



GREEN  
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# GCF REGIONAL DIALOGUE

with EASTERN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA

**Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia**  
18–22 March 2024



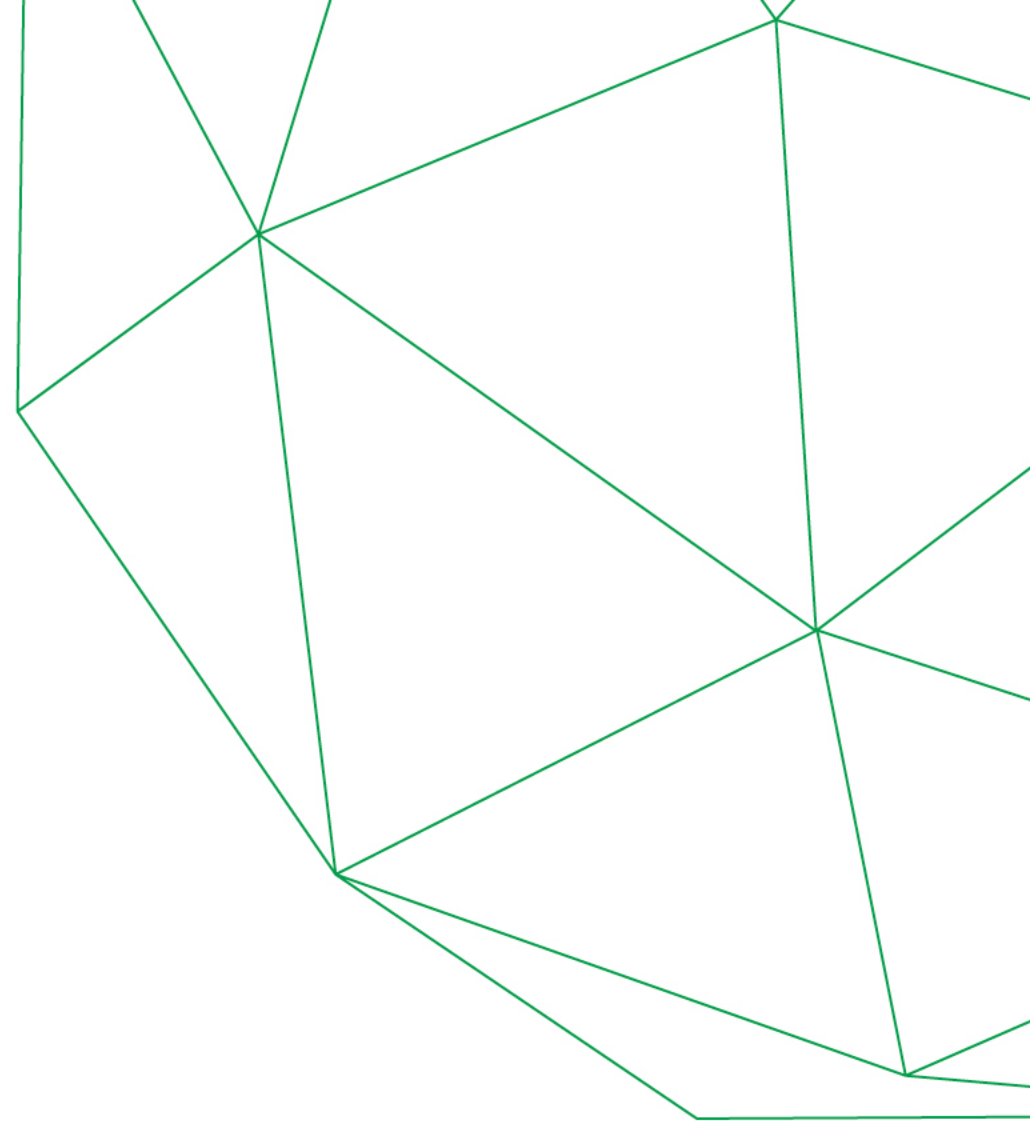
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# **DEVELOPING GCF-ALIGNED AND HIGH-QUALITY PROJECTS: SUSTAINABILITY POLICIES OF THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND**

Jen Rubis, Indigenous Peoples Specialist, OSI

**Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia**  
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# Environmental and social management system (ESMS)

- Approach to integrating environmental sustainability and social inclusion
  - ESMS underpins Funds operations and decision-making
- ‘do no harm’ and ‘do good’
- Emphasis on stakeholder engagement
  - communities and vulnerable groups e.g. women, Indigenous Peoples, youth and others

