials etc.</p>

Environmental sector: The Government of Mongolia undertook a major environmental law reform in 1990 including the law of land, protected areas, water, forest, wildlife, and native flora resources. Most of the major laws were revised in 2012. The key national environmental, labor, health and safety laws are described in the table below.

Table 2. Laws related to the project

No	Laws	Year	Description
1	Law on Land	2002, last amended in 2015	Identifies requirements for the various types of land depending on the use, and includes common requirements, sanitary requirements, pasture protection, protection of hayfields and cultivated areas. Specific requirements that

			apply to this project include the requirement to rehabilitate, or to “immediately restore eroded and damaged land”, and “Land users should “prevent adverse impacts to the environment and land due to use of the land”.
2	Law on Soil Protection and Prevention From Desertification	2012	This law includes measures to prevent desertification from the intensification of agriculture, mining, road construction, and urban land use as well as climate change. The law provides guidance to facilitate a safe and healthy environment for the population, and to prevent soil damage and lower soil fertility from overgrazing and desertification, and systems to prevent soil erosion. The law also contains measures to establish accountability in environmental protection along with more elaboration on soil degradation, desertification gradation criteria and soil assessment methodology.
3	Law on Subsoil	1995	The Law on Subsoil regulates the use and protection of subsoil in the interests of present and future generations.
4	Law on Water	2012	This Law makes provision with respect to the proper use, protection and restoration of water resources of Mongolia. The purpose of the Law is to govern relations concerning the protection and rational use and restoration of water resource and its basin.
5	Law on Environmental Protection	1995, last amended in 2012	The Law on Environmental Protection: regulates relations between the state, citizens, economic entities, and organizations to guarantee the human rights to live in healthy and safe environment, have ecologically sustainable social and economic development. It is an umbrella Law for protection of land and soil; natural and mineral resources and minerals (on and underground); water; plants; animal and air.
6	Law on Environmental Impact Assessment	2012	Environmental impact assessment in Mongolia is guided by the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (2012) which is administered by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECC). The EIA protocol for all project interventions is two tiers defined initially by a general EIA (GEIA) - initial screening, followed by either a full detailed EIA (DEIA) or an Environmental Management Plan (EMP). The initial GEIA is generally conducted by the MET which identifies the required level of further impact assessment of a project. For major projects, GEIA prescribes the follow-up requirement of DEIA, whereas for minor impact projects, GEIA can prescribe only an environmental management plan (EMP) to be prepared for the project. DEIA (detailed environmental impact assessment) shall be conducted by the local organization that is authorized according to the Article 12 of the law. The authorized entity that is defined within the Article 8.2 of this law, shall

			prepare the report with the detailed environmental impact assessment and develop the environmental management plan. It is required to reflect the official feedback provided by the project implementer in detailed environmental impact assessment report. The environmental officer of the local area, the state environmental inspector, all Governors of every level, and the government agency in charge of geology and mining affairs shall monitor whether the project implementing citizen or the entity has conducted the environmental impact assessment.
7	Law on special protected areas	2017	The Law regulates the use and procurement of land for state protection, fosters scientific research, and preserves and conserves the land's original condition in order to protect specific characteristics, unique formations, rare and endangered plants and animals, historic and cultural monuments, and natural beauty. The law establishes four protected area categories, each managing land for a different purpose under a separate management directive. These include Strictly Protected Areas (SPA), National Parks (NP), Nature Reserves (NR) and National Monuments (NM).
8	Law on Air	2012, last amended in 2018	This law prohibits the pollution of urban air with "toxic and infectious substances and wastes with offensive odors", requires EIAs prior to engaging in commercial activities which discharge polluting substances, and further regulates five specific activities for air quality protection. These are discharge and burning of wastes, construction activities, equipment emitting air pollutants, discharge of greenhouse gases and activities affecting the ozone layer.
9	Law on natural plants	1995	It regulates the protection, proper use, and restoration of natural plants other than forests and cultivated plants.
10	Law on Waste management	2017	This law regulates waste disposal and recycling, reward system for collected recyclable wastes, and an accountability system for individuals and organizations that violate waste disposal regulations.
11	Law on Hydrology, Meteorology and Environmental Monitoring	1997, last amended in 2017	This law regulates relationship relating to providing citizens, business entities and organizations with information on hydrology and meteorology.
12	Law on Protection of Cultural Heritage	2014	The law regulates the collection, registration, research, classification, evaluation, preservation, protection, promotion, restoration, possession and usage of cultural heritage including tangible and intangible heritage.
13	Law on Natural Resource Use Fees	2012, last amended in 2015	This law regulates relations concerning imposing fees for use of natural resources to citizens, economic entities and organizations and spending the fund from proceeds from

			use of natural resources for environmental protection and restoration of natural resources
14	Law on Energy Conservation	2015, last amended in 2016	This law regulates the relations arising from energy conservation and efficient use of the energy.
Laws relating to the labor, occupational safety and health			
1	Labor Law	1999, last amended in 2017	It governs labor relations of entities between employees and employers, and their rights and duties and addresses, determines minimum wage level, maximum working hours regulations, collective employment agreements and resolutions of employment disputes. The law prohibits all types of discrimination, particularly employment discrimination on the grounds of social or property status, race, colour or nationality, sex, religion or political views, as are unwritten contracts of employment. The standard working day is set at 8 hours (subject to modification by mutual agreement) and the maximum working hours per week is 40 hours. Basic annual vacation for workers is 15 days, increased both for additional years of service and work under difficult conditions. Overtime is reimbursed at the rate of at least 1.5 times the standard rate of pay. Deductions from worker's pay, other than for income tax and child support are limited to 20% of gross monthly wages. It also regulates labor relation relating to employment of women, minors, disabled persons, dwarfs and elderly people. Mongolia ratified and in force all eight fundamental Conventions of International Labor Organization and they are: Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (No. 87), Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98), Forced Labor Convention, 1930 (No. 29) (and its 2014 Protocol), Abolition of Forced Labor Convention, 1957 (No. 105), Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138), Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (No. 182), Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100), and Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)
2	Law on Occupational Safety and Health	2008, last amended in 2015	The Law on Occupational Safety and Health determines the state policy and principles on labor safety and hygiene, and to regulate relationship with respect to management and monitoring system of state organizations, to ensure fulfillment of requirements and standards for labor safety and hygiene at workplace and to create safe and hygienic work environment for employed citizens. The law includes the requirements and standards of labor safety and hygiene, rights and duties of citizens and employees to provide favorable working conditions, investigation and registration industrial accidents, occupational diseases and acute poisoning, organizational structures of Occupational safety

			and health at the entities, responsibilities and rights of the employer, management system, authority, funding of organization responsible for monitoring on the implementation of the OSH issues, monitoring system and liabilities for violation of the laws and legislations on occupational safety and health.
3	Law on Promotion of Gender Equality	2011	Article 5 has defined the principle of gender equality as "men and women shall have opportunities and conditions to enjoy and to equal participate in political, economic, social, cultural, family and other relations, and to equally participate in social life and equally access the benefits of development and social wealth.
4	Law on Fire Safety	2015	This law ensures fire safety, establishes the legal basis of the authority in charge of fire safety monitoring, defines the rights and duties of local administrative bodies, business entities and citizens for ensuring fire safety and governs relationships connected with the exercise of such rights and duties.
5	Law on Hygiene	2016	This law regulates relations relating to create healthy and safe environment to live, prevent from any actions and activities that has adverse impacts to human health and environment, reduce and eliminate those impacts.

National Standards: The relevant national environmental standards with that of the applicable in table below. There are 6537 standards registered to the Mongolian standardization and technical regulation database (accessed in May 2023). They are classified as international standards categories and relevant standards have been picked up and are listed in the table below.

