

Strengthening Climate Information and Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems for Increased Resilience in Azerbaijan

Annex 16

Environmental and Social Action Plan

Table of Contents

OVERVIEW	3
PROJECT SUMMARY	3
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL POLICY FRAMEWORK IN AZERBAIJAN	3
GCF'S REVISED ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL POLICY	9
GCF'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES POLICY	9
UNEP ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK	9
ANALYSIS OF PROJECT RESULTS AGAINST IFC PERFORMANCE STANDARDS	10
SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, ABUSE AND HARASSMENT (SEAH) RISK SCREENING	14
ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL ACTION PLAN	17
STAKEHOLDER RESPONSE MECHANISM	26
PROJECT-LEVEL GRIEVANCE MECHANISM	27
<i>Indicative Procedural Rules for Filing a Complaint</i>	27
<i>How is the Complaint Communicated?</i>	28
<i>What information should be included in a Complaint?</i>	28
<i>Logging a Complaint, Acknowledgment, and Tracking</i>	28
<i>Maintaining Communication and Status Updates</i>	29
<i>Consensus Building</i>	29
<i>Proposed Actions and Overseeing Implementation</i>	29
<i>Alternatives to the SRM</i>	29
GCF INDEPENDENT REDRESS MECHANISM	30
IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS	31
MONITORING AND EVALUATION	32
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE, CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION	32
PROJECT CO-BENEFITS: OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS	32
ENVIRONMENTAL CO-BENEFITS	32
SOCIAL CO-BENEFITS	33
ECONOMIC CO-BENEFITS	33
GENDER-SENSITIVE CO-BENEFITS	34
CONCLUSION	34
APPENDIX 1: ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SCREENING	35
APPENDIX 2: LAND OWNERSHIP LETTER FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF AZERBAIJAN	51
APPENDIX 3: IFC EXCLUSION CHECKLIST	52

Overview

This Annex provides an overview of the environmental policy and environmental and social risk assessment framework in Azerbaijan, details the specific environmental and social risks associated with the GCF Project “Strengthening Climate Information and Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems for Increased Resilience in Azerbaijan”, and develops an Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) for the Project.

Project Summary

In order to adapt to climate change impacts and respond to climate-related hazards, Azerbaijan requires accurate, timely and actionable weather, water and climate information and comprehensive people-centred early warning systems. The proposed Project will support the Government of Azerbaijan to significantly upscale and strengthen climate information services and establish a robust, effective and sustainable Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS). The latter will facilitate early action at the community and national levels and critically enhance resilience against climate-related hazards of the most vulnerable people and communities, thereby contributing to improved well-being, people's health, and food and water security.

The Project Outputs are based on the pillars of Global Framework for Climate Services, a UN-wide initiative coordinated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and consist of the following:

- **Output 1:** Strengthened delivery model for climate information and multi-hazard early warning systems
- **Output 2:** Strengthened observations, monitoring, modelling and prediction of climate and its impacts
- **Output 3:** Enhanced dissemination and communication of climate risk information and multi-hazard early warning
- **Output 4:** Enhanced climate risk management capacity

Environmental and Social Policy Framework in Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan has a number of laws that include provisions for environmental protection and monitoring, and for the management of environmental issues related to development projects, originating in the Constitution of Azerbaijan (1995). The Constitution¹ is the highest law in the Azerbaijan Republic and prevails over national legislation and international agreements. It stipulates the basic rights of people to live in a healthy environment, to have access to information on the state of the environment and to obtain compensation for damage suffered as the result of a violation of environmental legislation.

¹ The Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1995); Available at:
<https://static2.president.az/media/W1siZiIsIjIwMTg0MDMvMDkxNzQzMWVrcGppYVY9LmJlZDGlOXBpeWFFRU5HLnBkZiJdXHQ?sha=c440b7c5f80d645b>

Based on Chapter II (Fundamentals of the State) Article 14 of the Constitution, the natural resources belong to the Azerbaijan Republic without damaging the rights and interests of any physical persons or legal entities. Chapter III (Fundamental Rights and Freedoms of Man and Citizen), Article 39 comments that persons have a right to live in a healthy environment, to collect information about the real environmental situation and to get compensation for damage to his/her health and property in a result of violation of ecological rights. Article 40 reads that everybody has a right to participate in the cultural life, to use cultural foundations and cultural resources as well as everybody has a duty to treat historical, cultural and spiritual heritage with respect, take care of them, and protect historical and cultural monuments. According to Article 77 of Chapter IV (Fundamental Duties of Citizens), the protection of historical and cultural monuments is the duty of every citizen; Article 78 stipulates that the protection of environment is a personal duty of everyone.

The environmental legislation system in Azerbaijan consists of the following:

- The Parliament legislation setting the State rules on the protection and use of strictly protected natural areas, environment and biological diversity;
- Presidential Decrees, Resolutions and Orders adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers ensuring the implementation of basic theses of laws;
- Orders identifying the measures for the implementation of laws by the Executive Powers, (Ministries and Committees);
- International Agreements and Conventions signed by Azerbaijan Republic

The principal law/policy governing environmental safeguarding in Azerbaijan is the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Protection of the Environment (1999).² The law identifies the legal, economic and social bases of environment protection and sets safeguards to protect environmental balance thus ensuring environmental safety, prevent the hazardous impact of industry and other activities to natural ecological systems, preservation of biological diversity and proper use of natural resources. The law further regulates and establishes correlation between society and nature to provide qualitative improvement of environment, proper use and rehabilitation of natural resources, strengthening the conformity with environmental legislative regulations.

The Law also establishes the State Ecological Expertise (SEE). The objective of the SEE is to identify impact on environment caused by industrial units, examine the results of such impacts and predict possible ones, in accordance with the environmental requirements and qualitative parameters of environment. In the Azerbaijan Republic, the concerned executive bodies and public organisations conduct ecological expertise. The Law on the Protection of the Environment directs SEE to conduct assessments of an enterprise causing impact to environment and identify the degree of risks of decisions made, and identify the effectiveness of measures taken on environment protection and use of nature resources. The responsibilities of SEE include:

- Identification of the level of safety of enterprises, in terms of environment, and their activities which might cause direct or indirect harm to environment and public health thus exposing the present and future generations to danger;

² Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Protection of the Environment (1999); Available at: http://www.cawater-info.net/library/eng/az_prot_env.pdf

- Identification of conformity with the regulations of environment protection, sanitary-hygienic norms and rules, when the enterprise is under construction and planning;
- Identification of the quality of environment protection measures and substantiation of such measures.

The field or sector coverage of the SEE includes:

1. The State and local programs related to development and placement of productive capacities in governmental and economical institutions.
2. The documentation of technical and economical substantiation, construction (reconstruction, enlargement, and renovation technology) and destruction of economical capacities, as well as assessment of the project influence on environment.
3. Documentation concerning creation of new techniques, technologies, materials, and substances, as well as import of the same from abroad.
4. Draft of scientific-methodical and normative-technical documentation concerning environment protection.
5. Certain ecological conditions caused by improper work of industry and extraordinary situations.
6. Ecological conditions of the regions and individual (separate) natural objects and systems.
7. Provisions of draft contracts stipulating use of natural resources, as specified by the relevant decrees of the concerned executive bodies.

A summary of other relevant environmental and social laws is included below.

Table 1: Azerbaijan Environmental and Social Laws

Law/Policy	Summary
The Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan ³	Stipulates the basic rights of people to live in a healthy environment, to have access to information on the state of the environment and to obtain compensation for damage suffered as the result of a violation of environmental legislation.
Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Protection of the Environment (1999) ⁴	Identifies the legal, economic and social bases of environment protection and sets safeguards to protect environmental balance thus ensuring environmental safety, prevent the hazardous impact of industry and other activities to natural ecological systems, preservation of biological diversity and proper use of natural resources.
The Law on Ecological Safety	This law defines legal bases of ecological safety as component safety of the state, society and population, the purpose of which is establishment of legal bases for protection of life and health of the person, society, its material and moral values, environment, including atmospheric air, space, water objects, resources of the ground, natural landscape, plants and animals from danger, arising as a result influence natural and anthropogenic action.
The Forest Code of Azerbaijan Republic (1997) ⁵	Establishes legal bases of regulation of forest relations, use, protection, preservation and reproduction of forests, increase of their ecological and

³ The Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1995); Available at: <https://static2.president.az/media/W1siZiIsIjIwMTgvMDMvMDkvNHQzMWNrcGppYV9Lb25zdGI0dXNpeWFfRU5HlnBkZiJdXQ?sha=c440b7c5f80d645b>

⁴ Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Protection of the Environment (1999); Available at: http://www.cawater-info.net/library/eng/az_prot_env.pdf

⁵ The Forest Code of Azerbaijan Republic (1997); Available at: http://www.cawater-info.net/library/eng/az_for_cod.pdf

	resource potential on the territory of the Azerbaijan Republic. Regulation of forest relations is carried out in view of forest conception as unity of forest vegetation, land, fauna and other components of the natural environment of important ecological, economic and social value.
The Law of Azerbaijan Republic on Water Supply and Sewage (1999) ⁶	Regulation of relations in the area of maintenance of the population, enterprises, establishments and organizations by qualitative water meeting the requirements of state standards in necessary quantity, and discharge of sewage. Right to use water resources and with this purpose to build and maintain water pipes and sewer constructions, and to remove sewage and wastes. Water (treated sewage) received by the enterprise of water supply and sewerage is considered as its product and is used to destination. Water received by legal and physical persons from the enterprises of water supply is the property of the specified persons and is used under their discretion, except for the cases envisaged by the present law.
Law of Azerbaijan Republic on the Protection of Atmospheric Air ⁷	Establishes legal bases for protection of atmospheric air, and is directed on realization of the rights of population to live in favorable environment and to receive correct information on the environment.
Law of Azerbaijan Republic on Industrial and Domestic Waste ⁸	Establishes the state policy in the area of environment protection from industrial and domestic waste (hereinafter– waste) formed in the Azerbaijan Republic as a result of human activity in the form of substances and things, decrease of danger of influence of the given waste, maintenance of ecological balance in the nature, use of waste as secondary raw material, regulates the relations connected to waste, except for harmful gases, polluted waters and radioactive waste.
The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Environmental Safety ⁹	The law regulates the activities and relations of juridical and physical persons, state and local government institutions and officials of such institutions during the implementation of their activities in the sphere of environmental safety. The objective of the law is to identify the legal bases to prevent human life and health; society with its material and spiritual values; environment, including atmospheric air, cosmic space, water sources, land, soil, natural landscape, flora and fauna from the results of dangerous natural and anthropogenic influences.
The Law of Azerbaijan Republic on Land Fertility ¹⁰	Establishes the legal bases of the restoration, increase and protection of land fertility that are in the Azerbaijan Republic in the state, municipal and private property. The relations arising in connection with the restoration, increase and protection of land fertility regarding entrails of the earth, forests, water, flora and fauna, cultural and natural landscapes, and also the ownership, property and other relations additionally to this Law, are regulated by the corresponding acts of the Azerbaijan Republic.
Water Code of Azerbaijan Republic ¹¹	Internal waters of the Azerbaijan Republic and the sector of Caspian Sea (lake) belonging to the Azerbaijan Republic provide national wealth for the people of Azerbaijan, are used and protected as a basis of ability to live of the population and provide existence of flora and fauna. The present Code regulates the legal relations connected to the use and protection of water bodies in the Azerbaijan Republic.

