

Safeguards Considerations during the Development & Implementation of a GCF-financed project

Perspective from an Accredited Entity

Outline

- I. Overview of UNDP's Policy in the GCF Context
- II. Considerations during Project Development
- III. Considerations during Project Implementation



Overview of UNDP's Policy in the GCF Context

Key Messages

GCF's safeguards requirements are met by applying UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES)

Compliance with UNDP's policy ensures compliance with GCF's policy

Non-compliance could lead to a complaint, and/or investigation by UNDP or GCF

Safeguards considerations can improve project design, yield greater impacts

Consultations with stakeholders (esp. direct beneficiaries) is key

UNDP provides oversight support during implementation

UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards

Overarching Policy and Principles

Principle 1: Human Rights

Principle 2: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Principle 3: Environmental Sustainability

Project-Level Standards

1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable NRM
2. Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
3. Community Health, Safety and Working Conditions
4. Cultural Heritage
5. Displacement and Resettlement
6. Indigenous Peoples
7. Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency

Policy Delivery Process and Accountability

- Quality Assurance
- Screening and Categorization (SESP)
- Assessment and Management (ESMP)
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Accountability Mechanism (SECU, SRM)
- Access to Information
- Monitoring, Reporting and Compliance

Project Development

Key Safeguards Considerations for AEs (1 of 2)

- Early Engagement with GCF
 - Clarity on requirements from the start of project development can avoid costs
- Risk Screening & Categorization
 - Level and type of social/environmental risks determine extent of due diligence
- Time & Resources
 - Project development timeframes can be short
 - Management plans can require updates during implementation (e.g. if pilot sites TBD)



Project Development

Key Safeguards Considerations for AEs (2 of 2)

- Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation
 - Close engagement with government and NDA
 - Meaningful, effective participation in design (and implementation)
 - Gender-responsive, culturally sensitive, non-discriminatory, inclusive
- Baseline Data (Environmental and Social)
 - Are sufficient baseline data available; where and in what form; can partners assist, etc.
 - What to do when baseline data is unavailable (precautionary principle, conservative approach)
- Integrated Risk Assessments
 - Social and environmental risks should be assessed in an holistic, integrated manner



Project Development

Example from Sri Lanka

- Project outputs:
 1. Upgrading and enhancing resilience of **village irrigation systems** and scaling up climate-resilient farming practices
 2. Enhancing climate-resilient, decentralized water supply for **safe year-round drinking water** to vulnerable communities
 3. Strengthening climate, hydrological **observing and forecasting systems** to enhance water management and adaptive capacity
- Screening revealed 6 E/S risks (4 rated Low; 2 rated Moderate) → overall **Moderate / Category B**
- Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) prepared
- Extensive **on-the-ground consultations** were undertaken
- A project-level **Complaints Register and Grievance Redress Mechanism** determined to be needed
- A **Gender Action Plan** and **Stakeholder Engagement Plan** were also developed

Baseline Data Collected for Safeguards Screening, Assessment & Management

- Weather, rainfall, climate data, air quality
- Hydrology of surface, groundwater; water quality
- Flora and Fauna – threatened/important species; sensitive ecosystems
- Socioeconomic data, ethnic minorities
- Topography, geology, sediment types, etc. (for Erosion and Sediment Control Plan)
- Waste management
- Planning, land use, past and future practices
- Etc.

Project Implementation

Key Safeguards Considerations for AEs

- Oversight, quality assurance; supporting compliance during implementation
- Monitoring and Reporting
 - APR, Interim Report , Terminal Evaluation
- Iterative screenings, if/when necessary
- Updates to management plans
- Establishment of project-level grievance redress mechanisms
- Continuous stakeholder engagement and consultation



Project Implementation

Example from Sri Lanka

Monitoring

- At least every 2 months, reviews and updates to be undertaken
- Weekly reports to MMDE and UNDP are required for some issues (e.g. flora and fauna) during certain activities
- Daily inspections for some risks (e.g. erosion, contaminants)
- Stop-work orders if activities do not adhere to ESMP
- Ongoing engagement, including participatory monitoring

Reporting

- Inception Report included discussion on ESMP
- Annual reporting to GCF on ESMP done in the APR
- Recording data and incidents critical to maintaining compliance
- Daily and weekly environmental inspection checklists
- MMDE to be notified immediately of material or serious harm

Grievance Redress Mechanism

- Additional to UNDP's Accountability Mechanism (SRM and SECU)
- Coordinated by the project Safeguards Officer
- 2-Tier Committee, building on existing structures

Concluding Remarks

- Safeguards considerations are essential to developing high-quality projects for GCF
- Management of environmental and social risks is critical for successful implementation and achievement of the project's objective





Thank You