Table 3. National standards related environment and social aspects

Name of the standards	Codes
Environmental aspects	
Air quality. Acceptable concentration of pollutant elements for atmospheric air in public area	MNS 6063:2010
Air quality. General technical requirements	MNS 4585:2016
Environmental Protection: Rehabilitation of eroded land, terms and definitions	MNS 17.5.13. 1980
Environment. Land reclamation. Terms and definitions	MNS 5914:2008
Environment Requirements for fertile soil removing and its temporary storage during the earth excavation	MNS 5916:2008
Environment. Re-vegetation of destroyed land. General technical requirements	MNS 5918:2008
Acceptable concentration of air pollutant elements. General technical requirements	MNS 5885:2008
Water quality. General requirements	MNS 3342:1982
General requirements for preventing from groundwater pollution	MNS 4586:1998
Environment protection. Soil. The norm for sanitary condition of soil in town and residential areas	MNS 3297:1991
Plant quarantine. Terms and definitions	MNS 3475:2003
Water quality. Sampling. Part 4: Guidance on sampling of groundwater	MNS ISO 5667-11:2000
Water quality. Effluent treated wastewater. General requirements	MNS 4943:2015
Soil quality. Soil pollutants elements and substance	MNS 5850:2008
Soil. General requirements for sampling	MNS 3298:1991
Soil. Procedure for sampling, packaging, transportation and storage	MNS 2305:199
Identification of wastewater discharge point. General requirements	MNS 6230:2010
General requirements for assessment of soil erosion and degradation of vegetation cover in pasture lands	MNS 5546:2005
Pit latrine and sewage pit. Technical requirements	MNS 5924:2015
Passages for wild ungulates altogether highways and railways in steppe and Gobi areas. General requirements	MNS 6515:2015
Water quality. Maximum limit of substance contaminating the ground	MNS 6148:2010
Energy aspects	
Electric safety. General requirement	MNS 5150:2002
Electric safety. Maximum voltage and maximum level of current	MNS 5145:2002
Industrial hygiene. Power frequency electric fields. Permissible levels of field strength and requirements for control at workplaces	MNS 5149:2002
General requirements for measuring vibration	MNS 4994:2000
Safety levels with respect to human exposure to electric, electromagnetic fields, 0 Hz to 300GHz	MNS 5594:2020
Occupational health and safety	
Occupational safety and health. Requirement for method of determination of toxic substances concentration in the air of working zone	MNS 4991:2000
Occupational safety and health. General requirements for lead content in workplace air and the workplace	MNS 5803:2007
Occupational safety and operational security signs. Color of safety signs	MNS 4643:1998
Occupational safety and health. Vibration. Requirement for general safety	MNS 4994:2000
Occupational safety and health. Label and marking of toxic and hazardous chemicals	MNS 5029:2011

General safety requirements for loading and unloading	MNS 5079:2001
Occupational safety. Industrial hygiene. Hygiene protection areas norm, general requirements	MNS 5105:200
Occupational safety. Industrial hygiene. Electric safety. Protective conductive earth, neutralling	MNS 5146:2002
Occupational safety and health. Fire safety of electricity. General requirements	MNS 5390:2004
Safety of machinery. General requirements	MNS 4930:2000
Organization of a training. Basic rules	MNS 4969:2000
Occupational safety. Color of safety signs	MNS 4643:1998
Occupational safety and health. Vibration. Requirement for general safety	MNS 4994:2000
Device and method for protection from noise	MNS 0012.4.005:1985
General requirements for the measurements of noise	MNS 5003:2000
Occupational safety and health. Noise. Requirements for general safety	MNS 5002:2000
Personal protective equipment. Types and general requirements	MNS 4931:2000
Hearing protection equipment (ear plug, ear muff). General technical requirements	MNS 5388:2004
Eye protection equipment-Goggles	MNS 5389:2004
Head protection equipment-Hard hat	MNS 5621:2006
Safety gloves. General requirements	MNS 5622:2011
Foot protection equipment. Safety boots	MNS 5623:2006
General requirements for transportation of domestic waste	MNS 5344:2011
Fire safety of petroleum products. General requirements	MNS 5282:2003
Protection against fire. Fire protection instrument for building. Technical requirements	MNS 5566:2020
Fire safety. General requirements	MNS 4244:1994
Petroleum, petroleum product. Packaging, labelling and transportation	MNS 3629:1983
Use of road signage, traffic light, protective bracket, and direction signs	MNS 4596:2014
Transportation of construction materials in pieces and bulk	MNS 5645:2006

4.2 Applicable International Conventions

Mongolia has signed on to a number of international environmental conventions, including:

- Paris Agreement, 2016
- Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 2005
- Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade, 2004
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, 2004
- Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity, 2003
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, 1996
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1994
- Convention on Biological Diversity, 1993
- Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, 1992
- Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, 1989
- Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer, 1988
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn Convention), 1983
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora, 1975
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention), 1975
- Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (the World Heritage Convention), 1972

In addition, Mongolia has ratified the following International Labor Organization fundamental conventions, and International Human Rights instruments and conventions:

- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2009
- Worst Forms of Child Labor Convention, 1999 (number 182)
- New York convention against human trafficking, 1992
- Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1990
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 1981
- Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (number 138)
- Convention on the Political Rights of Women, 1965
- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (number 111)
- Abolition of Forced Labor Convention, 1957 (number 105)
- Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (number 100)
- Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (number 98)
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1949
- Human Rights
- Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize Convention, 1948 (number 87)
- Forced Labor Convention, 1930 (number 29)

4.3 UNDP’s Social and Environmental Standards (SES)

This ESMF has been prepared in line with UNDP’s updated Social and Environmental Standards (SES, www.undp.org/ses), which came into force on 1 January 2021. These Standards underpin UNDP’s commitment to mainstream social and environmental sustainability in its programs and projects to support sustainable development. Through the SES, UNDP meets the requirements of the GEF’s Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy.

The objectives of the SES are to:

- (i) Strengthen the quality of programming by ensuring a principled approach;
- (ii) Maximize social and environmental opportunities and benefits;
- (iii) Avoid adverse impacts to people and the environment;
- (iv) Minimize, mitigate, and manage adverse impacts where avoidance is not possible;
- (v) Strengthen UNDP and partner capacities for managing social and environmental risks; and
- (vi) Ensure full and effective stakeholder engagement, including through a mechanism to respond to complaints from project-affected people.

Table 3: Key Elements of UNDP Social and Environmental Standards (SES)

Programming Principles	Project-Level Standards	Procedures and Accountability
Principle 1: Leave No One Behind	Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality Assurance & Risk Management
Principle 2: Human Rights	Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Screening, Assessment and Management of SES Risks and Impacts
Principle 3: Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment	Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder Engagement and Response Mechanism
Principle 4: Sustainability and Resilience	Standard 4: Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to Information
Principle 5: Accountability	Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring, Reporting, Compliance review
	Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples	
	Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions	
	Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	

Where projects are rated as being High, Substantial or Moderate Risk, some form of social and environmental assessment is required, together with the identification of management mechanisms to mitigate identified risks. The assessment must be commensurate with the magnitude and severity of foreseen risks.

The nature of the assessment will vary according to the type of risk foreseen. Where potential impacts are foreseen from “upstream” project activities, such as those involving planning support, policy advice and reform, or capacity building, they are typically assessed using forms of Strategic Environmental and

Social Assessment (SESA). Risks and impacts associated with projects that have a physical footprint (“downstream” activities) are typically addressed through an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or targeted on-the-ground assessments.

In accordance with UNDP SES policy, the SESP was applied to the project during its development. The SES are an integral component of UNDP’s quality assurance and risk management approach to programming. This includes the Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (see the completed SESP for the project in Annex 5 to the Prodoc). Further risk screening confirms which SES Principle(s) or Standard(s) are ‘triggered’ based on risks assessed as having either a Moderate, Substantial or High significance (based on its likelihood of occurrence and extent of impact). Risks that are rated as Low significance do not trigger the related Principle or Standard. The SES Principles and Standards triggered, based on risk, for the Project are summarized in the table below.