⁶ The Law of Azerbaijan Republic on Water Supply and Sewage (1999); Available at: http://www.cawater-info.net/library/eng/az_wat_sup.pdf

⁷ Law of Azerbaijan Republic on the Protection of Atmospheric Air; Available at: http://www.cawater-info.net/library/eng/az_prot_air.pdf

⁸ Law of Azerbaijan Republic on Industrial and Domestic Waste; Available at: http://www.cawater-info.net/library/eng/az_ind_was.pdf

⁹ The Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Environmental Safety; Available at: http://www.cawater-info.net/library/eng/az_env_saf.pdf

¹⁰ The Law of Azerbaijan Republic on Land Fertility; Available at: http://www.cawater-info.net/library/eng/az_lan_fer.pdf

¹¹ Water Code of Azerbaijan Republic; Available at: <http://www.cawater-info.net/library/eng/l/azerbaijan1997.pdf>

National Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for 2017-2020 ¹²	The main goals of the National Strategy are: sustainable use of genetic resources; conservation of biodiversity and transfer to future generation; poverty alleviation; maintenance of ecological balance; ensuring transition to a “green economy”; promotion of environmental education; restoration of endemic and local fauna species; development of the protected areas network; and reducing the threats to biodiversity.
Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments (1998) ¹³	This Law governs the relations connected with protection, studying and use of historical and cultural monuments.
Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on subsurface (subsoil) (1998) ¹⁴	This Law governs the relations arising in connection with studying (search, investigation), rational use and protection of subsoil of the territory of the Azerbaijan Republic, including the Azerbaijani sector of the Caspian Sea (lake) with safe work, provides when using subsoil protection of interests of the state, subsoil users and citizens when using subsoil.
Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on the Receipt of Information on the Environment (2002) ¹⁵	This Law governs the relations arising in connection with timely obtaining at public authorities and local self-government and also at responsible persons of complete, reliable, timely information about state of environment and use of natural resources.
Law of Azerbaijan Republic about Information, informatization, and information protection (1998) ¹⁶	This Law governs the relations evolving in connection with forming of information reserves from creation, collection, conversion, storage, search, distribution of information with creation and use of information systems, technologies, means of their providing, information protection, and the rights of the subjects participating in information processes are determined.
The Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on environmental education and enlightenment of population (2002) ¹⁷	The present Law defines the legal, economic and organizational basis of state policy connected with environmental education and enlightenment of population, and regulates relationship in this area.
Law of Azerbaijan Republic – Hydrometeorological Activities ¹⁸	This Law determines the legal basis of conducting observations, research and works of active impact on atmospheric processes, developments, uses and protection of data by hydrometeorology and monitoring of the environment in the Azerbaijan Republic.
Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on Environmental Impact Assessment (2018) ¹⁹	The Law establishes the list of project activities which require conducting Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), as well as the details on how EIA should be carried out.

¹² National Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for 2017-2020; Available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/az/az-nbsap-v2-en.pdf>

¹³ Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments (1998); Available at: <https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=2723>

¹⁴ Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on subsurface (subsoil) (1998); Available at: <https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=2709>

¹⁵ Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on the Receipt of Information on the Environment (2002); Available at: <https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=2576>

¹⁶ Law of Azerbaijan Republic about Information, informatization, and information protection (1998); Available at: <https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=2721>

¹⁷ The Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on environmental education and enlightenment of population (2002); Available at: http://www.cawater-info.net/library/eng/az_prot_env.pdf Last Accessed 06 December 2020

¹⁸ CIS Legislation. [Law of Azerbaijan Republic – About hydrometeorological activities](#). Last Accessed 06 December 2020.

¹⁹ Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “About Environmental Impact Assessment” (2018); Available at: <https://e-qanun.az/framework/39511>

Labor Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1999, amended in 2024) ²⁰	The Code establishes the minimum regulations regarding labour rights of natural persons. It also governs the employment relationships between workers and employers, as well as other related legal relations between them and other legal entities, including relevant government agencies.
Land Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1999, amended in 2024) ²¹	The Code regulates land relations arising from different types of land ownership; obligations of land owners, users and lessees and protection of their land rights; land recovery and increase in land fertility, recultivation of the degraded lands, preservation and improvement of the environment. It also creates conditions for rational land use and land protection.
Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On status of refugees and IDPs (internally displaced persons)” (1999) ²²	The Law provides general principles and defines the legal status and rights of internally displaced persons (IDP) and non-IDP refugees, as well as describes the main principles and mechanisms of state assistance to these people.
Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On social protection of internally displaced persons and persons equated to them” (1999) ²³	The Law determines measures regarding the provision of shelters for IDP and non-IDP refugees and social protection of IDPs and persons equated with them, in addition to the associated responsibilities of the State.
Presidential Decree, “About the State Committee of Azerbaijani Republic on Affairs of Refugees and IDPs” (2005, amended in 2012) ²⁴	The Decree defines role and functions of the State Committee on Affairs of Refugees and IDPs (SCRI) as a central executive body responsible for the implementation of state policies on the settlement, repatriation and the social protection of IDPs and non-IDP refugees, in addition to the improvement of their household conditions.

The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan (MENR) is the competent authority for reviewing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) requests and documentation prepared by independent experts hired by the project developer prior to initiation of a new investment project. Other key laws forming the legal basis for EIA are the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment (2018), Law on Environmental Safety (1999), Law on Environmental Protection (1999) and others. The 2018 Law on Environmental Impact Assessment required mandatory EIA only for certain project categories which do not include hydrometeorology, climate services and EWS; therefore, no EIA is expected to be required for the proposed project. Within the framework of UN rules and regulations, UNEP is committed to complying with environmental and social safeguards as per national laws and regulations when necessary in the project implementation, including securing relevant permits.

²⁰ Labor Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1999), adopted by the Law of Azerbaijan Republic of February 01, 1999, N 618-IG, amended on 05-03-2024, Available at: <https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=2653>

²¹ Land Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1999), amended on 23-02-2024, Available at: <https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=2588>

²² Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On the status refugees and IDPs (Internally Displaced Persons), Available at: https://www.migration.gov.az/content/pdf/602377d85f6d3_t%C9%99rc%C3%BCm%C9%99%20Law%20on%20refugee%20of%20azerbaijan.pdf

²³ Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan “On social protection of internally displaced persons and persons equated to them”, 1999. Available at: https://www.ecoi.net/en/file/local/1153867/1504_1217256176_law-of-the-azerbaijan-republic-on-social-protection-of-internally-displaced-persons-and-persons-equated-to-them.pdf

²⁴ Presidential Decree of the Republic of Azerbaijan #187 “About the State Committee of Azerbaijani Republic on Affairs of Refugees and IDPs”, 2005. Available at: <https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=21955>; name translated as in: Republic of Azerbaijan State Committee on Affairs of Refugees and IDPs Social Fund for Development of IDPs (SFDI), Draft Final Resettlement Policy Framework, 2015, Available at: https://ewdata.rightsindevelopment.org/files/documents/10/WB-P155110_IOi6ImV.pdf

GCF's Revised Environmental and Social Policy

GCF's Environmental and Social Policy²⁵ approved in March 2018 articulates how GCF integrates environmental and social considerations into its decision making and operations to effectively manage environmental and social risks and impacts and improve outcomes. GCF's Revised Environmental and Social Policy²⁶ approved in March 2021 reaffirms the Fund's commitment to addressing Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse, and Sexual Harassment in addition to environmental and social considerations in its funded activities. UNEP is committed to complying with the provisions of this Policy.

GCF's Indigenous Peoples Policy

GCF's Indigenous Peoples Policy²⁷ approved in March 2018 sets out the approach to incorporating the circumstances of indigenous peoples into decision making while working on climate change mitigation and adaptation. The overall objective of this Policy is to provide a structure for ensuring that activities of GCF are developed and implemented in such a way that fosters full respect, promotion, and safeguarding of indigenous peoples so that they (a) benefit from GCF activities and projects in a culturally appropriate manner; and (b) do not suffer harm or adverse effects from the design and implementation of GCF-financed activities. UNEP is committed to complying with the provisions of this Policy.

UNEP Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework

The UNEP Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF)²⁸ was approved in February 2020 and has an overall aim to strengthen the sustainability and accountability of UNEP programmes and projects. The framework identifies UNEP's commitment to sustainable development and environmental and social standards that are designed to promote human well-being and the protection of the environment. The framework identifies the following purposes:

- To enhance outcomes by systematically integrating environmental, social and economic dimensions in the UNEP-funded programmes and projects.
- To strengthen alignment of UNEP's work with the SDGs and other UN entities and partners in addressing the environmental and social sustainability of development efforts.
- To set standards of sustainability for UNEP's operations thereby confirming UNEP's accountability to its member States, and other funders.
- To enable UNEP to work in a safer and smarter manner, thereby minimizing potential risks and harm to intended beneficiaries while enhancing UNEP's capabilities and credibility.

The framework is structured around guiding principles, safeguard standards and related operational modalities. The guiding principles of the framework are derived from the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

²⁵ GCF's Environmental and Social Policy (2018). Available at: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/environmental-and-social-policy>

²⁶ GCF's Revised Environmental and Social Policy (2021). Available at: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/revised-environmental-and-social-policy>

²⁷ GCF's Indigenous peoples policy (2018). Available at: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/indigenous-peoples-policy>

²⁸ UNEP Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (2020); Available at: <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/32022/ESSFEN.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Development and include the following: Leave No One Behind, Human Rights and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Sustainability and Resilience and Accountability.

The safeguard standards of the framework include the following:

- Safeguard Standard 1: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Sustainable Natural Resource Management
- Safeguard Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks
- Safeguard Standard 3: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency
- Safeguard Standard 4: Community Health, Safety and Security
- Safeguard Standard 5: Cultural Heritage
- Safeguard Standard 6: Displacement and Involuntary Resettlement
- Safeguard Standard 7: Indigenous Peoples
- Safeguard Standard 8: Labour and Working Conditions

In order to operationalize the framework, the framework includes a) screening, assessment, management and monitoring of environmental and social risks; and b) steps for ensuring meaningful stakeholder engagement and accountability. To screen projects, UNEP utilizes the Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF). The form is used to identify any potential environmental and social risks and impacts associated with the proposed activities, and to identify opportunities to support other positive changes to the environment and society.

During the development of the project concept note an initial UNEP Environmental, Social and Economic Review Note (ESERN) was developed and that has been included in Appendix 1.

Analysis of Project Results against IFC Performance Standards

Table 2 below is an assessment of the expected project risks against the eight International Finance Corporation (IFC) performance standards.²⁹

Table 2: Assessment of Project Risks Against IFC Standards

IFC Performance Standard	Project Risk Assessment	Probability
Performance Standard 1: Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts Importance of (i) integrated assessment to identify the environmental and social impacts, risks, and opportunities of projects; (ii) effective community engagement through disclosure of project information and consultation with local	<p>Given the need to tailor communications and climate information to ensure effective uptake and utilization of the project's climate information /early warning services (CIEWS) interventions, extensive stakeholder engagement is needed to match and support the differing needs of various end-users. This presents the potential risk that specific stakeholder groups may not be engaged throughout project design and implementation leading to sub-optimal utilization of the CIEWS systems and continued vulnerability for some community groups.</p> <p>In addition, because the CIEWS interventions are meant to be a primary input/driver for research and decision-making in other sectors there is a risk that the information streams are supporting higher-risk decisions downstream because they are not fully integrating stakeholder considerations for how and when the information will be utilized.</p>	Low

²⁹ IFC. [Performance Standards](#). Last Accessed 21 October 2020.

