



Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility

## Pacific Region Infrastructure Facility (PRIF) Coordination Office

Promotion of the Shared Approach for  
Management of Environmental and Social Risks  
and Impacts

Tool 1: Shared Approach - Environment and Social  
Management Review Template

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## Promotion of the Shared Approach (SA) for Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

### **Tool 1: Shared Approach (SA) Environmental and Social Management Review Template**

#### 1.0 Introduction

The [SA document](#) provides guidance to address environmental and social safeguard issues and challenges in the Pacific Island Countries (PICs) across a common set of methods and procedures suitable to the PICs' context and simultaneously enhancing the application of each PRIF development partner's safeguard policies, as well as increasing the coherence of the application of safeguards in the PICs. Thus, the SA is a convergent of harmonized approaches to managing E&S risks and impacts resulting in enhanced project-level safeguard performance and outcomes.

The SA acknowledged the role of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) in supporting the PICs to strengthen and implement their Country Safeguard Systems (CSS). Across the Pacific, CSS rely heavily on the use of EIA tools to inform their decisions on land use development (etc). SPREP provides institutional and individual trainings for PICs, using its EIA guidelines as 'best practice' for strengthening national EIA processes and systems. In addition to providing step-by-step explanations throughout the EIA process, the SPREP guideline also includes a toolkit, comprising of 4 tools that PICs may use for screening, preparing terms of reference, EIA report review and risk assessments. To complement these EIA tools from a safeguard's perspective, this SA tool will complement the EIA tools by organizing information (+ cataloguing risks and impacts) along safeguard benchmarks that are usually important for PRIF development partners. Therefore, the value added of this tool is that it will help PICs' EIA Administrators and staff to identify high-level issues relating to the application of development partner's safeguard requirements as well as helping national government counterparts "think through" what needs to be done.

A rapid comparison of PRIF development partners safeguard policies shows that the World Bank contains the latest stringent measures of safeguards policies and benchmarks as encapsulated through its [Environment and Social Framework or ESF](#). In it, it prescribes 10 environmental and social standards for which 8<sup>1</sup> are adopted by this guidance and reflected in this paper as 'environmental and social benchmarks'.

#### 2.0 Purpose

The purpose of this explanatory note is to help PICs to identify key environmental and social risks and impacts using an environmental and social management review template for the SA. The template can support national EIA agencies to assess project related E&S risks and impacts in-order to engage better with development partners, project staff (Executing Agencies and Implementing Agency/PMU) and contractors on requirements for environmental assessments and development consent applications.

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<sup>1</sup> Benchmark (ESS9) on financial intermediaries do not necessarily apply in the Pacific and are therefore omitted from the SA benchmarks.



### 3.0 Environmental and Social Benchmarks (ESBMs)

Given the vast expanse of objectives and purposes of the PRIF's development partners safeguard needs, systematic cataloging would help in capturing the environmental and social (E&S) risks and impacts in their entirety. The cataloging also sets out the requirements, viz., **benchmarks**, to serve as a point of reference to identify & enlist, assess, and evaluate the significance of the project's environmental and social risks and impacts. This shall not only help in managing the risks and impacts but also enable the accomplishment of the desired E&S performance. With this in view, this paper proposes 9 Benchmarks. The desired results are described in detail under each BM and the means to achieve the same shall be proportionate to the nature and scale of risks. The (proposed) BMs are enumerated below.

#### ESBM 1: Environmental and Social Assessment of Risks and Impacts

Provides a bird's eye view of all the risks and impacts as shall be described under each of the 9 Benchmarks. The major objective is to identify and assess E&S risk impacts and ensure, in particular, that the poor, disadvantaged and vulnerable are not adversely affected disproportionately. And that they do derive benefits. A generic idea about the management/ mitigatory measures and the instruments thereof also fall under the purview of this benchmark.