# Sustainability Policies

Revised Environmental  
and Social Policy  
(B.BM-2021/18,  
B.19/10)



SEAH provisions  
(2021)

Environmental and  
Social Safeguard  
(ESS) Standards

Interim ESS (B.07/02)  
*GCF ESS in development*

Indigenous Peoples  
Policy (B.19/11)

Indigenous Peoples  
Advisory Group

Updated Gender  
Policy (B.24/12)

Gender Action Plan  
(B.24/12)

# 1. *Interim* Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS)



PS1 –  
Assessment and  
Management of  
ES Risks and  
Impacts



PS2 – Labor  
and Working  
Conditions



PS3 – Resource  
Efficiency and  
Pollution  
Prevention



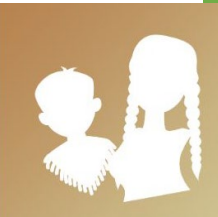
PS4 –  
Community  
Health, Safety  
& Security



PS5 – Land  
Acquisition and  
Involuntary  
Resettlement



PS6 – Biodiversity  
Conservation and  
Sustainable  
Management of  
Living Natural  
Resources

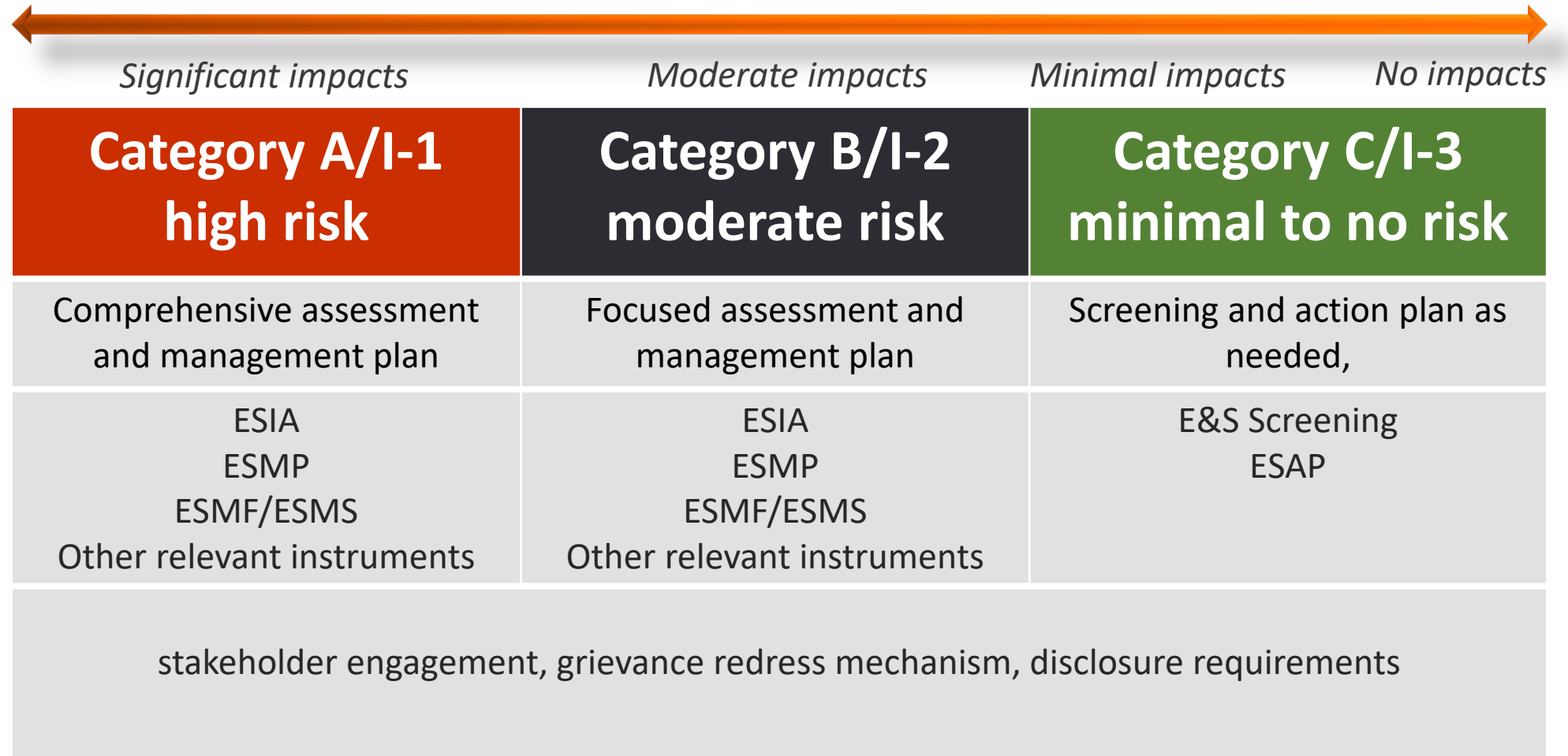


PS7 –  
Indigenous  
Peoples



PS8 – Cultural  
Heritage

# Environmental and Social Due Diligence – Risk Based Approach



## 2. SEAH Safeguarding - definitions

### Sexual Exploitation

Any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to profiting monetarily, socially, or politically from the sexual exploitation of another