Table 2: Summary of applicable SES Principles and Standards based on risk identification

UNDP SES Principles and Standards	Triggered?	Explanation (if no) and Relevant Requirements (if yes)
Principle: Leave No One Behind	No	No project activities trigger this principle or standard.
Principle: Human Rights	Yes	P1.2 Risk that duty bearers do not have the capacity to meet their obligations in the project P1.3 risk that rights-holders (e.g. project-affected persons) do not have the capacity to claim their rights P1.4 risk of adverse impacts on enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social or cultural) of the affected population and particularly of marginalized groups P1.5 potential for inequitable or discriminatory impacts on affected populations, particularly people living in poverty or marginalized or excluded individuals or groups, including persons with disabilities
Principle: Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment	Yes	P2.10 risks of discrimination against women P2.11 risks of limiting the women’s ability to use, develop and protect natural resources
Principle: Sustainability and Resilience	Yes	P.3.0 Project activities currently unknown design parameters may not meet UNDP Social and Environmental Standards
Principle: Accountability	Yes	P4.13 risks of potential exclusion of affected stakeholders P4.15 risks of retaliation or reprisals against stakeholders
Standard 1: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	Yes	Events: S1.1 risks for ecosystems and their services Events: 1.2 risks of critical habitat and environmental sensitive areas Events: S1.3 risks associated with land-use or ecosystem changes Events: S1.6 risk of introduction of invasive species Events: S1.8 risks of suboptimal forestry approaches
Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risk	Yes	Events: S2.1 presence of DRR and CC risks Events: S2.2 risks due to sensitivity to climate change or disasters Events: S2.3 maladaptation risks
Standard 3: Community Health, Safety and Security	Yes	Events: S3.2 potential air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, injuries, physical hazards, poor surface water quality due to runoff, erosion, sanitation? Events: S3.3 potential for harm or losses due to failure of structural elements of the project (e.g. collapse of buildings or infrastructure).

		Events: S3.6 risks on ecosystems and ecosystem services relevant to communities' health (e.g. food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)
Standard 4: Cultural Heritage	Yes	Events: S4.1 activities adjacent to or within a Cultural Heritage site may affect during any construction activities.
Standard 5: Displacement and Resettlement	No	No project activities trigger this principle or standard.
Standard 6: Indigenous Peoples	No	No project activities trigger this principle or standard.
Standard 7: Labour and Working Conditions	Yes	Events: S7.1 national labour laws and international commitments labour standard related risks Events: S7.6 occupational health and safety risks due to physical, chemical, biological and psychosocial hazards (including violence and harassment) throughout the project life-cycle)
Standard 8: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	Yes	Events: S8.1 risks of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts? Events: S8.2 risks of the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)

4.4 Prohibited Actions

Based on the UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards, the project must ensure that UNDP support is not channeled to any actions that:

- Involve or lead to adverse impacts on the enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social, or cultural) of the affected population.
- Involve or lead to exacerbation of sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, or gender-based violence risks.
- Have measurable adverse impacts on ecological processes that support the biodiversity values of critical ecosystems or lead to the reduction of populations of any recognized Critically Endangered, Endangered, or Vulnerable species.
- Increase the vulnerability of the socio-economic and environmental system to changing climatic conditions.
- Alter, damage, or remove objects, structures, or sites with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional, or religious values.
- Use any forms of employment that may fail to comply with national and international labor standards.
- Do not meet the country's emissions standards and waste management requirements.

5. Treatment Measures for the Identified SES Risks

The required assessment(s) and management plan(s) described below must be prepared and the measures must be put in place, per the plan(s), prior to the initiation of any project activity that might cause adverse impacts. The relevant activities are summarized in the table below and indicated in the subsections that follow.

5.1. Exclusion Criteria

The project’s SES risk management and implementation arrangements must ensure that it would not support any action that would meet the following Exclusion Criteria:

- Involve or lead to adverse impacts on the enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social, or cultural) of the affected population.
- Involve or lead to exacerbation of sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, or gender-based violence risks.
- Fail to comply with the national law for biodiversity protection; have measurable adverse impacts on ecological processes that support the biodiversity values of critical ecosystems; or lead to the reduction of populations of any recognized Critically Endangered, Endangered, or Vulnerable species.
- Fail to meet national law for community health and safety; or would not adhere to applicable construction risk management standards.
- Include forced evictions or evictions that are not (a) authorized by national law; (b) carried out in full accordance with relevant provisions of international human rights and humanitarian law; (c) reasonable and proportional, and (d) managed through due process standards to ensure full and fair compensation and rehabilitation.
- Fail to comply with national regulatory requirements for cultural heritage protection; or otherwise damage or adversely affect objects, structures, or sites with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional, or religious significance.
- Adversely affect the human rights of Indigenous Peoples (as affirmed by the national law and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) and their lands, natural resources, traditional livelihoods, and cultural heritage; and fail to secure their free prior informed consent (FPIC) where such impacts get identified.
- Fail to meet national and international standards for labour and working conditions; or would involve any form of child labour or forced labour – both directly and in its supply chains.
- Do not meet the county’s requirements and good international practice for managing pollutants and hazardous materials.

These exclusion criteria will be embedded into the screening of subprojects and be supplemented with further activity-specific SES risk screening questions where needed.

5.2 General SES Risk Treatment Measures

Horizontal measure no: 1	Stakeholder Engagement
Relevant for	All project outputs
Key SES risks addressed	P4.13 risks of potential exclusion of affected stakeholders
Applicable UNDP SES requirements	A Stakeholder Engagement Plan has been developed during the project’s design phase. It constitutes an annex to the Project Document. The SEP procedures and characteristics are defined in this document. The SEP is designed to ensure that all relevant stakeholders—particularly those affected by the project—are identified, informed, consulted, and involved in a

	meaningful and timely manner. The project shall establish meaningful, effective and informed consultation processes, in-line with the guidance provided by UNDP, and based on full implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan.
UNDP disclosure and stakeholder engagement requirements	As part of its Stakeholder Engagement Process, the project will provide access to relevant information, in accordance with paragraph 21 of the Policy Delivery Process and Accountability chapter of the SES.
Responsibilities and resources	The Project Management Unit is responsible for implementing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, in collaboration and cooperation with the National Implementation Partner, UNDP, and other project partners. The implementation of the SEP is in line with standard project operations, and does not require additional specific resources.

Horizontal measure no: 2	Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan (GAP)
Relevant for	<p>All project outputs, but especially:</p> <p>Output 1.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Possible risk of unintended consequences on sensitive habitats and soil due to improved <p>Output 1.2.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusive and gender-responsive integrated spatial and land management plans updated for Darkhan-Uul and adopted for UB City, and Erdenet, to reflect sustainable resource management for Green Cities covering total of 882,344.5 ha (total territories of target cities.) <p>Output 1.4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusive and Gender Sensitive Capacity Development Program for Green City policy and institutional strengthening <p>Output 2.8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improved sustainability of urban food system supply chain through promotion of local food production - Various activities on sustainable management and restoration of forests <p>Output 3.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity Building for Integrated Sustainable Urban Planning <p>Output 3.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Green City Innovation, Digital Tools, and Knowledge Hubs Catalyzing Innovation and Knowledge Sharing Partnerships
Key SES risks addressed	<p>P2.10 risks of discrimination against women</p> <p>P2.11 risks of limiting the women’s ability to participate, urban planning, develop and implementation</p>
Applicable UNDP SES requirements	The project development process included a Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan (included as an Annex to the Prodoc) to assist in further identifying and analyzing existing gender-based discriminations. The Gender Action Plan guides all project actions pertaining to SES implementation