<p>communities on matters that directly affect them; and (iii) management of environmental and social performance throughout the life of the project.</p>	<p>The project has undertaken significant stakeholder engagement so far (see Annex 13) to develop a holistic picture of end-user needs and risks. Through this process the project has developed key relationships and buy-in with a variety of ministries and organizations at the national level. Furthermore, the project has also conducted consultations (and has specific plans for continued engagement) with local NGOs and communities to ensure that the ultimate climate information products are tailored to support local decision-making.</p> <p>Additionally, key national stakeholders will be part of the Project Steering Committee and partners in project implementation, which will enable them to be active stakeholders in the project and help with project information flows.</p> <p>The project will conform to UNEP's Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF) and does not trigger Azerbaijan's national environmental assessment regulations. Therefore, the project is not likely to have any significant risks against this standard.</p>	
<p>Performance Standard 2: Labor and Working Conditions Employment creation and income generation should be accompanied by protection of the fundamental rights of workers (as guided by the International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions)</p>	<p>Manual labour contracts are not envisioned as part of this project. Contracts for national and international consultants will be executed in accordance with Azerbaijan's Labour Code and the ILO Conventions. Furthermore, personnel contracts related to project activities will be procured through a non-discriminatory and gender-responsive procurement process.</p>	Low
<p>Performance Standard 3: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention With any potential impacts of pollution to air, water, and land, the project and its activities should identify resource efficiency and pollution prevention and control measures.</p>	<p>There is a small risk of pollution, particularly during the installation of new monitoring stations, but the project will work to ensure that waste streams are separated and disposed of according to proper industry standards, potential runoff contained or redirected, and hazardous waste managed, contained and sent to the proper disposal facility. The anticipated waste streams are expected to be small and easily managed given the limited size and complexity of the hydrometeorological equipment installations.</p>	Low
<p>Performance Standard 4: Community Health, Safety, and Security Project-level actions to avoid or minimize the risks and impacts to community health, safety, and security that may arise from project related-activities, with particular attention to vulnerable groups</p>	<p>The project is specifically working to enhance the climate change resilience and preparedness capacity of multiple sectors in Azerbaijan including directly of local communities through national CIEWS interventions as well as through the community-level capacity building. By doing this, the project is actively avoiding and minimizing risks and impacts to community health, safety, and security. Furthermore, both the national and the community-based interventions will be working closely with stakeholders to ensure that the systems are actually tailored to the specific health, safety, and security contexts for local communities.</p>	Low

Performance Standard 5: Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement Project-related land acquisition and restrictions on land use can have adverse impacts on communities and persons that use this land	There will be no land acquisition or involuntary resettlement under this project. All of the envisioned deployments for new monitoring and CIEWS capacity will take place on government-owned land and will avoid any direct impacts to local communities (see Appendix 2). The National Hydrometeorological Service (NHMS) under the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) is committed to ensuring that the government-owned lands are free from any encumbrances.	Low
Performance Standard 6: Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources Protecting and conserving biodiversity, maintaining ecosystem services, and sustainably managing living natural resources are fundamental to sustainable development	The project is not expected to have significant adverse impacts on biodiversity and conservation. The largest risk to biodiversity and conservation stems from the initial deployment of the hydrometeorological equipment. This impact includes risks to habitat from anchoring of wave buoys and river flow meters as well as the construction of new hydromet stations. The proposed project is expected to reduce losses and improve the efficiency of multiple sectors in Azerbaijan, including the agricultural sector, which will reduce the ecological impact of expanding agricultural practices to compensate for reduced productivity, thereby reducing land degradation.	Low
Performance Standard 7: Indigenous Peoples Indigenous Peoples may be more vulnerable to the adverse impacts associated with project development than nonindigenous communities	<p>Lezgins (also known as Lezgi or Kyirin) are a Caucasian mountain people related to smaller groups including Aguls, Rutuls and Tabasarans. Accounting for 2.2 per cent of the population with 180,300 recorded in the 2009 census, they are the largest ethnic minority group in the country. However, some local experts claim that their number is significantly higher, in the region of 250,000-260,000. Lezgins live on both sides of the Samur River in Southern Dagestan in Russia and in the northern district of Kusari in Azerbaijan, where they form a local majority, and in adjoining areas such as Hachmaz and Kuba.</p> <p>The project prioritizes a socially inclusive approach to implementation, which will facilitate that community-level beneficiaries are equally able to access project resources despite ethnic origin. While the risk of adversely affecting these communities is low, it is critical for the project to specifically engage Lezgin communities to ensure that CIEWS interventions are effectively supporting their needs and utilizing context appropriate language/mediums.</p>	Low
Performance Standard 8: Cultural Heritage Ensures the protection of cultural heritage in the course of project activities	The CIEWS interventions are expected to help protect cultural heritage in Azerbaijan through early warning and improved information streams for planning. While none of the envisioned construction and deployment tasks are expected to negatively impact cultural heritage sites, the project will nonetheless fully comply with the Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments (1998). ³⁰	Low

The IFC/GCF risk categorization below details the three different risk categories based on potential project impacts to the environment and society.

³⁰ Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments (1998); Available at: <https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=2723>

- a) **Category A.** Activities with potential significant adverse environmental and/or social risks and impacts that, individually or cumulatively, are diverse, irreversible, or unprecedented;
- b) **Category B.** Activities with potential limited adverse environmental and/or social risks and impacts that individually or cumulatively, are few, generally site-specific, largely reversible, and readily addressed through mitigation measures; and
- c) **Category C.** Activities with minimal or no adverse environmental and/or social risks and/or impacts.

Based on the assessment of environmental and social risks included in Table 2, the Project Outputs are categorized based on the IFC/GCF risk categorisation in Table 3 below.

Even though the exact locations for some of the project activities are yet to be determined, due to the low-risk nature of the activities, it is not envisioned that there will be any deviation from the (low) risk levels identified as a part of this report. During the project implementation UNEP's Environmental and Social Safeguards Standards will be applied as per the [UNEP's Environmental and Social Sustainability \(ESS\) Framework](#), regardless of the location of the activities. Some activities will be determined by selection criteria presented in Section 16.3 of the Pre-Feasibility Study. Applicable screening and categorisation procedures will be undertaken using the screening forms as presented in the Appendix 1 of this Annex. This will guarantee exclusion of project activities which are potentially beyond ESS category C. A Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) expert will be engaged by the project to monitor social safeguards implementation, as well as address sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) concerns if any. Moreover, the UNEP Project Manager will lead the monitoring of the projects for compliance with the safeguard management and enhancement measures, by means of self-monitoring reports from implementing partners as well as, when appropriate, supervision missions by UNEP staff or external experts. Safeguard management plans will be reviewed periodically and updated and adjusted as needed. Furthermore, the project will not fund any of the activities listed in the IFC Exclusion List (Appendix 3).

Table 3: Risk Categorization for Project Outputs

Project Output	Risk Categorisation
Output 1: Strengthened delivery model for climate information and multi-hazard early warning systems	<p>Output 1 works to strengthen existing institutional arrangements for climate services and early warning systems. Most of the interventions are focused on capacity building, drafting of frameworks or strategies, and e-infrastructure. For social/gender risks there is some risk of not properly engaging women and other potentially marginalized and/or vulnerable groups and ensuring that they are effectively represented in the envisioned CIEWS frameworks and coordination mechanisms, but the Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Annex 13) and the Gender Assessment and Action Plan (Annex 4) specifically include actions to address these risks.</p> <p>Therefore, no adverse environmental, social and gender impacts are expected to result from this Output. (Category C)</p>
Output 2: Strengthened observations, monitoring, modelling and prediction of climate and its impacts	<p>Output 2 expands and modernises the hydrometeorological observation network and supporting systems, as well as strengthens the technical capacity for forecasting and prediction of climate-related hazard events and phenomena. The expansion of the new monitoring network is expected to have some slight and manageable risks related to construction and management of solid waste and electronic waste streams from old systems being replaced. While the</p>

	<p>environmental and social risks from these activities are expected to be minimal due to the size and scope of the deployments, the project will still plan to avoid and mitigate construction risks, in particular by planning to ensure that waste streams are separated and disposed of according to proper industry standards, potential runoff contained or redirected, and hazardous waste managed, contained and sent to the proper disposal facility. The project will also maximise siting of hydrometeorological equipment on previously used sites and at locations that do not require provision of new access routes.</p> <p>The proposed construction activities are small in scope and scale that with effective advanced planning, the risks are likely to be minimal and the Output can be considered Category C.</p>
Output 3: Enhanced dissemination and communication of climate risk information and multi-hazard early warning	<p>Output 3 focuses on developing new communication and information products and disseminating them to end-users, decision makers, and communities. To be effective, these information products need to be tailored to the needs and mediums of end-users and communities to help support proactive decision making and strategic planning. If stakeholder needs aren't effectively captured and integrated into the information streams and communications products there is a risk that the CIEWS systems will not be supporting climate resilience for local communities and/or those communities will not utilize or trust the new communications. The project has already engaged multiple stakeholder groups throughout the development of the full proposal and has extensive plans and systems in place to support the necessary stakeholder engagement and tailoring throughout the project. In this regard, a key intervention under this Output is the co-development of a socially inclusive and gender-responsive communication strategy.</p> <p>The activities in Output 3 have negligible environmental and social risk, so the Output is expected to be Category C.</p>
Output 4: Enhanced climate risk management capacity	<p>Output 4 focuses on building national, sectoral, and community preparedness capabilities, supported by nationwide awareness-raising and education on climate-related hazards, early warning systems and risk management. There is a social risk for the design of preparedness plans and standard operating procedures (SOPs), if stakeholders aren't engaged effectively, particularly at the community level. However, the project will actively work to integrate various stakeholder considerations into the development of the plans/SOPs and new capabilities. The bigger social risk for Output 4 relates to effective integration of the CIEWS into existing community dynamics.</p> <p>The project will be working directly in target communities to ensure that the proposed schemes are supporting positive community dynamics and not exacerbating power imbalances, particularly for women in the communities. Overall, Output 4 is expected to be Category C.</p>

Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) Risk Screening

Table 4 below is an assessment of the baseline conditions and risks relating to SEAH that may be created or exacerbated by the project activities.