The key issues/ challenges covered by this BM include the following:

1. **Inclusion/ Exclusion.** The interventions shall ensure that all sections of society, especially, poor, disadvantaged, and vulnerable sections/ households do get an opportunity to participate and derive benefits from the project. Errors of inclusion and exclusion, resulting in perceived as well as reputational risks, are identified and mitigation measures are developed and adopted as a part of the project management. The focus shall be on women, female-headed households (both de-factor and de-jure), the elderly, unemployed youth, subsistence farmers/ fishers, disabled persons, and indigenous people. In-depth inquiries shall be on gender equality and indigenous people. Attention to LGBT shall be in accordance with local socio-cultural sensitivity. This will also cover GBV and SEA/SH aspects too.
2. **Stakeholder Engagement.** Overall political economy and governance conditions could affect free and fair consultations, disclosure, and grievance redress. Analyzing the country's context and contextual risks that involves evaluating the impacts and risks, including those related to human rights, from the external operating environment and factoring these risks into decision-making and overall risk management. Digital freedom comprising personal data protection, internet freedom, cyber security, digital inclusion, etc., also could fall under the ambit of SE.
3. **Labor Management** includes Occupational Health, safety, and security as well as Community Health and Safety. This shall cover an overview of labor usage in the project and the potential labor-related risks.
4. **Involuntary Resettlement** deals with the adverse effects because of land acquisitions leading to physical and/or economic displacements.
5. **Indigenous Peoples and Communities** are socially and culturally distinct communities and their livelihoods, as well as social networks, are intrinsically associated with the physical and natural environment they live. So, any disturbance could affect them adversely.
6. **Cultural Heritage** could include both tangible and intangible cultural aspects.



7. **Resource efficiency and pollution prevention.** While the interventions should promote sustainable use of resources, minimizing adverse impacts on health and the environment as well as climate by minimizing pollution because of project intervention is equally important.
8. **Biodiversity conservation and climate resilience,** to protect flora and fauna such as to ensure sustainable livelihoods.

#### Range of Key Instruments Typical Used by PRIF Development Partners:

Central to the BM is the use of impact assessment as a forward-looking instrument to analyze in an integrated manner the E&S impacts and risks and to develop and adopt the mitigation hierarchy and good international practice. The assessments shall be proportionate to the nature and scale of risks and impacts and could include direct, indirect, and cumulative effects. These could include:

- 1) initial environmental examination (IEE),
- 2) Initial Poverty and Social Assessment/Analysis (IPSA),
- 3) environmental and social impact assessments (ESIA),
- 4) environmental audits,
- 5) vulnerability assessments,
- 6) social conflict and security assessments,
- 7) environmental and social impact management plans (ESMP),
- 8) environmental and social management framework (ESMF),
- 9) strategic environmental and social assessment (SESA),
- 10) cultural heritage management plan (CHMP),
- 11) resettlement framework/plan (RF/ RP),
- 12) Indigenous Peoples Framework/ Plan (IPP/ IPF),
- 13) Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP); and
- 14) labor management procedures/ plans (LMP).

#### ESBM 2: Stakeholder Engagement.

This BM recognizes that effective and inclusive engagement with the stakeholders is critical for the success of a project. It includes (i) identifying the key stakeholders at different levels- project, sub-national, national and international; (ii) mapping their relevance to the project; (iii) assessing their expectations, issues, and concerns; (iv) planning engagement throughout the project cycle; (v) deciding on the materials to be shared, means of reaching out, frequencies, scheduling; (vi) documentation and disclosure of proceedings; and (v) grievance redress mechanisms. A separate window should be established for addressing SEA/SH concerns. The key Instrument is the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or SEP.

#### ESBM 3: Labor Management.

The Workforce impacts because of infrastructure projects are quite substantial. The construction and external labor force compete for scarce fresh water and good food, HIV, Aids, and recreational drugs too emerge. Lack of understanding of the local customs and practices often results in conflicts. Local people may feel deprived of employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. So, Good labor practices and the use of appropriate codes of conduct are important to ensure that workers' fundamental rights are respected and that working conditions are fair and decent as per national legislation and international good practices. This BM categorizes labor into direct workers, contracted, community, and primary supply



workers and sets the requirements in respect of each category. It aims to ensure that the projects ensure and promote safety and health at work, prevent the use of child and forced labor, and provide a mechanism for airing their grievances. This also covers, apart from GBV and SEA/SH, labor camps and migrant labor's interface with the local communities. Key instruments are LMP, OHSP; SEA/SH risk rating, CESMP, Security Assessment and Plan, and GRM.