	<p>related to gender. The GAP lays out gender entry points, ensures activities delivering project outputs are gender-responsive, provide a set of gender-sensitive indicators and identifies outputs and outcomes where sex-disaggregated data and information should be collected. Based on the Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan, the project has been designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • collect and / generate new gender-disaggregated data, to the extent possible • identify and address the different needs, constraints, concerns and priorities of women and men, • allow both women and men receive equal access to project resources and benefits. <p>The project shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allow both women and men to participate meaningfully and equitably in project design and decision-making, • allow both genders obtain comparable social and economic benefits from project interventions. <p>For example, in project training and capacity development activities on the sustainable urban development planning, budgeting and implementing, the project will ensure adequate representation and participation by women and men. In the development and updating of urban and spatial management plans, the project will ensure full consideration of natural based solutions and natural resource management aspects from a gender perspective. In the project activities related to the development of and support for inclusive green cities project will ensure support for and engagement of women in training, capacity development, and other relevant aspects.</p> <p>The approach to Gender Mainstreaming will be aligned with the UNDP Guidance on <i>"The why and how of gender mainstreaming in SLM"</i>.</p>
UNDP disclosure and stakeholder engagement requirements	As part of the Gender Action Plan implementation, the project will provide access to the Gender Analysis and Gender Action Plan, ensuring that this information is made publicly and openly available.
Responsibilities and resources	The Project Management Unit is responsible for implementing the Gender Action Plan, in collaboration and cooperation with the National Implementation Partner, UNDP, and other project partners. The implementation of the GAP is in line with standard project operations, and does not require additional specific resources.

Horizontal measure no: 3	Grievance Redress Mechanism
Relevant for	All project outputs, but especially: Output 1.2

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk of potential stakeholder exclusion and risk of grievances related to spatial planning process <p>Outputs 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project will be supporting land restoration and sustainable land management plans related to grasslands, forests and riparian areas, and there could be risks associated with these activities that the project fails to fully engage all relevant stakeholders, and/or some stakeholders could submit grievances related to these restoration activities and its implementation processes. <p>Output 2.8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project will be providing direct support for sustainable livelihoods. There is some risk of grievances from this type of support, if there is not full consensus among local stakeholders about the types of support that should be provided. <p>Output 2.10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project will be supporting improved water management, and conducting activities that could potentially support the government’s planned establishment of artificial water reservoirs in target cities. There is some risks of potential environmental and social and affected stakeholders, or risk of grievances from these activities. <p>Output 3.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The project will be supporting Capacity Building for Integrated Sustainable Urban Planning. There is some risk of grievances if not all stakeholders not involved for project implementation.
Key SES risks addressed	P4.14 risks of grievances
Applicable UNDP SES requirements	<p>UNDP’s SES require the establishment of a project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism, to address concerns promptly through dialogue and engagement, using an understandable and transparent process that is culturally appropriate, rights compatible, and readily accessible to all stakeholders at no cost and without retribution. The project shall establish an easy-to-access project-level GRM before the beginning of project implementation to allow any stakeholders to communicate concerns or grievances if they have raised concerns through standard channels for stakeholder consultation and engagement and have not been satisfied with the response. The GRM will be gender- and age-inclusive and responsive and address potential access barriers to women, the elderly, the disabled, youth and other potentially marginalized groups as appropriate to the Project.</p> <p>The project will also inform potentially affected stakeholders about - and provide their access to - UNDP Accountability Mechanism with two key components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM) grievance resolution procedures for addressing complaints and disputes related to the project’s social and/or environmental impacts. o Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU) that investigates alleged non-compliance with UNDP’s Social and Environmental

	Standards and screening procedure from affected stakeholders and recommends measures to address findings of non-compliance.
UNDP disclosure and stakeholder engagement requirements	The GRM will be presented during the inception phase and be operational throughout the project implementation. It will be mentioned during the stakeholder consultations and dissemination of project notification through appropriate media and/or at publicly accessible sites (including the site of the works).
Responsibilities and resources	At project start, the project Implementing Partner will, in consultation with stakeholders, establish at least one project-level Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) with the contacts of the responsible management staff. Given that the project will have different workstreams affecting different stakeholder groups, several GRMs may be established as appropriate. The implementation of the GRM is in line with standard project operations, and does not require additional specific resources.

Horizontal measure no: 4	Screening of sub-projects
Relevant for	<p>Output 1.2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under this output the project will be supporting development of Climate-resilient integrated land use spatial plan reviewed and updated in a selected city adopting Green Urban/Peri-Urban principles and approaches, including watershed protection, green space, pasture land, crop land, urban transportation, green belts, forests and smart management of urban sprawl. The specific results of these spatial planning activities cannot be fully foreseen at this stage. <p>Output 2.1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under this output the project will support the scaling up of renewable energy systems and notably the establishment of a small-scale pilot exploring biogas generation from green waste and landfill methane harvesting. The design specification and siting of this pilot have not been determined. This pilot will need to undergo environmental and social risk screening in accordance with UNDP's SES and with Mongolia's Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (as amended 2021). This will require at a minimum that a General Environmental Impact Assessment (GEIA) is undertaken and if required a Detailed EIA (DEIA) produced. The GEIA or DEIA should also reference UNDP's SES Policy to ensure it complies with national regulations <i>and</i> the requirements of the UNDP SES Policy. <p>Output 2.3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under this output, the project will support the installation of rooftop rainwater harvesting systems on selected public buildings. The specific buildings and technical design parameters will be determined during project implementation in coordination with municipal authorities and building managers. As such, these activities will undergo environmental and social risk screening in accordance with UNDP's Social and

	<p>Environmental Standards (SES) to ensure that siting and design are appropriate and do not pose undue environmental or social risks.</p> <p>Output 2.4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some project land restoration (39720 ha) areas are not specifically identified, such as the specific locations where the project will work with local resource users to establish Pasture User Groups (PUG's). Potential communities have been identified, but not confirmed, as it is not possible to establish meaningful agreements with local resource users about such things until the project is approved and under implementation. This is equally true for the project's work with the private sector on pasture restoration and management. <p>Output 2.5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Similar to 2.4 above, particularly in relation to specific flood control and riparian ecosystem restoration sites (2300 ha), as the local land cadaster registry is currently being updated, and final locations not confirmed. <p>Output 2.8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under this output the project will provide direct support at the community level for urban food system supply chain through promotion of local food production. The project will support to local farmers and communities to improve thier livelihoods. The specific types of direct support to communities are still to be defined during project implementation based on local stakeholder consultations. It is not possible to fully define these activities at this stage without further understanding how other project activities may affect communities.
Key SES risks addressed	P.3.0 Project activities currently unknown design parameters may not meet UNDP Social and Environmental Standards
Applicable UNDP SES requirements	<p>The relevant project outputs shall put in place a systematic screening process requiring the implementing agencies and responsible parties to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify – using a tailored social and environmental screening of sub-projects based on the UNDP SESP checklist any potentially significant risks associated with the proposed sub-projects on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Human Rights ○ Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment ○ Accountability to stakeholders ○ Biodiversity and Sustainable Natural Resource Management ○ Climate Change and Disaster Risks ○ Community Health, Safety Security ○ Cultural Heritage ○ Displacement and Resettlement ○ Indigenous Peoples ○ Labour and Working Conditions ○ Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency ▪ Ensure that no sub-project meets exclusion criteria. Any proposal that meets one or more of the exclusion criteria will be considered ineligible and will be either adjusted or disqualified from further consideration. ▪ Determine the significance of potential SES risks and:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Adopt measures to avoid, minimize, or offset these risks so that they comply with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards and relevant national requirements (where Moderate SES risks were identified), or ○ Undertake further assessments (where Substantial or High risks were identified). <p>Where the screening of sub-projects indicates the need for further assessments based on UNDP SES (for Substantial and High-risk projects) or the need for EIA/SEA based on the national legislation, the project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consider whether the local systems/processes used by the implementing partners can adequately address these UNDP SES requirements. Where gaps exist, suggest practical options for enhancing these systems/processes with additional requirements that achieve the equivalence and acceptable implementation of the relevant UNDP SES requirements. ▪ Assess any potentially significant risks/impacts and adopt measures that avoid, minimise or offset them so that they comply with the UNDP Social and Environmental Standards and applicable country requirements. ▪ Follow up and monitor the implementation of such agreed mitigation measures and undertake early and effective remedial actions if any additional potentially significant risks arise during the sub-project implementation. <p>When doing so, the project shall consult the SES team for latest insights on the effective operation of these activity-based screening systems.</p>
UNDP disclosure and stakeholder engagement requirements	As part of its Systematic Activity Level Screening Process, the project will provide access to relevant information, in accordance with paragraph 21 of the Policy Delivery Process and Accountability chapter of the SES.
Responsibilities and resources	The Project Management Unit is responsible for implementing the Systematic Activity Level Screening Process, in collaboration and cooperation with the National Implementation Partner, UNDP, and other project partners. The implementation of the Systematic Activity Level Screening Process is in line with standard project operations, and does not require additional specific resources.