### Sexual Abuse

The actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions

### Sexual Harassment

Includes unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, & other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, that interferes with work, or is made a condition of employment, or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment in connection with a Fund-related activity

# SEAH Safeguarding

## Policy

Prevention and Protection from SEAH (adopted in 2019, revised in 2021)

Revisions to Environmental and Social Policy (ESP) (2021)

## Responsibilities

### AEs

- Positively demonstrate due diligence and assessed risk of SEAH during funding proposal development
- Put in place SEAH prevention and mitigation measures identified

### GCF

- Develop a SEAH Action Plan outlining concrete implementation plans of requirements in the revised policy



# Sexual Exploitation, Abuse & Harassment (SEAH) Risk Assessment Tool



## SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, ABUSE AND HARASSMENT (SEAH) RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDELINE

A Toolkit for Green Climate Fund (GCF) Financed  
Activities



- Considers the SEAH-specific provisions in the Revised Environmental and Social Policy (applicable to all GCF-financed projects & programmes)
- Operationalizes the objectives and priorities in the SEAH Action Plan
- Applies to Secretariat (especially the programming divisions who work with AEs), AEs, EEs

### 3. Updated Gender policy

- Women, as well as men, significantly contribute to combating climate change.
- Climate change impacts women and men differently, and women are often disproportionately affected.
- Gender inequality, exacerbated by climate change, is linked to vulnerability and risk.
- First climate finance mechanism to mainstream gender perspectives as an essential decision-making element for resource deployment.





## Gender Assessment

Identification of gender inequality issues / gaps and potential contributions of women and men to climate action

## Gender Action Plan

Addresses the challenges identified in the gender assessment; Contributes to reaching gender equality and women's empowerment

## 4. Indigenous Peoples Policy

- Indigenous Peoples have invaluable and critical contributions to make to climate change mitigation and adaptation, including through indigenous knowledge.
- While highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, climate change action can also pose threats.


### Identifying Indigenous Peoples

1. Self-identification
2. Collective attachment to the environment
3. Customary distinct cultural, cultural, economic, social or political systems
4. Distinct language often different from official

(IP Policy Scope of Application)

# Indigenous Peoples Policy & ESS7



									
		<i>Significant impacts</i>		<i>Moderate impacts</i>		<i>Minimal impacts</i>		<i>No impacts</i>	
Level of risk and impacts	Risks, impacts opportunities assessment and management	<b>Category A/I-1 high risk</b>		<b>Category B/I-2 moderate risk</b>		<b>Category C/I-3 minimal to no risk</b>			
		Comprehensive assessment and management plan Benefits and inclusion		Screening for IPs undertaken Focused assessment and management plan, as needed Benefits and inclusion		Screening for IPs undertaken  Benefits and inclusion			
		Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF)* or IP Plan  * Outlined in IP Policy OG		IP Plan or IPPF; or within ESMF		Residual mitigation in ESAP as necessary Project Exclusion list where appropriate			
Skopje, Republic of No		stakeholder engagement including meaningful consultation and free, prior and informed consent, grievance redress mechanism, disclosure requirements, Indigenous Peoples in broader planning							



# Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group



Members of IPAG with GCF Senior Management at the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the IPAG, September 2023

Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia | 18–22 March

# Relevant policies and guidelines

Revised Environmental and Social Policy: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/revised-environmental-and-social-policy>

IFC Performance Standards: <https://www.ifc.org/en/insights-reports/2012/ifc-performance-standards>

Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Harassment (SEAH) risk assessment guideline:

<https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/sexual-exploitation-abuse-and-harassment-seah-risk-assessment-guideline>

Action plan for addressing Sexual Exploitation, Sexual Abuse, and Sexual Harassment:

<https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/page/seah-action-plan-gcf-financed-activities.pdf>

Updated Gender Policy: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/gender-policy>

Indigenous Peoples Policy: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/indigenous-peoples-policy>