#### ESBM 4: Involuntary Resettlement

In the PIC context obtaining access to land has two significant constraints. Physically, land is an extremely limited resource in most locations. Culturally, most land is communally owned or held in some form of communal public trust and deemed by the owners to be inalienable. Therefore, even relatively minor changes in land use, in environmental conditions, or in local distribution of economic opportunity may have disproportionately significant implications for local livelihoods or social conditions. This benchmark recognizes that due to the shortage of land in the PICs, infrastructure projects could need 'lands' resulting in land acquisition and/ or restrictions on land use which will have adverse impacts on individuals and households. This could cause physical and/ or economic displacement. It is termed 'involuntary' when affected persons or communities do not have the right to refuse such land acquisitions. As a principle, no project should result in forced evictions.

The objectives of this ESBM are:

- 1) avoid or when not possible, minimize IR through adjustments to project design;
- 2) mitigate the adverse impacts through appropriate resettlement and rehabilitation packages;
- 3) ensure that People Affected by the Project (PAP) livelihoods are not worse off; and
- 4) provide for informed participation thus transforming IR into a development opportunity.

Consultation with potentially affected communities is an integral part of any process to obtain land access. Articulation of broad community support is essential in obtaining land access, for construction, and for sustainable project operation. While the views of traditional leaders should be solicited, it is also important to engage communities in a broad and inclusive manner. Because negotiations to obtain land access may involve the risk of inequitable distribution of any negotiated benefits as well as adverse impacts within local communities, the planning process should not assume that traditional leaders necessarily represent the interests of all community members. Consultations and planning processes should promote transparency and accountability in all processes to obtain land access.

This ESBM correlates with ESBM 2 and ESBM 5 and incorporate Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM). Development partners often refer to the use of instruments such as the Resettlement Plan (RP) - which could be prepared prior to implementation/ appraisal if all the details about the project location, components, nature, and extent of adverse effects are well known. If not, in the case of a Framework Project, as the details become known only during the implementation phase, a Resettlement Framework (RF) is prepared. In some cases, wherein the land requirements are small and not location-specific, lands could be secured through voluntary land donations.

#### ESBM 5: Indigenous Peoples (IP) and Communities.

Projects need to screen and identify whether Indigenous Peoples are present in the project area and whether the proposed interventions impact IPs. The design and implementation should be such as to foster full respect for IPs identity, dignity, human rights, livelihood systems, and cultural uniqueness as defined by the Indigenous Peoples themselves so that they (i) receive culturally appropriate social and economic benefits, (ii) do not suffer adverse impacts as a result of projects, and (iii) can participate actively

Commented [ss1]: Point well taken



in projects that affect them<sup>2</sup>. Key Instruments are Indigenous Peoples Plan and Indigenous Peoples Framework.

#### ESBM 6: Cultural Heritage

This ESBM recognizes the central role of cultural heritage as a source of valuable historical and scientific information, an asset for economic and social development and an integral part of people's cultural rights, identity, and practices. Consistent with the applicable international conventions and declarations. This benchmark aims to identify and assess project risks and potential impacts affecting tangible and intangible cultural heritage and covers the management and monitoring of related mitigation measures to improve environmental and social performance. Projects will aim to protect cultural heritage from the adverse impacts of project activities and support its preservation. This will be through meaningful consultation with stakeholders regarding cultural heritage to promote the equitable sharing of benefits from the use of cultural heritage.

The ESBM aims to address cultural heritage as an integral aspect of sustainable development. Intangible cultural heritage includes practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills may prevent the sharing of knowledge with outsiders. This requires the application of the precautionary principles by acknowledging the potential for knowledge gaps in the location of tangible cultural heritage may be above or below land, located in urban or rural settings, or underwater, and includes natural features and landscapes. It includes specific provisions on archaeological sites and material, built heritage, natural features with cultural significance, and movable cultural heritage.; the ESBM emphasizes the need for a chance find procedure outlining the actions to be taken if previously unknown cultural heritage is encountered.