Table 4: SEAH Risk Screening Checklist

Contextual Level / Baseline Conditions	Assessment
Does the country have laws prohibiting sexual harassment / stalking generally?	The Law on Guarantees of Gender Equality (2006) prohibits sexual harassment in the workplace. ³¹ No legislation could be located regarding sexual harassment outside of the workplace. There is also no legislation specifically related to stalking. ³²
Do labour laws prohibit sexual harassment in the workplace?	Labour Code, Article 195 (g) ³³
Does the country have laws prohibiting intimate partner violence (IPV)?	<p>The Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence (2010) does not contain a specific offence pertaining to domestic violence, rather it establishes a range of criminal and administrative offences that may be used to prosecute acts of physical violence. Criminal offences of domestic violence may only be prosecuted under general offences of violence within the Criminal Code.</p> <p>The Criminal Code criminalises the offences of rape (Article 149); violent acts of a sexual nature (Article 150); compulsion to conduct of a sexual nature (Article 151); sexual intercourse and other actions of a sexual nature with persons under the age of 16 (Article 152); and lecherous acts (Article 153). However, none of these offences are consent-based and not all of the non-consensual sexual acts outlined in Article 36 of the Istanbul Convention are criminalised under Azerbaijan's criminal code.</p> <p>There is no legislation pertaining to gender-based psychological violence.³⁴</p>
What is the prevalence of GBV in the country?	In 2018, 14% of ever-partnered women aged 15-49 years reported experiencing IPV, which is lower than the average for upper middle income group countries (22%). ³⁵ Also in 2018, 5% of ever-partnered women aged 15-49 years reported being subjected to physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months. ³⁶
What is the legal age a person can marry?	The Family Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan (Article 10) states that the minimum age of marriage for men and women is 18. ³⁷
Despite any laws, what is the prevalence of child marriage in the country?	11% of girls are married by the age of 18 and 2% are married by the age of 15. Rates of child marriage are highest in rural areas, particularly on the Absheron peninsula in the southern region (Lenkaran, Lerik, Yardimly, Masally), northern (Guba) regions, on

³¹ Unofficial translation available at:

https://adsdatabase.ohchr.org/IssueLibrary/AZERBAIJAN_Law%20on%20State%20Guarantees%20of%20Equal%20Rights%20for%20Women%20and%20Men.pdf (Accessed: 20 May 2024)

³² Council of Europe, 2022. Gap Analysis of the Legislative and Policy Framework in the field of Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence in Azerbaijan in line with Council of Europe and other International Standards

³³ World Bank, 2024. Women, Business and the Law 2024 – Azerbaijan

³⁴ Council of Europe, 2022. Gap Analysis of the Legislative and Policy Framework in the field of Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence

³⁵ The World Bank. Gender Data Portal. Proportion of women who have ever experienced intimate partner violence (%). Available at:

<https://liveprod.worldbank.org/en/indicator/sg-vaw-ipve-zs#> (Accessed: 20 May 2024)

³⁶ The World Bank. Gender Data Portal. Proportion of women subjected to physical and/or sexual violence in the last 12 months (%). Available at: <https://liveprod.worldbank.org/en/indicator/sg-vaw-1549-zs> (Accessed: 20 May 2024)

³⁷ UNFPA, 2014. Child Marriage in Azerbaijan (Summary). Available at: <https://eeca.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/unfpa%20azerbaijan%20summary.pdf>

	the border with Iran, and in several districts of the capital of Baku (Absheron, Sabunchu, Nardaran, Garadagh, and Azizbekov). ³⁸
What is the income level of the country?	Azerbaijan is an upper middle income country with gross national income (GNI) per capita of USD 4,050. ³⁹
Where does the country rank on global gender indices?	Azerbaijan has a Gender Development Index (GDI) value of 0.961, placing it in Group 2, which corresponds to medium-high equality in Human Development Index (HDI) achievements. The country has a Gender Inequality Index (GII) value of 0.329, ranking it 77 out of 166 countries in 2022. ⁴⁰
Is there a national action plan on GBV and/or sexual harassment?	Azerbaijan has a National Action Plan on the Prevention of Domestic Violence (2020-2023), which has been under implementation. ⁴¹
Does the country have specialized services for survivors of GBV (at both the national and local level) including women's shelters, adequate medical facilities and facilities which provide psycho-social support?	Azerbaijan has a hotline to accept calls on the grounds of domestic violence, which has been operational since December 2020. Ten NGOs, mostly located in Baku, Ganja and Sumgayit, have been accredited to provide social services for victims of domestic violence. The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection also operates a shelter for vulnerable populations. In addition, Commissions for gender issues and combatting domestic violence operate in the municipal institutions of one of the 12 administrative districts of Baku. ⁴²
Is the country currently experiencing war, internal conflict or humanitarian disaster?	The country has a three-decade-long conflict with Armenia, which ended with Azerbaijani victory in December 2023. The risk of major military escalation is deemed to be low in the short term, although there is a risk of further conflict in the future. ⁴³
Project-level risks	Assessment
Are women concentrated in lower paid roles and mostly line-managed and supervised by men?	Under the project, women are not expected to be concentrated in lower-paid roles and mostly line-managed and supervised by men.
Are piece-rate systems or other performance-related pay structures used where individuals are in control of how much other workers get paid?	Piece-rate systems or other performance-related pay structures are not proposed under the project.
Will project workers have control over life-changing resources such as the allocation of compensation for displacement or access to basic or highly sought-after resources?	The project proposes to develop a model for Forecast-based Financing (FbF) linked to shock-responsive social protection (SRSP) and build capacity to implement FbF-SRSP. However, project workers' control over life-changing resources is beyond the scope of the project.
Will security personnel be used? Will they be armed?	Use of security personnel is not foreseen under the project.
Will there be an influx of male workers into the project area (as opposed to only using local labor)?	An influx of male workers into the project area is not foreseen under the project.

³⁸ Girls Not Brides. Child Marriage Atlas – Azerbaijan. Available at: <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/atlas/azerbaijan> (Accessed: 21 May 2024)

³⁹ The World Bank. Doing Business Archive – Azerbaijan. Available at: <https://archive.doingbusiness.org/en/data/exploreconomies/azerbaijan> (Accessed: 21 May 2024)

⁴⁰ UNDP, 2024. Human Development Reports Data – Azerbaijan. Available at: <https://hdr.undp.org/data-center/specific-country-data/#/countries/AZE> (Accessed: 21 May 2024)

⁴¹ OHCHR, 2021. Information submitted by the Government of Azerbaijan on violence against women, its causes and consequences with regard to the request by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/azerbaijan.pdf>

⁴² OHCHR, 2021. Information submitted by the Government of Azerbaijan on violence against women, its causes and consequences with regard to the request by the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2021-12/azerbaijan.pdf>

⁴³ ISPI, 2023. Crisis to Watch 2024: Armenia-Azerbaijan. Available at: <https://www.ispionline.it/en/publication/crisis-to-watch-2024-armenia-azerbaijan-157858> (Accessed: 21 May 2024)

Are local communities poor and lacking basic resources?	5.5% of the population lives below the National Poverty Line. ⁴⁴
Will migrant workers be employed by the project, especially those who may not speak the local language? Will they be employed on a temporary or daily basis?	Employment of migrant workers is not foreseen under the project.
Will project workers all have formal contracts?	Yes – all project workers will have formal contracts.
Will goods frequently be transported over long distances, especially through poor and/or remote communities?	The project will involve some transport of equipment over long distances, however this is not expected to be on a frequent basis.
Are worksites or project activities based in remote locations? Will worksites be spread out, with isolated spaces?	Some worksites or project activities will be based in remote locations.
Will project workers live in the community or in worker housing? If in worker housing, is it mixed sex?	Project staff and local consultants are expected to be located in the capital city of Baku and will be responsible for arranging their own accommodation. No worker housing is foreseen.
Will workers be required to travel long and potentially unsafe distances, and at times of day when transport options may be limited?	Project staff and consultants will be required on occasion to travel to locations outside of Baku. The distances are not expected to be unsafe and travel is not expected at times of day when transport options may be limited.
Will the project operate in highly pressurised work environments, with tight seasonal deadlines?	The project is not foreseen to operate in highly pressurised work environments, with tight seasonal deadlines.
Is the project located within a male-dominated sector where female workers will be employed?	The project is not located within a male-dominated sector. In general, the labour force participation rate among females and males in Azerbaijan is similar (67.4% and 73.2% respectively). ⁴⁵
Have communities, especially low income/vulnerable communities, voluntarily raised concerns in relation to SEAH/GBV during consultations?	No concerns in relation to SEAH/GBV have been raised during consultations.
Have any changes been made to project design or adaptive management undertaken due to concerns of stakeholders and communities? (If yes, work through this checklist again)	No changes have been made to the project design or adaptive management undertaken due to the concerns of stakeholders and communities.

Environmental and Social Action Plan

The Environmental and Social Action Plan below (Table 5) summarizes the key risks from the project, mitigation measures for those risks, the parties responsible and the expected probability and impact.

⁴⁴ ADB, 2024. Poverty Data: Azerbaijan. Available at: <https://www.adb.org/where-we-work/azerbaijan/poverty> (Accessed: 21 May 2024)

⁴⁵ The World Bank, 2024. Gender Data – Azerbaijan. Available at: <https://genderdata.worldbank.org/en/economies/azerbaijan> (Accessed: 21 May 2024)

Table 5: Environmental and Social Action Plan

Summary of risks	Mitigation measures	Risk Significance ⁴⁶	Responsible party/person	Schedule	Cost/Budget
<i>This contains the description of risks and can be derived from the responses to the screening questions</i>	<i>Options to avoid, reduce, mitigate risks and impacts. This may also indicate additional due diligence and specific management plans</i>	<i>This contains a description of the overall level of risk*</i>	<i>Individual person, unit, or entity tasked to carry out the mitigation measures</i>	<i>Timing of implementation of measures including any additional due diligence and management plans and may depend on the stage of implementation</i>	<i>Estimated cost of carrying out the measures</i>
Solid Waste/Hazardous Waste – There is a small risk of pollution, particularly during the installation of new monitoring stations.	The anticipated waste streams are expected to be small and easily managed given the limited size and complexity of the needed hydrometeorological equipment installations. Mitigation of environmental impact risk (low) will be a matter of following industry best practice during the equipment installation process. The project will develop specific solid waste/hazardous waste disposal procedures in line with UNEP protocols and the requirements of the Government of Azerbaijan. These will include measures to ensure that waste streams are separated and disposed of according to proper industry standards, and	Low – The risks are likely to be small in magnitude, easily avoided by proactive planning.	Project Manager, Contractors hired to install equipment	Most of the implementation measures will be planned ahead of time and implemented alongside the installation activities at the start of the project.	Included in the activity costs for the development of new monitoring networks and systems.

⁴⁶ Risk significance range: Low, Medium, High

	hazardous waste is managed, contained and sent to the proper disposal facility.				
Groundwater/Surface water impact – Potential minor groundwater/surface water impact may occur from installation of equipment and related activities and runoff. Apart from that, the project is expected to support improved groundwater use by providing better information streams for planning and decision making.	As above, the project will develop specific procedures in line with UNEP protocols and the requirements of the Government of Azerbaijan to ensure that potential runoff is contained or redirected to protect waterways. No earthworks or vegetation removal beyond the minimum necessary will be planned. None of the project activities involve or are expected to lead to the significant utilization of groundwater / surface water resources. Should it become known that the project is significantly affecting water resources, the implementation of project activities within the area where the issue has been observed will be halted and the relevant Government agency and Project Manager will be consulted.	Low – The risks are likely to be very limited in terms of magnitude and easily avoided by proactive planning.	Project Manager, Contractors hired to install equipment	Primarily during planning and construction phase.	Included in the activity costs for the development of new monitoring networks and systems.
Air Quality – None of the project activities are expected to cause significant adverse impacts on air quality. On the	Mitigation of the environmental impact risk related to air pollution (low) will be a matter of following industry best practice. Should it become known that the project is	Low – The risks are likely to be very limited in terms of magnitude and easily avoided by proactive planning.	Project Manager, Contractors hired to install equipment	Primarily during planning and construction phase.	Included in the activity costs for the development of new monitoring

contrary, the project is actually expected to support substantial air quality benefits through its expanded air quality monitoring and forecasting systems.	causing significant air pollution, the implementation of the project activities within the area where the issue has been observed will be halted and the relevant Government agency and Project Manager will be consulted.				networks and systems.
Biodiversity and Ecosystems – Deployment of monitoring equipment and systems may impact habitat and biodiversity, particularly from the anchoring of wave buoys and the deployment of discharge and flow monitors.	All sensor and monitoring sites will be chosen to minimize environmental impact and impact to habitats. No activities will be carried out in the vicinity of protected areas and areas of ecological significance. The project team will monitor the protected area status of Azerbaijan and will take appropriate action in line with the National Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for 2017-2020 ⁴⁷ should the status of a project site change.	Low – The risks are likely to be very limited in terms of magnitude and easily avoided by proactive planning.	Project Manager, Contractors hired to install equipment	Primarily during planning and construction phase.	Included in the activity costs for the development of new monitoring networks and systems.
Worker Health and Safety – The project will be constructing and deploying a number of sensors, radar systems, etc. in remote and	All of the new permanent and temporary jobs created by the project will be accompanied by fundamental workers' rights protections in alignment with	Low – The risks are likely to be very limited in terms of magnitude and easily avoided by proactive planning.	Project Manager, Contractors hired to install equipment	Throughout the project.	Included in the activity costs for the development of new capacity for monitoring