5.3. Specific SES Risk Treatment Measures

Activity no	1.2 Inclusive and gender-responsive integrated spatial and land management plans updated for Darkhan-Uul and adopted for UB City, and Erdenet, to reflect sustainable resource management for Green Cities covering total of 882,344.5 ha (total territories of target cities.)
Key SES risks	<p>P3.0 generic sustainability and resilience risks</p> <p>P2.10 risks of discrimination against women</p> <p>P2.11 risks of limiting the women’s ability to participate, urban planning, develop and implementation</p>

	P4.13 risks of potential exclusion of affected stakeholders P4.14 risks of grievances
Applicable UNDP SES requirements	The proposed integrated urban planning and spatial plans will be developed during their early elaboration subject to screening (see General measure no: 4) that will determine the key site-specific issues to be addressed through scoped SESAs. The SESAs will assess the relevant SES risks in detail and identify mitigation measures to be incorporated into the proposed plans and their implementation arrangements.
UNDP disclosure and stakeholder engagement requirements	The scoped SESAs will be made available for either 30 or 60 days of public input (depending on if they involve complex Moderate SES risks). Potentially affected stakeholders will be also informed that about a possibility to submit complains through the GRM (see General measure no.3)
Responsibilities and resources	The PMU will be responsible for implementing the treatment measures during the course of project activity implementation. The SESAs will be completed for each of the three target cities, with a budgeted amount of \$54,400 USD.

Activity no	2.1. Inclusive and gender-responsive integrated spatial and land management plans updated for Darkhan-Uul and adopted for UB City, and Erdenet, to reflect sustainable resource management for Green Cities covering total of 882,344.5 ha (total territories of target cities.)
Key SES risks	P2.11 risks of limiting the women’s ability to participate urban development planing, budgeting and implementing P3.0 generic sustainability and resilience risks P4.13 risks of potential exclusion of affected stakeholders P4.14 risks of grievances S1.3 risks associated with land-use or ecosystem changes S1.6 risk of introduction of invasive species S2.2 risks due to sensitivity to climate change or disasters
Applicable UNDP SES requirements	The design of the spatial and land management governance mechanisms shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ involve and consult affected communities on activities that may affect their ecosystem services, ▪ conduct a gender analysis (and use gender-disaggregated data to the extent possible) with the aim to identify and address the different needs, constraints, concerns and priorities of women and men, and ensure that the project activities allow both women and men receive equal access to project resources and benefits. ▪ avoid adverse impacts on ecosystem services of relevance to affected communities, and identify opportunities to enhance the goods and services provided by biodiversity and ecosystems in order to secure livelihoods, food, water and health as part of the project. ▪ promote the use of native species or more climate resilient varieties of native species (without introducing species known to be invasive into new environments). The proposed spatial and land management governance mechanisms will be before their finalization subject to screening (see Horizontal measure no: 4) to

	consider any outstanding social and environmental risks and prescribe their context specific mitigation measures in accordance with the UNDP SES requirements. The project SES TA will be consulted to advise on the adequacy of the SES risk management approaches use in the pasture management.
UNDP disclosure and stakeholder engagement requirements	The proposed spatial and land management governance mechanisms will be made available for 30 days of public input. Potentially affected stakeholders will be also informed that about a possibility to submit complains through the GRM (see Horizontal measure no.3).
Responsibilities and resources	The PMU will be responsible for implementing the treatment measures during the course of project activity implementation. The gender-responsive integrated spatial and land management plans implementation supported through the planned project activities budgeted \$379.000USD.

Activity no	2.1 Demonstrate methane capture and biogas generation from urban waste streams
Key SES risks	S3.2 risks to community health and safety S3.6 risks related to hazardous materials and waste S8.1, S8.2 pollution-related risks S2.1 exposure to climate extremes P4.14 risks of grievances
Applicable UNDP SES requirements	<p>The biogas pilot activity involves the installation and commissioning of infrastructure for methane capture and energy generation from urban waste streams. These systems may involve health and safety risks, exposure to flammable gases, leakage, and pollution of air, soil, or groundwater during handling and operation.</p> <p>In line with UNDP SES and Mongolia’s Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (2021), the activity will undergo environmental and social risk screening to determine whether a General Environmental Impact Assessment (GEIA) is sufficient or whether a Detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (DEIA) is required. The assessment(s) must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include analysis of pollution risks, community health and safety, and hazardous waste handling; • Reflect site-specific risk profiles and the implications of siting, design, and technology choices; • Comply with UNDP’s Guidance on ESIA and national regulations; • Incorporate safety measures and long-term operation and maintenance (O&M) requirements. <p>Targeted management plans, including Health and Safety Plans and Emergency Preparedness Plans, must be developed if required by the screening process or during the ESIA.</p>
UNDP disclosure and stakeholder engagement requirements	Any required scoped DEIA will be disclosed for 60 days of public input. Stakeholder consultation must be conducted during the assessment process in line with UNDP SES and national requirements.

Responsibilities and resources	The PMU will be responsible for overseeing screening, TOR development, and procurement of independent experts to conduct the ESIA. A dedicated budget will be allocated to support the ESIA process, with an estimated budget of \$15,000 depending on the level of detail and stakeholder engagement required.
--------------------------------	---

Activity no	2.4 Land restoration and SLM: 39720 ha of land under improved management (Darkhan - 38971,3 ha, Erdenet - 50813,6 ha, UB city - 67246,9 ha area should be restore)
Key SES risks	P3.0 generic sustainability and resilience risks P4.13 risks of potential exclusion of affected stakeholders P4.14 risks of grievances S1.3 risks associated with land-use or ecosystem changes S1.6 risk of introduction of invasive species S1.8 risks of suboptimal forestry approaches S2.2 risks due to sensitivity to climate change or disasters S8.5 risks associated with pesticide use
Applicable UNDP SES requirements	The land restoration planned: a) do not convert natural forests, and restore forests in full accordance with the conservation objectives for any relevant protected area; b) apply integrated pest management to reduce reliance on synthetic pesticides. Where possible, preference will be given to pest-resistant varieties and biological control of pests and diseases. The project shall not use pesticides that fall in Classes Ia (extremely hazardous) and Ib (highly hazardous) of the World Health Organization Recommended Classification of Pesticides by Hazard; c) give preference to small-scale community-level management approaches where they best reduce poverty in a sustainable manner; d) consult the potentially affected communities on activities that may affect ecosystem goods and services on which they depend for livelihood, food, water and health, etc. Where potential impacts on such ecosystem goods and services may arise, the project will mitigate/offset them to maintain their value and functionality; e) use the native species or more climate resilient varieties of native species (without introducing species known to be invasive into new environments); f) where possible, prioritize reforestation efforts that contribute to watershed restoration, slope stabilization, and flood control; g) use the project's forest carbon sequestration potential for participation in carbon markets, where applicable; and h) avoid reforestation involving access restrictions or changes to land tenure arrangements or community-based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources, and ensure that the reforestation does not significantly affect availability or accessibility of sustainably harvested primary forest and non-timber forest products. i) keep interventions in natural and semi-natural habitats to minimum in order not to disturb the existing flora and fauna, degrade the habitat and