#### ESBM 7: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention.

Due to the limited resources, land shortage, remoteness, and often low-lying topography of many PICs the impacts of pollution including solid waste and hazardous waste management associated with infrastructure developments can be particularly challenging. Many PICs have set 100% renewable energy goals, the migration to these technologies will require appropriate mitigation measures to minimize impacts during this transition. This benchmark recognizes that economic activity and urbanization often generate pollution to air, water, and land, and consume finite resources that may threaten people, ecosystem services, and the environment -at the local, regional, and global levels.

The current and projected atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases (GHG) threatens the welfare of current and future generations. At the same time, more efficient and effective resource use, pollution prevention, and GHG emission avoidance, and mitigation technologies and practices have become more accessible and achievable. It aims to support the fair transition to economies and communities that are more resource efficient, climate and disaster resilient, low carbon, environmentally sound, and apply pollution prevention measures in accordance with the mitigation hierarchy. Such as:

- (a) Promoting the sustainable use of resources, including energy, water, and raw materials.
- (b) Avoiding or minimizing adverse impacts on human health and the environment by avoiding or minimizing pollution from project activities.
- (c) Avoid or minimize project-related emissions of short- and long-lived climate pollutants.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>2</sup> [Safeguard Policy Statement \(June 2009\) \(adb.org\)](#).



- (d) Avoid or minimize the generation of hazardous and non-hazardous waste.
- (e) Minimize and manage the risks and impacts associated with pesticide use.

Projects will consider alternatives and implement technically and financially feasible and cost-effective options to avoid or minimize project-related air emissions during the design, construction, and operation of the project. The measures will be proportionate to the risks and impacts associated with the project. The environmental and social assessment will consider potentially significant project-related transboundary and global risks and impacts, such as impacts from effluents and emissions, increased use or contamination of international waterways, emissions of short- and long-lived climate pollutants, (including all GHG and black carbon) climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience issues, and impacts on threatened or depleted migratory species and their habitats.

#### ESBM 8: Biodiversity conservation and climate resilience

Further to ESBM 4 and 6 this benchmark supports Pacific islanders' socio-economic reliance and cultural connection to their island ecosystems. This benchmark recognizes that protecting and conserving biodiversity and sustainably managing living natural resources are fundamental to sustainable development. Biodiversity is defined as the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems. Impacts on biodiversity can therefore often adversely affect the delivery of ecosystem services.

Objectives of this benchmark include:

- 1) to protect and conserve biodiversity and habitats with consideration to links to carbon sequestration,
- 2) to screen against project contribution for accelerating and/or intensification of climate change impacts on people and communities,
- 3) to apply the mitigation hierarchy and the precautionary approach in the design and implementation of projects that could have an impact on biodiversity,
- 4) to promote the sustainable management of living natural resources, and
- 5) to support livelihoods of local communities, including Indigenous and vulnerable peoples, and inclusive economic development, through the adoption of practices that integrate conservation needs and development priorities.

The small island nature of PICs means that the ecosystem services are closely interlinked across the land and seascape, from ridge to reef and therefore any development has the potential to impact upon an island ecosystem. Conversely the ecosystem services of PICs provide vital capacity and resilience for islands and communities to cope with the impacts of climate change.

Reefs, seagrass lagoons and mangroves can provide coastal protection as well as naturally accrete land. Loss of these coastal ecosystems or clearance of land-based vegetation reduces biodiversity and can destabilize shorelines increasing rates of erosion and land loss. This benchmark recognizes the importance of maintaining ecosystem function of habitats, including forests, and the biodiversity they support and their links to climate change through sequestration of carbon dioxide. Habitat is defined as a terrestrial,





freshwater, or marine geographical unit or airway that supports assemblages of living organisms and their interactions with the nonliving environment.

This ESBM also addresses sustainable management of primary production and harvesting of living natural resources. ESBM8 recognizes the need to consider the livelihood of project-affected parties, including disadvantaged and vulnerable peoples, whose access to, or use of, biodiversity or living natural resources may be affected by a project. The potential, positive role of project affected parties, including Indigenous Peoples, in biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources is also considered.

ESBM8 recognizes that communities already subjected to impacts from climate change may also experience an acceleration or intensification of impacts due to project activities. To promote quality and safety, and considerations relating to climate change, in the design and construction of infrastructure, including dams, seawalls, ports, dredging and other projects likely to alter coastal process. Along with ESBM 7 this benchmark requires project-level impacts on climate change and biodiversity are addressed and consideration of the impacts of climate change (including potential for increased extreme weather events and sea level rise) have been applied during the selection, siting, planning, design and implementation and decommissioning of projects.