⁴⁷ National Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for 2017-2020; Available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/az/az-nbsap-v2-en.pdf>

<p>potentially challenging locations which may present risks for workers' health and safety. In addition, radar workers could be exposed to electromagnetic fields, however, this exposure is relatively low.</p>	<p>both Azerbaijan's Labour Code and the International Labor Organization Conventions. The project will include specific health and safety requirements in all contracts and the project manager will monitor for compliance. The project will not use forced or child labour.</p> <p>The project will involve installation of a weather radar system. While radar systems in general generate electromagnetic fields that could be harmful to human body (especially in case of old radar systems), there is minimal evidence that modern meteorological radars pose significant health risks to humans when used properly. For example, typical peak power densities measured at several weather radar locations in the UK were about 0.055% of the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) peak power density reference levels for occupational exposure.⁴⁸ Therefore, risks to occupational health and safety (OHS) arising from exposure to</p>				<p>networks as well as the construction budgets.</p>
---	--	--	--	--	--

⁴⁸ Health Protection Agency, 2012. Health effects from Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7e0ebded915d74e6223d46/RCE-20_Health_Effects_RF_Electromagnetic_fields.pdf

	<p>electromagnetic fields can be considered as low.</p> <p>That being said, mitigation measures will be taken to minimise the risk of workers' exposure to the electromagnetic fields in accordance with the World Bank Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines for Telecommunications (page 7).⁴⁹</p>				
<p>Community health and safety – communities could be exposed to electromagnetic fields generated by the weather radars, however, these risks are low.</p>	<p>The project will involve installation of a weather radar system. While radar systems in general generate electromagnetic fields which could be harmful to human body (especially in case of old radar systems), there is minimal evidence that modern meteorological radars pose significant health risks to humans when used properly. For example, typical peak power densities measured at several weather radar locations in the UK were about 0.23% of the International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection (ICNIRP) peak power density reference levels for public</p>	<p>Low – The risks are likely to be very limited in terms of magnitude and easily avoided by proactive planning.</p>	<p>Project Manager, Contractors hired to install equipment</p>	<p>Throughout the project.</p>	<p>Included in the activity costs for the development of new capacity for monitoring networks as well as the construction budgets.</p>

⁴⁹ IFC, 2007. Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines for Telecommunications. Available at: <https://www.ifc.org/content/dam/ifc/doc/2000/2007-telecommunications-ehs-guidelines-en.pdf>

	<p>exposure.⁵⁰ Therefore, risks for community health and safety arising from the exposure to electromagnetic fields can be considered as low.</p> <p>That being said, mitigation measures will be taken to minimise the risk of communities' exposure to the electromagnetic fields in accordance with the World Bank Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines for Telecommunications (pages 5 and 7).⁵¹</p>				
<p>Local population displacement – None of the project activities will cause risks for displacement of the local population.</p>	<p>None of the project activities are expected to involve resettlement and dispossession, land acquisition, physical or economic displacement of persons and communities. All equipment is expected to be operated, installed and maintained on the government-owned land which is confirmed with formal written commitment of the Government of Azerbaijan (Appendix 2).</p>	N/A	<p>Project Manager, Contractors hired to install equipment</p>	<p>Throughout the project, primarily in the installation phase.</p>	<p>Included in the activity costs for the development of new capacity for monitoring networks as well as the construction budgets.</p>

⁵⁰ Health Protection Agency, 2012. Health effects from Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7e0ebded915d74e6223d46/RCE-20_Health_Effects_RF_Electromagnetic_fields.pdf

⁵¹ IFC, 2007. Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines for Telecommunications. Available at: <https://www.ifc.org/content/dam/ifc/doc/2000/2007-telecommunications-ehs-guidelines-en.pdf>

<p>Cultural and indigenous group vulnerability –</p> <p>There is a small risk that Azerbaijan’s minority ethnic and cultural/indigenous groups may have barriers to utilization of and access to CIEWS information streams and communication products.</p>	<p>The project prioritizes a socially inclusive approach to implementation at local level, which will facilitate that community-level beneficiaries are equally able to access project resources despite ethnic origin. Guided by the overarching Leave No One Behind principle, UNEP aims to ensure that all minority groups, vulnerable and marginalized groups (including indigenous peoples) are meaningfully engaged throughout the project cycle and have equitable access to project benefits and resources. Overall, the project is expected to have positive impacts on minority groups and vulnerable and marginalized groups (including indigenous peoples).</p>	<p>Low – The risks are likely to be very limited in terms of magnitude and easily avoided by proactive planning.</p>	<p>Project Manager, Gender Expert</p>	<p>Throughout project implementation (see Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement Plan – Annex 13).</p>	<p>Included in costs for tailoring of communication products and stakeholder engagement</p>
<p>Gender – There is a small risk of low representation of women in the project activities. There is also a small risk that the project might adversely affect women as a vulnerable category of workers.</p>	<p>The project will proactively integrate gender mainstreaming and gender equity considerations into all stages of design and implementation. In line with the principles of equal opportunity and non-discrimination, the project will potentially employ female workers – as project personnel and/or consultants.</p>	<p>Low – The risks are likely to be limited in terms of magnitude and avoided by proactive planning.</p>	<p>Project Manager, Gender Expert</p>	<p>Throughout project implementation (see Gender Action Plan – Annex 4).</p>	<p>See Annex 4</p>

	<p>Appropriate measures of protection and assistance to address the vulnerabilities of project workers will be provided to mitigate potential risks. Further details are provided in the Gender Assessment and Action Plan (Annex 4).</p>				
<p>Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) – Some contextual risks exist due to the lack of comprehensive legislation relating to SEAH and limited services for SEAH survivors. The potential for resurgence of conflict with Armenia poses an additional risk. The main project-specific risk relates to the model for Forecast-based Financing (FbF) linked to shock-responsive social protection (SRSP) to be developed.</p>	<p>The project will ensure strong enforcement of UNEP policies on Prevention and Response to Sexual Misconduct. It will also be guided by the GCF Revised Environmental and Social Policy and the GCF Revised policy on the prevention and protection from SEAH. Project personnel and stakeholders will be sensitized on SEAH safeguarding and the requirement to ensure a gender-responsive and survivor-centred approach.</p> <p>With regard to mitigating project-specific risks, the development of a model for FbF linked to SRSP and associated capacity building will proactively consider SEAH issues, and the model will be designed to avoid exacerbating SEAH-related risks.</p>	<p>Low – The risks are likely to be limited in terms of magnitude and avoided by increasing awareness of SEAH prevention and response, and ensuring a gender-responsive and survivor-centred approach.</p>	<p>All project personnel have a responsibility to prevent and mitigate SEAH risks</p>	<p>Throughout project implementation.</p>	<p>No additional cost implications</p>

Stakeholder Response Mechanism

As part of UNEP's ESS Framework, stakeholders who may be adversely affected by the project can communicate their concerns about the environmental and social performance of the project to UNEP. Stakeholders will be informed about the available local Grievance Redress Mechanism established for the project. These mechanisms aim to be fair, inclusive, readily accessible, culturally appropriate and transparent, with due consideration for confidentiality of potential complaints. These mechanisms will be used to outline clear roles, responsibilities and procedures to ensure the handling of stakeholder concerns in a prompt and effective manner, free of charge. The Grievance Redress Mechanism has been designed to the extent possible according to the effectiveness criteria for non-judicial grievance mechanisms outlined in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

The ESSF mandates a Stakeholder Response Mechanism (SRM), which provides the opportunity for affected people to seek either compliance review or dispute resolution in regard to activities that UNEP implements or executes as part of its projects and programmes. The SRM serves as a complementary mechanism to local Grievance Redress Mechanism established for the project, which should be the first point of contact for stakeholders who may be adversely affected by the project. In the event that such concerns are not resolved at the local level, such stakeholders may access UNEP's SRM.⁵²

UNEP's SRM is established through the Independent Office for Stakeholder Safeguard-related Response (IOSSR).⁵³ The IOSSR serves two functions:

1. Compliance Review: processes for responding to claims by Stakeholders alleging that UNEP activities are not in compliance with the ESS Framework;
2. Grievance Redress: provides access to dispute resolution mechanisms used to address project-related disputes that relate to UNEP's activities.

The IOSSR is responsible for the SRM, and thus carries out the following responsibilities:

- Receives and screens complaints for eligibility;
- Maintains a roster of accredited independent experts related to compliance review and dispute resolution;
- Develops the appropriate TOR for facilitating the compliance review or dispute resolution;
- Manages and oversees all experts engaged in compliance review and dispute resolution;
- Maintains the IOSSR website that provides the public with access to all relevant documents related to compliance review and dispute resolution;
- Issues reports to the UNEP Executive Director with findings and recommendations for compliance reviews, and outcomes for dispute resolution processes;
- Monitors the implementation of decisions related to compliance review and grievance redress;
- Reports on the IOSSR operations and provides advice based on lessons learned;
- Conducts outreach to Stakeholders regarding the IOSSR;
- Seeks to minimise risks of retaliation to complainants.

⁵² UNEP Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (2020), Available at:

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/32022/ESSFEN.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

⁵³ UNEP's Environmental and Social Sustainability: Stakeholder Response Mechanism (2020), Available at:

<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/32023/ESSFRM.pdf>

Complaints can be filed to the Stakeholder Response Mechanism through the [online project concern form](#), email or mail to the following address:

Independent Office for Stakeholder Safeguard-related Response (IOSSR) & Director of Corporate Service
Division

United Nations Environment Programme

Nairobi, Kenya

Email: unenvironment-IOSSR@un.org

Project-level Grievance Mechanism

Once fully developed, project information will be included on the NDA and UNEP websites. Within the designated project webpage(s), a link to [UNEP's project concern webpage](#) (which includes the UNEP Project Concern Feedback Form) will be added along with the following email address for complaint feedback: unenvironment-iossr@un.org. Efforts will be made to ensure that the project-level GRM is accessible, inclusive, survivor-centred and gender-responsive, to make available specific procedures for any cases of SEAH that might occur including confidential reporting with safe and ethical documenting of such cases (in accordance with the [GCF Revised Environmental and Social Policy](#) provisions), as well as to facilitate access to appropriate services to affected persons within available resources, which could potentially include medical care, psychosocial support, legal support, community driven protection measures, and reintegration. It should be noted that UNEP has a zero tolerance policy for sexual exploitation and abuse and has adopted a victim-centered approach towards persons who have made complaints about sexual exploitation and abuse. The prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) is a priority for the UNEP's Executive Director (ED). Therefore, UNEP ensures that assistance and support is made available to all victims of sexual exploitations and abuse irrespective of whether the victim initiates or cooperates with an investigation or other accountability procedure. In line with UNEP's policy, the project will endeavour within applicable procedures, to have a female staff accessible to address concerns from women and girls regarding SEAH.

Indicative Procedural Rules for Filing a Complaint

Who can Submit a Complaint?

1. A Complaint can be submitted by any individual or group that has been affected by the Project's activities (hereinafter referred to as Project-affected Community – note that this term can refer to an individual or group).
2. The Project-affected Community can only submit Complaints related to the Project's activities.
3. If a Complaint is filed on behalf of the Project-affected Community (by for example, a civil society organization), the Claimant (person filing the Complaint) must identify the Project-affected

Community that is being represented in the Complaint, and provide written confirmation from the Project-affected Community that they have provided the Claimant with the authority to present the Grievance on their behalf.