	<p>resident species populations;</p> <p>j) minimize interventions that would reduce ecological connectivity in the ecosystem (e.g. restricting the free movement of species between important habitats) or changes in the important ecosystem processes (e.g. hydrological regimes and nutrient flows) that support ecosystems and their services; and</p> <p>k) consider any potential impacts of the project on sites and areas with cultural, historical, or spiritual significance, and comply with the local requirements for their protection and preservation.</p> <p>The proposed land restoration plans will be before their finalization screened against the above criteria (see Horizontal measure no: 4). Such screening shall consider any outstanding social and environmental risks and prescribe their context specific mitigation measures in accordance with the UNDP SES requirements. The project SES TA will be consulted to advise on the adequacy of the SES risk management. If determined to be necessary based on preliminary screenings for Output 2.5, the project will conduct a scoped ESIA for selected sites and activities under Output 2.5 and address the SES risks identified through the screening process. The corresponding scope of the ESIA will be established in the ToR and the project SES TA will be consulted to advise on its adequacy. The ESIA will be carried out by independent experts and assess the social and environmental impacts of the project and its area of influence, evaluate alternatives, and design appropriate avoidance, mitigation, management, and monitoring measures. It will address all relevant issues related to the SES Overarching Principles and Project-level Standards.</p>
UNDP disclosure and stakeholder engagement requirements	The proposed land restoration plans will be made available for 30 days of public input. Potentially affected stakeholders will be also informed that about a possibility to submit complaints through the GRM (see Horizontal measure no.3).
Responsibilities and resources	The PMU will be responsible for implementing the treatment measures during the course of project activity implementation. The forest restoration plans are supported through the planned project activities and no additional budget is foreseen.

Activity no	2.5 Flood control and riparian ecosystem restoration, including 2,300 ha of reforestation
Key SES risks	<p>P4.14 risks of grievances</p> <p>S2.2 risks due to sensitivity to climate change or disasters</p> <p>P3.0 generic sustainability and resilience risks</p> <p>S1.1 risks for ecosystems and their services</p> <p>S1.6. risks of invasive alien species</p> <p>S3.1 construction-related risks</p>
Applicable UNDP SES requirements	<p>The flood control and riparian restoration must be planned so they:</p> <p>a) restore riparian ecosystems in full accordance with the conservation objectives for any relevant protected area and water management,</p> <p>b) consult the potentially affected communities on activities that may affect</p>

	<p>ecosystem goods and services on which they depend for livelihood, food, water and health, etc. Where potential impacts on such ecosystem goods and services may arise, the project will mitigate/offset them to maintain their value and functionality,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) use the native species or more climate resilient varieties of native species (without introducing species known to be invasive into new environments, d) where possible, prioritize restoration efforts that contribute to watershed restoration, slope stabilization, and flood control, e) avoid restoration involving access restrictions or changes to land tenure arrangements or community-based property rights/customary rights to land, territories and/or resources. f) keep interventions in natural and semi-natural habitats to minimum in order not to disturb the existing flora and fauna, degrade the habitat and resident species populations; g) minimize interventions that would reduce ecological connectivity in the ecosystem (e.g. restricting the free movement of species between important habitats) or changes in the important ecosystem processes (e.g. hydrological regimes and nutrient flows) that support ecosystems and their services; and h) consider any potential impacts of the project on sites and areas with cultural, historical, or spiritual significance, and comply with the local requirements for their protection and preservation. <p>The restoration activities will be before their finalization screened against the above criteria (see Horizontal measure no: 4). Such screening shall consider any outstanding social and environmental risks and prescribe their context specific mitigation measures in accordance with the UNDP SES requirements. The project SES TA will be consulted to advise on the adequacy of the SES risk management. If determined to be necessary based on preliminary screenings for Output 2.5, the project will conduct a scoped ESIA for selected sites and activities under Output 2.5 and address the SES risks identified through the screening process. The corresponding scope of the ESIA will be established in the ToR and the project SES TA will be consulted to advise on its adequacy. The ESIA will be carried out by independent experts and assess the social and environmental impacts of the project and its area of influence, evaluate alternatives, and design appropriate avoidance, mitigation, management, and monitoring measures. It will address all relevant issues related to the SES Overarching Principles and Project-level Standards.</p>
UNDP disclosure and stakeholder engagement requirements	See the stakeholder consultations outline above. Potentially affected stakeholders will be also informed that about a possibility to submit complains through the GRM (see Horizontal measure no. 3).
Responsibilities and resources	The PMU will be responsible for implementing the treatment measures during the course of project activity implementation.

Activity no	2.6 Enhanced and improved urban green spaces
Key SES risks	P3.0 generic sustainability and resilience risks

	<p>P4.14 risks of grievances S1.1 risks for ecosystems and their services S3.1 construction-related risks S4.1 risks to cultural heritage sites</p>
Applicable UNDP SES requirements	<p>The private sector partnerships will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> as far as possible, site the proposed activities for Enhanced and improved urban green spaces; keep interventions in natural and semi-natural habitats to minimum in order not to disturb the existing flora and fauna, degrade the habitat and resident species populations; minimize interventions that would reduce ecological connectivity in the ecosystem (e.g. restricting the free movement of species between important habitats) or changes in the important ecosystem processes (e.g. hydrological regimes and nutrient flows) that support ecosystems and their services; and consider any potential impacts of the project on sites and areas with cultural, historical, or spiritual significance, and comply with the local requirements for their protection and preservation. <p>Private sector partnerships with SLM will be before their detailed design subject to screening (see Horizontal measure no: 4). The urban greening activities will be before their finalization screened against the above criteria (see Horizontal measure no: 4). Such screening shall consider any outstanding social and environmental risks and prescribe their context specific mitigation measures in accordance with the UNDP SES requirements. The project SES TA will be consulted to advise on the adequacy of the SES risk management. If determined to be necessary based on preliminary screenings for Output 2.5, the project will conduct a scoped ESIA for selected sites and activities under Output 2.5 and address the SES risks identified through the screening process. The corresponding scope of the ESIA will be established in the ToR and the project SES TA will be consulted to advise on its adequacy. The ESIA will be carried out by independent experts and assess the social and environmental impacts of the project and its area of influence, evaluate alternatives, and design appropriate avoidance, mitigation, management, and monitoring measures. It will address all relevant issues related to the SES Overarching Principles and Project-level Standards.</p>
UNDP disclosure and stakeholder engagement requirements	Any scoped ESIA will be made available for 60 days of public input.
Responsibilities and resources	The PMU will be responsible for implementing the treatment measures during the course of project activity implementation. The ESIA will be completed for each of the three target landscapes, with a budgeted amount of \$46,370 USD.

Activity no	2.9 Establish artificial water reservoirs in targeted restoration zone in Darkhan
--------------------	--

Key SES risks	S2.1, S2.2, S2.3 – climate risk and disaster impacts S3.1 – construction-related risks S3.2 – community health and safety S8.1 – pollution risks P2.0 – risks related to exclusion and inequality
Applicable UNDP SES requirements	The project will need to comply with both UNDP’s SES Policy and national regulations. To ensure compliance the project will undertake a Detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (DEIA) for the artificial water reservoir in line with Mongolia’s Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (as amended 2021). This requirement is reflected in the approved project document and will ensure that all relevant SES risks—including climate vulnerability, safety hazards, and potential downstream impacts—are fully assessed. The DEIA must incorporate UNDP’s Social and Environmental Standards (SES), and include specific provisions for community health and safety, pollution prevention, and a long-term operation and maintenance (O&M) plan. The SES Technical Advisor will support review of the DEIA terms of reference and deliverables to ensure adequacy.
UNDP disclosure and stakeholder engagement requirements	The DEIA will include stakeholder consultations in line with national regulations and be disclosed in accordance with national regulations and UNDP SES requirements, with a minimum 30-day public disclosure period and appropriate stakeholder engagement at the local level.
Responsibilities and resources	The PMU will manage the DEIA process in close consultation with national environmental authorities and the UNDP SES Technical Advisor. The cost for the DEIA is included in the activity cost and will cover fieldwork, technical analysis, and inclusive stakeholder engagement.