### Tool 1: SA Environment and Social Management Review Template

#### Basic Project Data

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Country (Name)</b>             |  |
| Project Name                      |  |
| Development Partner(s)            |  |
| National Executing Agency (EA)    |  |
| National Implementing Agency (IP) |  |
| Reviewer: (National EIA Agency)   |  |
| Cleared by: EIA Administrator     |  |
| Date of Review                    |  |
| Key documents relevant for review |  |



Provide brief relevance and utility of the project in broad terms

**Description of Proposed Project and Objective**

Overview of the Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to the Development Agenda of the Financing Partners as well as that of the PRIF.

**Environmental and Social Outline**

C.1. A brief about the project location(s) in the background of country's geographical setting as well as salient macro-economic, political, social, and cultural aspects. These are to be described as relevant to assessing environmental and social risks and impacts.



exhaustive assessment of the institutional / implementation capacity be done to determine the gaps, if any, and measures to fill the same, in terms of capacity support and capacity building.

### Initial Assessment of Potential Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts.

Environmental and Social Risk Categorization – *High, Substantial, Moderate, Low*

The risk categorization is made based on an initial enquiry into the E&S issues/ challenges the project likely to encounter and could hinder accomplishing the development objectives. The issues/ challenges are identified and assessed for their relevance based upon the following factors: overall country context-including sectoral policies, implementation performance of the previous projects in the country, lessons learned from similar projects in the nearby countries and emerging global issues/ concerns. Based on these, risk categorization is justified. Refer to Annex A for Risk Classification.

#### Environmental Risks

Environmental risks covering both internal and external risks (please refer to this in the CN). The former relates mostly to the construction linked impacts and risks which could encompass access to and long-term depletion of natural resources, hazardous waste and climate change risks as well as risks of impacts on the project from the environment. This could cover the climate change risks, including carbon footprint and risks from the environment including rising sea levels and increased frequency of extreme weather events, heavy rain, flooding, king tides, landslides, geological stability and tectonic risks including tsunamis. Projects that increase human access or demand for resources in areas of high biodiversity can increase the risks of disease including zoonotic transmission. All PIC projects should also consider the potential risks of transboundary conflicts, particularly for shared resources.

|                           |                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Environmental Risk Rating | High/Substantial/Moderate/Low |
|                           |                               |

#### Social Risks

Social risks should, in general, inclusion and exclusion-related errors and risks as a result of not inherent project management, but also overall governance political economy context. Given limited land resources focus should be heavily on economic/ physical displacements as well as workforce impacts, including labour management, health, safety and security, intangible cultural property, socio-cultural networks, livelihoods, youth & women employment, social protection issues. Sub-category discussions could include gender equity, GBV, SEA/SH, Child/ Forced labour as well as digital freedom. Some projects including tourism, fisheries/agriculture and resource exploitation have associated transboundary conflict risks. Further details are enumerated in the CN.



|                    |                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Social Risk Rating | High/Substantial/Moderate/Low |
|                    |                               |

**Overall Risk Rating – (circle appropriate rating)**

- High/ Substantial/ Moderate/ Low

**Environment and Social Benchmarks (ESBMs)**

ESBMs 1, 2, 3 and 6 are mandatory for all the projects. For the remaining, a decision is to be made on whether to trigger for the project or not. If triggered, full description shall be made. If not, a brief explanation is required as to why it is not applicable.