How is the Complaint Communicated?

1. The SRM will be housed in the Project Management Unit (PMU)
2. The SRM shall maintain a flexible approach with respect to receiving Complaints in light of possible constraints related to the Claimants and Project-affected Community.
3. A Complaint can be transmitted to the SRM by any means available (i.e. by email, letter, phone call, meeting, SMS).

What information should be included in a Complaint?

The Complaint should include the following information:

1. Name of the individual(s) filing the Complaint (Claimant).
2. A means for contacting the Claimant (e.g. email, phone, mail).
3. If applicable, the identity of the Project-affected Community, and written confirmation granting authority to the Claimant to file the Complaint.
4. Description of the potential or actual harm.
5. Description of the Project-affect Community.
6. Names of the individual(s) or institutions responsible for the potential or actual harm.
7. Location(s) and date(s) of actual or potential activity.
8. What has been done by the Claimant and Project-affect Community thus far to resolve the matter.
9. Whether the Claimant and/or Project-affected Community wishes their identities to be kept confidential.
10. The specific help requested from the SRM.

Initially, the Complainants are not required to provide all of the information listed above, they need only provide enough information to determine eligibility. If insufficient information is provided, the SRM has an obligation to make a substantial, good faith effort to contact the Complainant to request the additional information needed to determine eligibility, and if eligible, to develop a proposed response.

Logging a Complaint, Acknowledgment, and Tracking

Within one week from the receipt of a Complaint it will be acknowledged by the SRM via the preferred mode of communication indicated in the Complaint and recorded electronically by the SRM. The Complaint file maintained by the SRM will contain:

1. Date the Complaint was received.
2. Date the written/oral acknowledgment was sent.
3. Dates and nature of all other communications or meetings with the Claimant, Project-affected Community, and other relevant Stakeholders.
4. Date and records related to the proposed solution.
5. Acceptance or objections by the Claimant (or Project-affected Community).
6. Proposed next steps in the case that there were objections.
7. Alternative solution if renewed dialogue was pursued.

8. Engagement of a mediator or facilitator.
9. Notes regarding implementation (as applicable).
10. Conclusions and recommendations arising from monitoring and follow up.

Maintaining Communication and Status Updates

Files for each Complaint will be available for review by the Claimant, the Project-affected Community, and other Stakeholders involved in the Complaint. Appropriate steps will be taken to maintain the confidentiality of these parties if previously requested. The SRM will provide periodic updates to the Claimant regarding the status and current actions to resolve the Complaint. Such updates will occur within reasonable intervals (not greater than every thirty days).

Consensus Building

Within one week of receiving a Complaint the SRM will engage the Claimant and other relevant Stakeholders as deemed appropriate, to gather all necessary information regarding the Complaint. The SRM will have the authority to request from relevant Government Ministries, Departments, or Directorates any relevant information related to the Complaint. As necessary, the SRM will convene meetings with relevant individuals and institutions at the PMU office, where the SRM is housed. The SRM may also determine that an onsite field investigation is necessary to properly understand the Complaint and develop an effective proposed solution. At any point after receiving a Complaint the SRM may seek technical assistance from an individual or entity that has relevant expertise. The objective of all investigative activities is to develop a thorough understanding of the issues and concerns raised in the Complaint and to facilitate consensus around the proposed solution.

Proposed Actions and Overseeing Implementation

The SRM will communicate to the Claimant one or more proposed actions or resolutions, and clearly articulate the reasons for the proposed solutions. If the Claimant does not accept the resolution, the SRM may engage with the Claimant to provide alternative options. If the Claimant accepts the proposed solution, the SRM will continue to monitor the implementation directly, and through the receipt of communications from the Claimant and other relevant parties. In all communications with the Claimant and other Stakeholders, the SRM will be guided by its problem-solving role, non-coercive principles and processes, and the voluntary, good faith nature of the interaction with the Claimant, Project-affected Community, and other Stakeholders.

Alternatives to the SRM

While the in-country SRM should be the primary mechanism for Complaints resolution, in instances where the Project-affected Communities are not satisfied with process, the Claimant may contact UNEP's Complaints Mechanism, based at its headquarters, or GCF's Independent Redress Mechanism, to remedy the Complaint (see below). A Claimant may also pursue mediation, other grievance mechanisms, or legal

channels, and the existence and use of the SRM is without prejudice to any existing rights under these processes.

GCF Independent Redress Mechanism

Similar to UNEP's Stakeholder Response Mechanism, GCF has an Independent Redress Mechanism (IRM) that addresses complaints from people who believe they have, or will be, negatively affected by projects or programmes funded by GCF.⁵⁴ The IRM provides recourse to affected people in a way that is fair, effective and transparent, and enhances the performance of GCF and its projects and programmes. Like the SRM, the IRM offers problem solving and compliance processes.

The IRM addresses complaints from Stakeholder who are, or may potentially be, adversely impacted by projects or programmes. After verifying eligibility, the IRM engages with the relevant parties to explore options for resolving the complaint with the aim to reach a mutually satisfactory outcome. The goal of this problem-solving process is to the address specific issues that have given rise to the complaint, and to help identify solutions that meet the interests of the relevant parties. Usually this involves clarifying the issues of concerns, understanding the needs and interests of stakeholders, assisting parties in identifying solutions, and helping them reach an agreement regarding the terms of these solutions.

Stakeholder Complaints (Requests) can be filed here:

<https://irm.greenclimate.fund/case-register/file-complaint>

If parties are unwilling or unable to resolve the issues, the IRM can conduct a compliance appraisal to determine whether a compliance investigation is warranted, and if so, carries out an investigation to identify any non-compliance with GCF policies or procedures in relation to the project or programme. The IRM monitors any compliance recommendations that are a result of the investigation. Compliance processes focus on GCF and compliance with its relevant policies and procedures. IRM compliance investigations are independent of, but complementary to, GCF's procedures for ensuring project compliance.

Compliance Complaints can be filed here:

<https://irm.greenclimate.fund/case-register/file-complaint>

The SRM is publicized to the Executing Entity, Stakeholders, and the public via its publicly-available website: <https://irm.greenclimate.fund/>. This includes information about the IRM's functions, how to file a claim, the case requester, publications, and other relevant information. This information will also be conveyed to Stakeholders during the Stakeholder Engagement meetings.

⁵⁴ Green Climate Fund, Independent Redress Mechanism, available at [https://irm.greenclimate.fund/#::~:~:text=GCF's%20Independent%20Redress%20Mechanism,Green%20Climate%20Fund%20\(GCF\).](https://irm.greenclimate.fund/#::~:~:text=GCF's%20Independent%20Redress%20Mechanism,Green%20Climate%20Fund%20(GCF).)

Implementation Arrangements

The various entities involved in the project are all responsible for environmental and social risk management and the effective execution of the environmental and social action plan, but each have unique and complementary roles and responsibilities as summarized below.

- **UNEP** – UNEP is responsible for overall compliance with the GCF Revised Environmental and Social Policy and any required monitoring/reporting to GCF drawing on the overall expertise of its Gender and Safeguards Unit (GSU), in the Policy and Programme Division (PPD). In addition, a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) expert will be engaged by the project to monitor social safeguards implementation, as well as address sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH) concerns if any. When appropriate, UNEP will also contract project-specific independent experts to monitor and ensure compliance with safeguard management and enhancement measures. UNEP is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the project is implemented in alignment with Azerbaijan's national environmental regulations, UNEP's ESSF and the GCF Environmental and Social Policy. The UNEP Project Manager (also see below under Project Management Unit) will lead the monitoring of the project for compliance with safeguard management and enhancement measures, by means of self-monitoring reports from implementing partners as well as, when appropriate, supervision missions by UNEP staff or external experts. Safeguard management plans will be reviewed periodically and updated and adjusted as needed. UNEP will address compliance concerns and other grievances in a timely manner, through UNEP's SRM.
- **Azerbaijan Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (NDA)** – The NDA will work alongside UNEP and other partner organizations during project implementation. The NDA will additionally be involved in incorporating environmental and social considerations during project implementation and monitoring to ensure compliance with environmental and social standards.
- **Project Steering Committee (PSC)** – The PSC will oversee project implementation and review annual workplans and project reports. This will include ensuring that environmental and social measures (including the Environmental and Social Action Plan) are being followed and implemented.
- **Project Management Unit (PMU) as part of UNEP's Executing Entity (EE) role** – During project implementation, the Project Manager (PM) and implementing partners are responsible for ensuring that the actions specified in safeguard management plans are carried out, and for reporting regularly on compliance with these requirements via progress reports. Independent experts may be involved in the monitoring of projects and in ensuring compliance with the ESMPs. The Project Manager will thus be responsible for monitoring environmental safeguards implementation at the PMU level. This responsibility and required expertise will be a part of the Terms of Reference based on which the Project Manager will be recruited according to applicable procedures. Furthermore, a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) Expert will be engaged to monitor implementation of social safeguards, as well as address concerns relating to sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment (SEAH), should any arise.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Annual Performance Reviews (APRs), as well as the Mid-Term Evaluation (MTE), will assess whether the environmental, social and economic risks are being vigilantly managed and monitored, and whether the GCF and UNEP safeguard requirements have been complied with. Corrective measures will be proposed as relevant. At the end of the project, the Terminal Evaluation will undertake a similar exercise. It will also assess long term impacts, if relevant

During the project implementation, the PMU will work with a dedicated Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor who will be responsible for overseeing day-to-day monitoring. The PMU will inform UNEP of any difficulties in implementing environmental and social considerations, including the status of grievance redress mechanism (GRM) implementation, including any SEAH-related concerns, so that the appropriate support and corrective measures can be adopted in a timely fashion. The PSC will be responsible for the long-term monitoring and evaluation of the project, including participating in the MTE process and developing a management response to the MTE's recommendations. The PSC will additionally receive periodic progress reports and will make recommendations to UNEP if any revisions to project environmental and social considerations are necessary.

Information Disclosure, Consultation and Participation

Public consultation and disclosure are an essential aspect of the Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (see Annex 13). The project was discussed with a wide range of stakeholders including relevant government officials, technical experts, NGOs, and community members. Site-specific consultations with communities have been undertaken (see Annex 13), and communities including vulnerable groups (women, youth, indigenous peoples, etc.) will be further consulted during the project implementation, including as a part of Sub-Activities 3.1.1. and 3.1.2. The Project Manager within the Project Management Unit will also release updates on the project on a regular basis to provide stakeholders with information on the status of the project. As set forth in the project-level Grievance section above, project-affected communities will have the ability to file grievances through the SRM. Following project approval by the GCF board, project information and documents will be available on the [GCF website](#) and the [UNEP Open Data Portal](#) for public viewing.

Project Co-benefits: Opportunities to Improve Environmental and Social Impacts

Environmental Co-benefits

The project activities are anticipated to have many positive environmental impacts in Azerbaijan. The project is providing key environmental protection benefits through the introduction of disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation and protection of people, property and the environment from major hazards. Specific environmental benefits include improved ecosystem functions through better spatial planning will improve the natural functions of the floodplains and watersheds within which they are implemented. Other environmental benefits include reduction in soil erosion and land degradation through the zoning of activities away from high-risk areas as well as improved management. In the long-

run the project will bring about significant environmental benefits by increasing the country's resilience to climate-induced natural disasters and thus, enabling its population to better protect national assets, including environmental assets (land, forest and land resources).