5.4 Further Screening of Entire Project

During implementation, this project will be re-screened with the UNDP SESP template:

- as needed in the course of required assessment(s) or management plan(s);
- if new information is available that informs the identification of social and environmental risks;
- as outlined in the resulting management plan(s);
- when project design or context changes in a substantive or relevant way; and/or
- when otherwise determined necessary by the Project Manager, Safeguards Officer, the Project Board, or UNDP.

6. Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure Process

6.1 Summary of Stakeholder Engagement During Project Development

The stakeholder engagement plan is included as Annex 9 of the Prodoc, which summarizes the key partners and stakeholder organizations and institutions, with their main institutional responsibilities. The proposed project's stakeholders and partners comprise of five groups – (1) Government line ministries and agencies, including their local branches, local authorities; (2) Scientific institutions and academia; (3) National and international civil society organizations; (4) Small-holder agricultural producers/farming units, landowners, pastoralists, and local communities; (5) International development partners.

Within the agenda of the initial project preparation phase, a stakeholder analysis was conducted to pinpoint key stakeholders, evaluate their interests in the project, and outline their respective roles and duties in project implementation. During the project development phase the full range of stakeholders were consulted, and their inputs, priorities, and suggestions were incorporated in the project design. Stakeholder organizations were met on a one-on-one basis throughout the project development process, as outlined in Annex 9. In situations where it was not possible to meet in person, remote meetings and phone calls were used to consult with stakeholders about the project. Finally, the project stakeholder validation workshop was attended by more than 70 individuals representing stakeholder organizations from civil society, government, development partners, resource managers, and others. The workshop produced numerous qualitative comments that were further reflected in the project design.

The approach to stakeholder engagement and participation will adhere to principles deemed significant according to UNDP stakeholder engagement guidelines. In addition, the project's approach to stakeholder and engagement and consideration of target groups and potentially affected groups is elaborated under Annex 5 the SESP, and Annex 8 the ESMF.

6.2 Stakeholder Engagement Requirements for Project and ESMF Implementation

The project's Stakeholder Engagement Plan (ProDoc Annex 9) will be implemented to ensure that stakeholders are engaged in project implementation and particularly in the further assessment of social and environmental impacts and the development of appropriate management measures.

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be updated during project implementation based on the assessments and management plans conducted in line with this ESMF, as needed. Potentially affected stakeholders will be engaged during the implementation of this ESMF.

6.3 Information Disclosure Processes

This ESMF (and the project's SESP) will be disclosed via the UNDP Country Office website in accordance with [UNDP policy](#). The subsequent management plans will also be publicly disclosed once drafted, and finalized/adopted only after the required time period for disclosure of draft has elapsed. These plans must be risk-informed and disclosed in a location accessible to the public and affected communities for at least 30 days.

7. Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)

As described in the in this ESMF, above, the terms of reference to operationalize the Project GRM have been defined for the Project. The GRM will be operationalized within the first six months of project initiation.

Interested stakeholders may raise a grievance at any time to the Project Management Unit, the Project Board, UNDP, Implementing Agency (Ministry of Environmental and Climate Change), or the GEF.

7.1 UNDP's Accountability Mechanism

The UNDP SES recognizes that even with strong planning and stakeholder engagement, unanticipated issues can arise. Therefore, the SES are underpinned by an Accountability Mechanism with two components:

- The Social and Environmental Compliance Unit (SECU) investigates concerns about non-compliance with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards and Screening Procedure raised by project-affected stakeholders and recommends measures to address findings of non-compliance.
- The Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM) helps project-affected stakeholders, UNDP's partners (governments, NGOs, businesses) and others jointly address grievances or disputes related to the social and/or environmental impacts of UNDP-supported projects.

UNDP's Accountability Mechanism is available to all of UNDP's project stakeholders, and does not replace the project-level GRM. However, engagement with project-affected people should ensure they are aware of their options and how to access both the GRM and UNDP's Accountability Mechanism.

8. Institutional Arrangements and Capacity Building for ESMF Implementation

8.1 Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities for the implementation and oversight of ESMF implementation are embedded in the overall governance and management arrangements for the project.

While the following also applies to implementation of the subsequent management plans to be prepared during implementation of the project, per this ESMF, additional specific roles and responsibilities will be defined further in those plans.

Project Board

- Monitor implementation of this ESMF and compliance with national and international regulations, and UNDP's SES;
- Maintain decision making for the adoption of necessary measures including full integration of management measures within project Outputs and annual work plans;
- Establish and support GRM mechanism to address any grievances;
- Make decisions on corrective actions or changes to the project that may be needed to address social and environmental risks and issues; and

- Provide strategic guidance to implementation of the Project including oversight for safeguards and the implementation of this ESMF.

The composition of the Project Board must include individuals assigned to the following three roles:

- 1. Project Executive:** This is an individual who represents ownership of the project and chairs (or co-chairs) the Project Board. The Executive usually is the senior national counterpart for nationally implemented projects (typically from the same entity as the Implementing Partner), and it must be UNDP for projects that are direct implementation (DIM). In exceptional cases, two individuals from different entities can co-share this role and/or co-chair the Project Board. If the project executive co-chairs the project board with representatives of another category, it typically does so with a development partner representative. The Project Executive is: *Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, of the Government of Mongolia*. The MECC performs their Project Executive role in the context of the organization's role as the focal point for the Global Environment Facility.
- 2. Beneficiary Representative(s):** Individuals or groups representing the interests of those groups of stakeholders who will ultimately benefit from the project. Their primary function within the board is to ensure the realization of project results from the perspective of project beneficiaries. Often representatives from civil society, industry associations, or other government entities benefiting from the project can fulfil this role. There can be multiple beneficiary representatives in a Project Board. The Beneficiary representative (s) is/are:
 1. *Ulaanbaatar city governor office (or their representative)*
 2. *Darkhan city governor office (or their representative)*
 3. *Orkhon city governor office (or their representative)*
 4. *Ministry of Agriculture and Light Industry (or their representative)*
 5. *Ministry of Environment and climate change (or their representative)*
 6. *Ministry of Finance (or their representative)*
 7. *Ministry of Urban development, construction and housing (or thier representatives)*
 8. *Food laboraty in Darkhan*
 9. *Food laboratory in Erdenet*
 10. *Civil Society NGO's and Academia Representatives*
 11. *Local herders and communities*
 12. *Private business entities*

Project Assurance (UNDP)

UNDP—including the Country Office in Mongolia—has the following roles and responsibilities:

- Provide oversight and quality assurance on all matters related to safeguards, including quality assurance of required assessments and management plans;
- Ensure disclosure of relevant documents through UNDP's website;
- Inform all the stakeholders and right-holders involved in, or potentially impacted, positively or negatively, by the project, about the UNDP's corporate Accountability Mechanism (described above);
- Ensure adherence to the SES for project activities implemented using funds channeled through UNDP's accounts, and identify corrective actions to address any shortcomings and escalate to the Project Board when needed;
- Conduct oversight missions and/or independent social and environmental audits of the project if/when deemed necessary;
- Verify and document that all UNDP SES requirements have been addressed; and

- Provide technical guidance on implementation of this ESMF and administrative assistance in recruiting and contracting expert safeguards services (as required), and monitor adherence of each project to the ESMF and UNDP policies and procedures.