Operational guidelines: Indigenous Peoples Policy: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/operational-guidelines-indigenous-peoples-policy>

Sustainability Guidance Note: Designing and ensuring meaningful stakeholder engagement on GCF-financed activities: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/sustainability-guidance-note-designing-and-ensuring-meaningful-stakeholder-engagement-gcf>

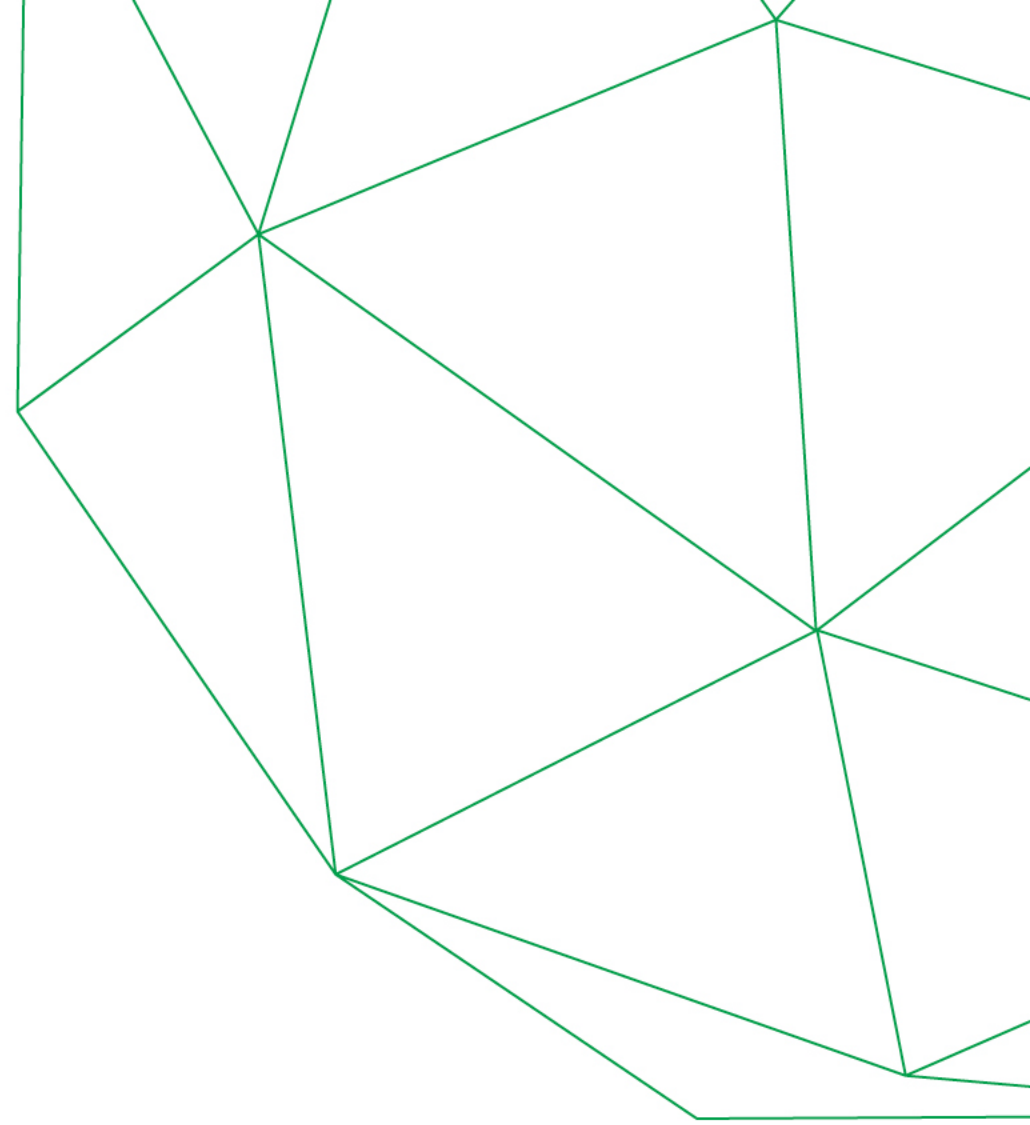


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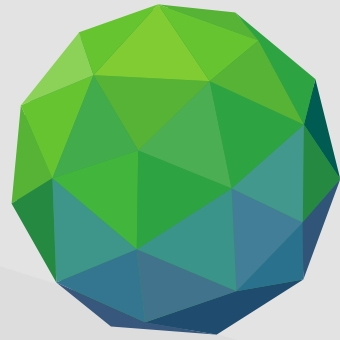
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# Q & A

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