Social Co-benefits

Social co-benefits include improved public safety in response to impact-based early warnings; better healthcare services for water- and vector-borne diseases facilitated by capacity to predict outbreaks; and improved general well-being with better access to food and freshwater. Furthermore, the Project aims to educate the population at all levels on the use of climate information and disaster risk reduction approaches and will enable communities to adopt sustainable and climate-resilient livelihood strategies in the longer term. Public safety from early warning and climate information services is the key social co-benefit, but additional social benefits can be realized through effective mainstreaming of climate information into sectoral planning, particularly in the healthcare sector for disease monitoring and for food/water security stemming from climate-informed production and management, as well as extreme heat warnings and air quality indicators.

As discussed in the Gender Assessment and Action Plan (Annex 4), the project will incorporate mechanisms to ensure that women and other marginalized groups are empowered to utilize climate information and early warning systems to support informed decision-making in response to climate change. This includes gender balanced representation and participation in the development of the National Framework for Climate Services, Integrated Urban Services Framework, national financial strategy for sustainable climate services, and the User Interface Platform, the inclusion of gender- and age- disaggregated data where possible, gender-balanced opportunities for open project positions, equal opportunities for technical trainings for men and women, sectoral climate information products, and various information, education and communications materials, and capacity building for community multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS) that create new opportunities for women in local communities and proactively address gender imbalance in decision-making and planning at the local level, among other activities that will help to ensure social co-benefits for all genders and marginalised groups.

Economic Co-benefits

The principal economic co-benefits stem from improved forecasting and early warning information, and risk-informed preparedness and response decision-making and planning, which can lead to reduced livelihood and asset losses. Additional economic co-benefits can be realized as specific sectors more deliberately utilize climate information in planning and operations (i.e. forecasts in agriculture, etc.). Sector-specific climate analytics can inform decision-making that improves productivity of agricultural systems and will protect other economic activities currently at risk from the major hazards. In addition, community preparedness plans will safeguard key infrastructure, which enables economic activities to recover from, and continue during disasters. Structural and non-structural measures will provide direct protection from loss and damages to people and property in highest risk areas.

This will be complemented by capacity building for both communities and national institutions to support effective disaster preparedness. In particular, the introduction of Forecast-based Action (FbA) will ensure the funding and implementation of pre-planned disaster response actions in Azerbaijan which has been

shown to minimise the damage and loss caused by climate-related hazards and reduce the need for humanitarian assistance in the aftermath.

Gender-sensitive Co-benefits

Overall, this project will identify the key differentiated needs and vulnerabilities of specific groups, including women, and the Project will utilize these to develop tailored communication products that will aim to ensure that there are effective pathways for all members of society to benefit from the climate information services provided. In engaging with the communities, the project will pay particular attention to meaningful participation of vulnerable groups and particularly women to ensure that gender issues are taken into account. Additional detail on the gender-sensitive approach and outcomes for this project can be seen in the Gender Assessment and Action Plan (Annex 4).

Conclusion

Overall, the proposed project has been assessed as a Category C project as the potential impacts are likely to be very limited in terms of magnitude and easily avoided by proactive planning. The enhancement of the hydrometeorological network and other monitoring/sensor interventions will mostly focus on installation of new electronic and measurement equipment and upgrading existing stations. There will also be a need to construct small meteorological stations throughout Azerbaijan. As detailed in the ESAP above, the largest potential impacts come from the construction components and their waste streams, but mitigation of this impact is expected to be straightforward and standard construction practice given the envisioned scope and scale of deployments. Therefore, it is recommended that all contractors involved are made aware of their environmental and social responsibilities, and that professional oversight is engaged where necessary in order to ensure that those responsibilities are upheld. Contracts should include clauses that highlight impact mitigation requirements.

No other mitigation plans such as for involuntary resettlement, Indigenous Peoples, or emergency response are required for the project. A Gender Assessment has been carried out to identify and illustrate gender and socioeconomic issues that could be addressed by the project Outputs and forms the basis for the Gender Assessment and Action Plan (Annex 4). In conclusion, all proposed framework development, capacity building and infrastructure across all four Outputs provide an overall positive environmental benefit for climate resilience.

Appendix 1: Environmental and Social Screening

Safeguard Risk Identification Form (SRIF)

Section 1: Project Overview

Identification	<i>GCF Project</i>
Project Title	<i>Strengthening Climate Information and Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems for Increased Resilience in Azerbaijan</i>
Managing Division	<i>Science Division</i>
Type/Location	<i>National, Azerbaijan</i>
Region	<i>Europe</i>
List Countries	<i>Azerbaijan</i>
Project Description	<i>Azerbaijan is increasingly vulnerable to climate risks and climate-related hazards. For instance, the annual average population affected by flooding is estimated at 100,000 people and the annual average affected GDP at \$300 million. Without timely, accurate and actionable climate information and an upscaled early warning system, Azerbaijan is unable to effectively respond to climate risks. The proposed Project will support the Government of Azerbaijan to significantly upscale and strengthen climate information services and implement a robust, effective and sustainable Multi-Hazard Early Warning System. The Project aims to effect a paradigm shift towards evidence-informed early warning, planning and preparedness actions supported by enhanced community and sector resilience. UNEP will work with the National Hydrometeorological Department (NHD) in the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources and a range of Technical Partners to implement the Project.</i>

Relevant Subprogrammes	<i>Environment under review</i>
Estimated duration of project	<i>5 years</i>
Estimated cost of the project	<i>USD 28.9 million</i>
Name of the UNEP project manager responsible	Jochem Zoetelief
Funding Source(s)	Green Climate Fund
Executing/Implementing partner(s)	National Hydrometeorological Department (NHD) in the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources UNEP Europe Office
SRIF submission version	<i>If it is not the first time, mark the time of your previous submission</i> <i>Concept Review [] During Project development [] PRC []</i> <i>Other _____</i>
Safeguard-related reports prepared so far <i>(Please attach the documents or provide the hyperlinks)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Feasibility report [x]</i> • <i>Gender Action Plan [x]</i> • <i>Stakeholder Engagement Plan [x]</i> • <i>Safeguard risk assessment or impact assessment [x]</i> • <i>ES Management Plan or Framework [x]</i> • <i>Indigenous Peoples Plan []</i> • <i>Cultural Heritage Plan []</i> • <i>Others _____</i>

Section 2: Safeguards Risk Summary

A. Summary of the Safeguards Risk Triggered

Safeguard Standards Triggered by the Project	Impact of Risk ⁵⁵ (1-5)	Probability of Risk (1-5)	Significance of Risk (L, M, H) <i>Please refer to the matrix below</i>
SS 1: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Sustainable Natural Resource Management	1	1	L
SS 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks	1	1	L
SS 3: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency	1	1	L
SS 4: Community Health, Safety and Security	1	1	L
SS 5: Cultural Heritage	1	1	L
SS 6: Displacement and Involuntary Resettlement	1	1	L
SS 7: Indigenous Peoples	1	1	L
SS 8: Labor and working conditions	1	1	L

⁵⁵ Refer to UNEP Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF): Implementation Guidance Note

to assign values to the Impact of Risk and the Probability of Risk to determine the overall significance of Risk (Low, Moderate or High).

A. ESS Risk Level⁵⁶ -

Refer to the UNEP ESSF (Chapter IV)
and the UNEP's ESSF Guidelines.

Low risk



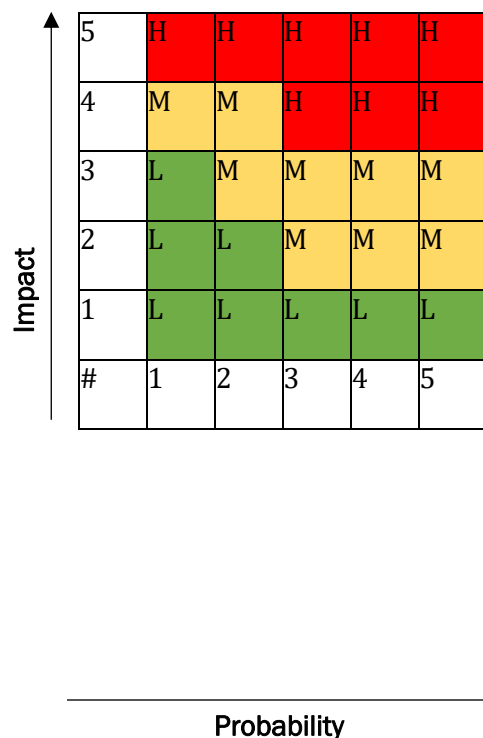
Moderate risk



High risk



Additional information required



B. Development of ESS Review Note and Screening Decision

⁵⁶ **Low risk:** Negative impacts minimal or negligible: no further study or impact management required.

Moderate risk: Potential negative impacts, but limited in scale, not unprecedented or irreversible and generally limited to programme/project area; impacts amenable to management using standard mitigation measures; limited environmental or social analysis may be required to develop a Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP). Straightforward application of good practice may be sufficient without additional study.

High risk: Potential for significant negative impacts (e.g. irreversible, unprecedented, cumulative, significant stakeholder concerns); Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) (or Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA)) including a full impact assessment may be required, followed by an effective comprehensive safeguard management plan.

Prepared by

Name: Jochem Zoetelief

Date: 24 June 2021

Screening review by

Name: Yunae Yi

Date: 27 June 2021

Cleared⁵⁷



C. Safeguard Review Summary (by the safeguard team)

--

⁵⁷ This is signed only for the full projects latest by the PRC time.

D. Safeguard Recommendations (by the safeguard team)

- No specific safeguard action required ☐
- Take Good Practice approach⁵⁸ ☒
- Carry out further assessments (e.g., site visits, experts' inputs, consult affected communities, etc.) ☐
- Carry out impact assessments (by relevant experts) in the risk areas and develop management framework/plan ☐
- Consult Safeguards Advisor early during the full project development phase ☐
- Other _____

⁵⁸ Good practice approach: For most low-moderate risk projects, good practice approach may be sufficient. In that case, no separate management plan is necessary. Instead, the project document demonstrates safeguard management approach in the project activities, budget, risks management, stakeholder engagement or/and monitoring segments of the project document to avoid or minimize the identified potential risks without preparing a separate safeguard management plan.

Section 3: Safeguard Risk Checklist

Screening checklist	Y/N/ Maybe	Justification for the response (please provide answers to each question)
Guiding Principles (these questions should be considered during the project development phase)		
GP1 Has the project analyzed and stated those who are interested and may be affected positively or negatively around the project activities, approaches or results?	Y	Please refer to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
GP2 Has the project identified and engaged vulnerable, marginalized people, including disabled people, through the informed, inclusive, transparent and equal manner on potential positive or negative implication of the proposed approach and their roles in the project implementation?	Y	Please refer to the Gender Action Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
GP3 Have local communities or individuals raised human rights or gender equality concerns regarding the project (e.g. during the stakeholder engagement process, grievance processes, public statements)?	N	Please refer to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
GP4 Does the proposed project consider gender-balanced representation in the design and implementation?	Y	Please refer to the Gender Action Plan.
GP5 Did the proposed project analyze relevant gender issues and develop a gender responsive project approach?	Y	Please refer to the Gender Action Plan.