Project Management Unit

- Supervise and manage implementation of measures defined in this ESMF;
- Carry out specific responsibilities for implementation of this ESMF, including monitoring, and community consultations on the draft subsequent management plans;
- Maintain relevant records associated with management of environmental and social risks, including updated SESPs, impact assessments, a log of grievances together with documentation of management measures implemented;
- Report to the Implementing Partner and the Project Board on the implementation of the ESMF; and
- Ensure that all service providers are informed of their responsibilities for the day to day compliance with the ESMF.

As noted above, the subsequent management plans will describe the roles and responsibilities in the implementation of those plans. Those new roles and responsibilities will be assessed and integrated, as appropriate, as part of the participatory decision making and implementation proceedings of the project.

8.2 Capacity Building

The SES Officer for the project will ensure capacities are in place for successful ESMF implementation. This includes recruitment and management of specialists with relevant expertise in social and environmental safeguards who will be engaged to support the completion of the required assessments and the management plans, as noted in the budget below. This also includes ensuring relevant social and environmental commitments are incorporated into other relevant sub-contracts and bidding processes for the project (e.g. construction firms, engineers, etc.).

The SES Officer will provide regular trainings on the ESMF including an induction session for the Project Management Unit (and implementing partners, as needed) on safeguards responsibilities and approaches.

The UNDP team will provide advice to the PMU as needed to support the implementation of this ESMF and the preparation, implementation and monitoring of the subsequent management plans. Particularly to support capacity building on UNDP's SES and the project ESMF during the Inception Phase of the project to ensure clarity of roles and responsibilities and a shared understanding of the safeguards requirements at the start of the project.

The integration of those plans will need to be considered, particularly the institutional needs within the implementation framework for application of the management plan(s), including a review of the required budget allocations for each measure, as well as the authority and capability of institutions at different administrative levels (e.g. local, regional, and national), and their capacity to manage and monitor management plan implementation. Where necessary, capacity building and technical assistance activities will be included to enable proper implementation of those subsequent management plans.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements for ESMF Implementation

The ESMF monitoring and evaluation plan is outlined below in Table 3. The Social and Environment Safeguards Officer and Project Manager will prepare and/or compile reports on implementation of this ESMF, until the subsequent management plans are in place.

The subsequent management plans will specify their own monitoring and evaluation parameters, which will replace the ESMF M&E Plan once the ESMF's implementation has concluded.

Table 3: ESMF M&E Plan

Monitoring & Evaluation Activity	Description	Frequency / Timeframe	Expected Action	Roles and Responsibilities
Monitor, track, and report on ESMF implementation	Monitoring and reporting of ESMF implementation, with key results and issues presented to the Project Board on a regular basis.	Quarterly report	Systems will be developed to ensure monitoring and tracking of progress on ESMF implementation; quarterly reports will be prepared.	Project Manager and Safeguards Officer (SESO)
Learning	Knowledge, good practices and lessons learned regarding social and environmental risk management will be captured regularly, as well as actively sourced from other projects and partners and integrated back into the project.	At least annually	Relevant lessons are captured by the project teams and used to inform management decisions.	Project Manager and SESO
Risk tracking	Ensure identified social and environmental risks are tracked in the Project Risk Register, including assignment of Risk Owner, Treatment Owner and status of treatment (i.e. management) measures.	Updated at least annually	Social and environmental risks tracked in UNDP's Risk Register and presented to the Project Board during annual Project Board meetings.	UNDP CO
Project quality assurance	The quality of the project will be assessed against UNDP's quality standards to identify project strengths and weaknesses and to inform management decision making to improve the project	Every other year	Areas of strength and weakness are reviewed and used to inform decisions to improve project performance.	UNDP CO, UNDP-GEF, Project Manager and Project SESO
Review and make course corrections	Internal review of data and evidence from all monitoring actions to inform decision making	At least annually	Performance data, risks, lessons and quality are discussed by the Project Board and used to make course corrections. ESMF also reviewed and adjusted as needed.	Project Board (considering stakeholders' opinions)
Annual project implementation reports	As part of progress report to be presented to the Project Board and key stakeholders, analysis, updating and recommendations for risk management will be included	Annually	Updates on progress of ESMF will be reported in the project's annual PIRs.	UNDP CO, UNDP-GEF and Project Manager
Project review	The Project Board will consider updated analysis of risks and recommended risk mitigation measures at all meetings	At least annually	Any risks and/ or impacts that are not adequately addressed by national mechanisms or project team will be discussed in project steering committee. Recommendations will be made, discussed and agreed upon.	Project Board, UNDP-GEF Project Manager, SESO
Mid-Term Review/Evaluation				
Final Evaluation				

10. Implementation Action Plan (schedule and budget) for ESMF Implementation

The budget for the implementation of this ESMF is included in the budget for the Project with an estimated cost shown in Table 4 below.

Costs associated with UNDP oversight and assurance functions are not included. The general costs of preparing and implementing the subsequent assessments and management plans are included, to be detailed further in the respective plan(s). All costs below are integrated in the budget of the Project Document.

Table 4: ESMF Budget and Schedule

ESMF Activity	Cost (US\$)	Timeframe
<i>Inception phase handover of ESMF from Project Design team to PMU, including Inception Workshop, and ESMF Training.</i>	Inclusive	Q3 2025
<i>Preparation of required SESAs, including translation</i>	\$35,000	Q1 2026
<i>Screening and preparation of GEIA/DEIA (Output 2.1)</i>	\$15,000	Q1 2026
<i>Preparation of ESIA/ESMP (Output 2.4)</i>	\$46,370	Q1 2026
<i>Preparation of ESIA/ESMP (Output 2.9)</i>	Inclusive	Q1 2026
<i>Monitoring and Reporting of ESMF and subsequent management plans</i>	Inclusive	Ongoing
<i>Conducting stakeholder engagement</i>	Inclusive	Ongoing
<i>Establishing the Grievance Redress Mechanism</i>	Inclusive	Q3 2025
<i>Capacity development/trainings</i>	Inclusive	Q4 2025

11. Annexes and Resources

Annex 1: Screening Tool of sub-projects by exclusion criteria:

1. Does the activity involve or lead to adverse impacts on the enjoyment of the human rights (civil, political, economic, social, or cultural) of the affected population?
2. Does the activity involve or lead to exacerbation of sexual exploitation and abuse, sexual harassment, or gender-based violence risks?
3. Does the activity comply with the national law for biodiversity protection? Does the activity have measurable adverse impacts on ecological processes that support the biodiversity values of critical ecosystems? Does the activity lead to the reduction of populations of any recognized Critically Endangered, Endangered, or Vulnerable species?
4. Does the activity vulnerable to the changing climatic variability during its lifespan? Does the activity increase the vulnerability of the broader environmental and socio-economic systems to the predicted climate change under the SSP3-7.0 or SSP5-8.5 scenario?
5. Does the activity meet national law for community health and safety? Does the activity adhere to applicable construction risk management standards?
6. Does the activity include forced evictions or evictions that are not (a) authorized by national law; (b) carried out in full accordance with relevant provisions of international human rights and humanitarian law; (c) reasonable and proportional, and (d) managed through due process standards to ensure full and fair compensation and rehabilitation?
7. Does the activity comply with national regulatory requirements for cultural heritage protection; or otherwise damage or adversely affect objects, structures, or sites with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional, or religious significance.
8. Does the activity adversely affect the human rights of Indigenous Peoples (as affirmed by the national law and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) and their lands, natural resources, traditional livelihoods, and cultural heritage; and fail to secure their free prior informed consent (FPIC) where such impacts get identified?
9. Does the activity meet national and international standards for labour and working conditions? Does the activity involve any form of child labour or forced labour – both directly and in its supply chains?
10. Does the activity meet the county's requirements and good international practice for managing pollutants and hazardous materials?

If the activity does not meet these criteria it is not permitted.