

Annex II: Outline of a Targeted Environmental and Social Assessment

An Abbreviated Environmental and Social Assessment (ESIA) is an important tool for incorporating environmental and / or social concerns at the individual project level, and should be carried out as early as possible in the project planning stage. As opposed to a regular ESIA that requires a comprehensive impact assessment process, an abbreviated ESIA is a targeted assessment that covers only those risks that have been identified by the ESMS Screening. The ESMS Guidance Note on Social Impact Assessment (SIA)¹ provides complimentary guidance including a non-exhaustive list of topics relevant for understanding social impacts.

An Abbreviated ESIA should consist of the following:

1. Description of the Project and of Environmental and Social context: Sufficient details should be provided on the following:

- Executing entities of the project (e.g. main project lead as well as project partners) and their respective roles in the project
- Geographic location, including maps showing general location, specific location, and project site
- Project objective(s), expected results/outcomes, outputs and main project activities (including proposed schedule for implementation)
- Risk category as per ESMS Screening
- Implementation arrangements

2. Environmental and social context relevant for the identified risk issues

e.g. physical resources, ecological resources, social and cultural resources etc.

3. Scoping of Potential Impacts: Using readily available sector guidelines², this section will attempt to identify and predict the nature, extent, and magnitude of negative environmental and social impacts likely to result from a proposed project. It will use simple tools and techniques, the choice of which depends upon the impacts of concern, data availability, and the appropriate specificity of predictive models.

¹ Available at: https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/iucn_esms_sia_guidance_note.pdf

² A good example is the World Bank Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines: https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/topics_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/sustainability-at-ifc/policies-standards/ehs-guidelines

4. Formulating Mitigation Measures: Once impacts have been analysed, their significance will be determined, i.e., whether they are acceptable, require mitigation, or are unacceptable. Subsequently, measures will be devised to mitigate anticipated environmental changes and consequential impacts during project implementation and operation, or further reduce the residual environmental changes inherent in the selected project design. They normally include technical, social, and institutional measures to be implemented as integral elements of the project.

5. Institutional Requirements and Environmental Monitoring Plan: This section should state the impacts to be mitigated, and activities to implement the mitigation measures, including how, when, and where they will be implemented (see guidance on ESMP³). Institutional arrangements for implementation should be described. Where mitigation measures are relative straight forward, monitoring will focus on progress of implementation of measures. Where impacts are more complex and significant, the monitoring plan will establish dedicated indicators for monitoring the impacts, targets, timeline and responsibilities the environmental management and monitoring costs should also be described.

6. Public Consultation and Information Disclosure: This section will describe the process undertaken to involve the public in project design and recommended measures for continuing public participation; summarise major comments received from beneficiaries, local officials, community leaders, NGOs, and others, and describe how these comments were addressed; list milestones in public involvement such as dates, attendance, and topics of public meetings; list recipients of this document and other project related documents; describe compliance with relevant regulatory requirements for public participation, where relevant; and summarise other related materials or activities, such as press releases and notifications.

7. Conclusions

³ Available at : https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/esms_esmp_guidance_note_and_template.docx