GP6	Does the project include a project-specific grievance redress mechanism? If yes, state the specific location of such information.	Y	The project specific grievance redress mechanism is identified as part of the Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) report.
GP7	Will or did the project disclose project information, including the safeguard documents? If yes, please list all the webpages where the information is (or will be) disclosed.	Y	Information will be disclosed on the NDA and UNEP websites, as appropriate.
GP8	Were the stakeholders (including affected communities) informed of the projects and grievance redress mechanism? If yes, describe how they were informed.	Y	Stakeholders will be informed through implementation of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
GP9	Does the project consider potential negative impacts from short-term net gain to the local communities or countries at the risk of generating long-term social or economic burden? ⁵⁹	Y	Please refer to the ESS report.
GP10	Does the project consider potential partial economic benefits while excluding marginalized or vulnerable groups, including women in poverty?	N	Partial economic benefits are not considered while excluding marginalized or vulnerable groups.
Safeguard Standard 1: Biodiversity, Ecosystems and Sustainable Natural Resource Management			
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>			

⁵⁹ For example, a project may consider investing in commercial shrimp farm by clearing the nearby mangrove forest to improve the livelihood of the coastal community. However, long term economic benefit from the shrimp farm may be significantly lower than the mangroves if we consider full costs factoring safety from storms, soil protection, water quality, biodiversity and so on.

1.1	conversion or degradation of habitats (including modified habitat, natural habitat and critical natural habitat), or losses and threats to biodiversity and/or ecosystems and ecosystem services?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
1.2	adverse impacts specifically to habitats that are legally protected, officially proposed for protection, or recognized as protected by traditional local communities and/or authoritative sources (e.g. National Park, Nature Conservancy, Indigenous Community Conserved Area, (ICCA); etc.)?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
1.3	conversion or degradation of habitats that are identified by authoritative sources for their high conservation and biodiversity value?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
1.4	activities that are not legally permitted or are inconsistent with any officially recognized management plans for the area?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
1.5	risks to endangered species (e.g. reduction, encroachment on habitat)?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
1.6	activities that may result in soil erosion, deterioration and/or land degradation?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
1.7	reduced quality or quantity of ground water or water in rivers, ponds, lakes, other wetlands?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
1.8	reforestation, plantation development and/or forest harvesting?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
1.9	support for agricultural production, animal/fish production and harvesting	N	Please refer to the ESS report.

1.10	introduction or utilization of any invasive alien species of flora and fauna, whether accidental or intentional?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
1.11	handling or utilization of genetically modified organisms?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
1.12	collection and utilization of genetic resources?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
Safeguard Standard 2: Climate Change and Disaster Risks			
	<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
2.1	improving resilience against potential climate change impact beyond the project intervention period?	Y	The proposed multi-hazard early warning system will provide resilience against potential climate change impacts beyond the project lifetime.
2.2	areas that are now or are projected to be subject to natural hazards such as extreme temperatures, earthquakes, extreme precipitation and flooding, landslides, droughts, severe winds, sea level rise, storm surges, tsunamis or volcanic eruptions in the next 30 years?	Y	The proposed project will assist in identifying climate damaging events in areas subject to extreme events, including landslides, mudslides and severe winds.
2.3	outputs and outcomes sensitive or vulnerable to potential impacts of climate change (e.g. changes in precipitation, temperature, salinity, extreme events)?	Y	The proposed multi-hazard early warning system will involve collecting and analyzing climate data, and assisting the country of Azerbaijan in responding to climate changes and climate-damaging events.

2.4	local communities vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and disaster risks (e.g. considering level of exposure and adaptive capacity)?	Y	The proposed project will assist local communities vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and disaster risks.
2.5	increases of greenhouse gas emissions, black carbon emissions or other drivers of climate change?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
2.6	Carbon sequestration and reduction of greenhouse emissions, resource-efficient and low carbon development, other measures for mitigating climate change	N	The project is not expected to increase carbon sequestration and a reduction of greenhouse emissions.
Safeguard Standard 3: Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency			
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>			
3.1	the release of pollutants to the environment due to routine or non-routine circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and/or transboundary impacts?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
3.2	the generation of waste (both hazardous and non-hazardous)?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
3.3	the manufacture, trade, release, and/or use of hazardous materials and/or chemicals?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
3.4	the use of chemicals or materials subject to international bans or phase-outs? (e.g. DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the Montreal Protocol ,	N	Please refer to the ESS report.

Minamata Convention , Basel Convention , Rotterdam Convention , Stockholm Convention		
3.5 the application of pesticides or fertilizers that may have a negative effect on the environment (including non-target species) or human health?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
3.6 significant consumption of energy, water, or other material inputs?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
Safeguard Standard 4: Community Health, Safety and Security		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
4.1 the design, construction, operation and/or decommissioning of structural elements such as new buildings or structures (including those accessed by the public)?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
4.2 air pollution, noise, vibration, traffic, physical hazards, water runoff?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
4.3 exposure to water-borne or other vector-borne diseases (e.g. temporary breeding habitats), communicable or noncommunicable diseases?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
4.4 adverse impacts on natural resources and/or ecosystem services relevant to the communities' health and safety (e.g. food, surface water purification, natural buffers from flooding)?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.

4.5	transport, storage use and/or disposal of hazardous or dangerous materials (e.g. fuel, explosives, other chemicals that may cause an emergency event)?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
4.6	engagement of security personnel to support project activities (e.g. protection of property or personnel, patrolling of protected areas)?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
4.7	an influx of workers to the project area or security personnel (e.g. police, military, other)?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
Safeguard Standard 5: Cultural Heritage			
	<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
5.1	activities adjacent to or within a Cultural Heritage site?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
5.2	adverse impacts to sites, structures or objects with historical, cultural, artistic, traditional or religious values or to intangible forms of cultural heritage (e.g. knowledge, innovations, practices)?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
5.3	utilization of Cultural Heritage for commercial or other purposes (e.g. use of objects, practices, traditional knowledge, tourism)?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
5.4	alterations to landscapes and natural features with cultural significance?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
5.5	significant land clearing, demolitions, excavations, flooding?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.

5.6 identification and protection of cultural heritage sites or intangible forms of cultural heritage		
Safeguard Standard 6: Displacement and Involuntary Resettlement		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
6.1 full or partial physical displacement or relocation of people (whether temporary or permanent)?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
6.2 economic displacement (e.g. loss of assets or access to assets affecting for example crops, businesses, income generation sources)?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
6.2 involuntary restrictions on land/water use that deny a community the use of resources to which they have traditional or recognizable use rights?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
6.3 risk of forced evictions?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
6.4 changes in land tenure arrangements, including communal and/or customary/traditional land tenure patterns (including temporary/permanent loss of land)?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
Safeguard Standard 7: Indigenous Peoples		
<i>Would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		
7.1 areas where indigenous peoples are present or uncontacted or isolated indigenous peoples inhabit or where it is believed these peoples may inhabit?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.

7.2	activities located on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
7.3	impacts to the human rights of indigenous peoples or to the lands, territories and resources claimed by them?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
7.4	the utilization and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories claimed by indigenous peoples?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
7.5	adverse effects on the development priorities, decision making mechanisms, and forms of self-government of indigenous peoples as defined by them?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
7.6	risks to the traditional livelihoods, physical and cultural survival of indigenous peoples?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
7.7	impacts on the Cultural Heritage of indigenous peoples, including through the commercialization or use of their traditional knowledge and practices?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
Safeguard Standard 8: Labor and working conditions			
8.1	Will the proposed project involve hiring or contracting project staff ?	Y	The proposed project will involve hiring project staff.
	<i>If the answer to 8.1 is yes, would the project potentially involve or lead to:</i>		

8.2	working conditions that do not meet national labour laws or international commitments (e.g. ILO conventions)?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
8.3	the use of forced labor and child labor?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
8.4	occupational health and safety risks (including violence and harassment)?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
8.5	the increase of local or regional unemployment?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
8.6	suppliers of goods and services who may have high risk of significant safety issues related to their own workers?	N	Please refer to the ESS report.
8.7	unequal working opportunities and conditions for women and men	N	Please refer to the ESS report.

Appendix 2: Land Ownership Letter from the Government of Azerbaijan



**AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASININ
EKOLOGIYA VƏ TƏBİİ SƏRVƏTLƏR NAZİRLİYİ YANINDA
MİLLİ HİDROMETEOROLOGİYA XİDMƏTİ**

AZ1154 Bakı şəhəri, H.Əliyev prospekti 10
E-poçt : info.mhx@eco.gov.az

Tel/Fax: (+99412) 493 15 76
Tel: (+99412) 567 17 06

№ _____

« _____ » _____ 20__ ci il

Date: 28.01.2021

To: All Concerned

From: Umayra Taghiyeva, Director of National Hydrometeorology Service, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic

I, Umayra Taghiyeva, Director of National Hydrometeorology Service, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan Republic, assure all concerned that all weather instruments and equipment slated to be installed and deployed in Azerbaijan, under the UNEP "Strengthening climate services and impact-based multi-hazard early warning to increase resilience to climate change threats and enhance livelihoods of the population in Azerbaijan" project will be installed, operated, and maintained on Azerbaijan government owned lands.

Thank you.

Umayra Taghiyeva

Appendix 3: IFC Exclusion Checklist

IFC does not finance the following projects:

- Production or trade in any product or activity deemed illegal under host country laws or regulations or international conventions and agreements, or subject to international bans, such as pharmaceuticals, pesticides/herbicides, ozone depleting substances, PCB's, wildlife or products regulated under CITES.
- Production or trade in weapons and munitions.⁶⁰
- Production or trade in alcoholic beverages (excluding beer and wine).⁶⁰
- Production or trade in tobacco.⁶⁰
- Gambling, casinos and equivalent enterprises.⁶⁰
- Production or trade in radioactive materials. This does not apply to the purchase of medical equipment, quality control (measurement) equipment and any equipment where IFC considers the radioactive source to be trivial and/or adequately shielded.
- Production or trade in unbonded asbestos fibers. This does not apply to purchase and use of bonded asbestos cement sheeting where the asbestos content is less than 20%.
- Drift net fishing in the marine environment using nets in excess of 2.5 km. in length.

A reasonableness test will be applied when the activities of the project company would have a significant development impact but circumstances of the country require adjustment to the Exclusion List.

All financial intermediaries (FIs), except those engaged in activities specified below*, must apply the following exclusions, in addition to IFC's Exclusion List:

- Production or activities involving harmful or exploitative forms of forced labor⁶¹/harmful child labor.⁶⁰
- Commercial logging operations for use in primary tropical moist forest.

⁶⁰ The Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1995); Available at: <https://static2.president.az/media/W1siZiIsIjIwMTg0MDMvMDkvNHQzMWNrcGppYV9lb25zdGI0dXNpeWFfRU5HLnBkZiJdXQ?sha=c440b7c5f80d645b>

⁶¹ Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Protection of the Environment (1999); Available at: http://www.cawater-info.net/library/eng/az_prot_env.pdf

- Production or trade in wood or other forestry products other than from sustainably managed forests.

When investing in **microfinance** activities, FIs will apply the following items in addition to the IFC Exclusion List:

- Production or activities involving harmful or exploitative forms of forced labor⁶¹/harmful child labor.⁶⁰
- Production, trade, storage, or transport of significant volumes of hazardous chemicals, or commercial scale usage of hazardous chemicals. Hazardous chemicals include gasoline, kerosene, and other petroleum products.
- Production or activities that impinge on the lands owned, or claimed under adjudication, by Indigenous Peoples, without full documented consent of such peoples.

Trade finance projects, given the nature of the transactions, FIs will apply the following items in addition to the IFC Exclusion List:

- Production or activities involving harmful or exploitative forms of forced labor⁶¹/harmful child labor.⁶⁰

Footnotes

1. This does not apply to project sponsors who are not substantially involved in these activities. "Not substantially involved" means that the activity concerned is ancillary to a project sponsor's primary operations.

2. Forced labor means all work or service, not voluntarily performed, that is extracted from an individual under threat of force or penalty.

3. Harmful child labor means the employment of children that is economically exploitive, or is likely to be hazardous to, or to interfere with, the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health, or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development.