**ESBM1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts.**

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Relevant: Yes/ NO | YES |
|-------------------|-----|

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| Risks & Impacts:<br>Instruments: |
|----------------------------------|

**ESBM 2. Stakeholder Engagement.**

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Relevant: Yes/ NO | YES |
|-------------------|-----|

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| Risks & Impacts:<br>Instruments: |
|----------------------------------|

**ESBM 3. Labour Management, Community Health & Safety**

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Applicable: Yes/ NO | YES |
|---------------------|-----|

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| Risks & Impacts:<br>Instruments: |
|----------------------------------|

**ESBM 4. Involuntary Resettlement**

|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| Applicable: Yes/ NO | YES/NO |
|---------------------|--------|

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| Risks & Impacts:<br>Instruments: |
|----------------------------------|



**ESBM 5. Indigenous Peoples**

|                     |        |
|---------------------|--------|
| Applicable: Yes/ NO | YES/NO |
|---------------------|--------|

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| Risks & Impacts:<br>Instruments: |
|----------------------------------|

**ESBM 6. Cultural Heritage**

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Applicable: Yes/ NO | YES / NO |
|---------------------|----------|

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| Risks & Impacts:<br>Instruments: |
|----------------------------------|

**ESBM 7: Resource efficiency and pollution prevention**

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Applicable: Yes/ NO | YES / NO |
|---------------------|----------|

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| Risks & Impacts:<br>Instruments: |
|----------------------------------|

**ESBM 8: Biodiversity conservation and climate resilience**

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Applicable: Yes/ NO | YES/ NO |
|---------------------|---------|

|                                  |
|----------------------------------|
| Risks & Impacts:<br>Instruments: |
|----------------------------------|

### Environmental and Social Due Diligence

Based on the deliberations of ESBM 1 through ESBM8, a matrix of management measures to fulfill the objective(s) of each ESBMs are drawn. This matrix depicts in respect of each of 8 ESBM – key Issue, proposed measures, actions and timing and agency bearing responsibility.

The table below can be used to capture the key environment and social risks and impacts of a project by the national EIA agency. Such information can be fed into the national EIA process. It contains information that can cross over to PICs own reporting templates, including SPREP EIA tools.

| No | ESBM                 | Risks & Impacts | Responsible Agency | Timeline | Remarks/<br>Budget |
|----|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------|--------------------|
| 1  | ESBM 1               |                 |                    |          |                    |
| 2  | ESBM 2               |                 |                    |          |                    |
| 3  | ESBM 3               |                 |                    |          |                    |
| 4  | ESBM 4               |                 |                    |          |                    |
| 5  | ESBM 5               |                 |                    |          |                    |
| 6  | ESBM 6               |                 |                    |          |                    |
| 7  | ESBM 7               |                 |                    |          |                    |
| 8  | ESBM 8               |                 |                    |          |                    |
| 9  | ESBM 9               |                 |                    |          |                    |
| 10 | Capacity Building    |                 |                    |          |                    |
| 11 | Technical Assistance |                 |                    |          |                    |



## Annex A: Risk Classification and Ratings

Risks emanate from two broad spheres – one, internal to the project, which is in the realm of the project; and the other, external to it. The former could be assessed based on a variety of contributory factors such as the type, location, sensitivity, and scale of the project; nature and significance of the E&S impacts likely to occur; and the legal measures as well as the institutional capacity of the clients executing the project. The external factors could include governance structures, political stability, conflicts, security, and other related global changes. Taking into these contributory factors, the project's risk could be classified as: High Risk, Substantial Risk, Moderate Risk, and Low risk.

A proposed project is categorized as High Risk if it is likely to have significant adverse environmental and social impacts that are irreversible, diverse, or unprecedented. These impacts may affect an area larger than the sites or facilities subject to physical works.

A proposed project is categorized as Substantial if the interventions are likely to result in limited adverse environmental or social risks and/or impacts that are few in number, generally site-specific, largely reversible, and readily addressed through mitigation measures.

A proposed project is categorized as Moderate Risk if potential environmental and social impacts can be readily predicted, prevented, and/or mitigated if the project could be supplemented/ complemented w

A proposed project is categorized as Low Risk if the interventions pose minimal or no adverse environmental and social impacts and require a minimum of E&S due diligence.

The risks and impacts are assessed separately, and the risk ratings are made separately for the environmental and social aspects. Subsequently, the two ratings are integrated to arrive at the E&S rating for the project as a whole. The higher of the two ratings shall apply to the whole project. For example, if the Environmental Risk is rated as Moderate, but, social as Substantial, then the whole project's risk is rated Substantial and mitigatory measures are accordingly drawn. Once the categorization is made, the risks are further expanded and deliberated in detail under each relevant ESBM and mitigatory measures are decided.