

**DRAFT GUIDANCE NOTE**  
**IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING FOR UNDP PROJECTS**

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## ACRONYMS

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<b>BCPR:</b>	Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery
<b>EA:</b>	Environmental Assessment
<b>EIA:</b>	Environmental Impact Assessment
<b>EMP:</b>	Environmental Management Plan
<b>MDGs :</b>	Millennium Development Goals
<b>PAC:</b>	Project Advisory Committee
<b>POPP:</b>	UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures
<b>SEA:</b>	Strategic Environmental Assessment
<b>UNCTs:</b>	United Nations Country Teams
<b>UNDP:</b>	United Nations Development Programme

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

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Mainstreaming environment into UNDP programmes and projects is a dynamic, continuous process and is an integral part of the management cycles. A good environmental assessment and management system not only strengthens environmental performance but also promotes improved and sustainable development outcomes. As stated in the UNDP Programme and Operations Policies and Procedures (POPP) “*Environmental sustainability, including climate change resilience, is fundamental to the achievement of development outcomes including the MDGs and must be systematically mainstreamed into UNDP’s Programme and Project Management cycles. Opportunities to strengthen environmental sustainability and climate resiliency of programming need to be identified and realized. Potential adverse impacts and risks need to be avoided or minimized, where possible, and mitigated if not*”.<sup>1</sup>

In this regard, UNDP requires that all projects undergo an environmental screening; with the exception of “Fast Track” projects in which case the “[Strategy for Fast-Tracking UNDP’s Crisis Response](#)” will be followed while ensuring compliance with the overarching environmental sustainability policy. The screening process aims to determine whether or not a project should be subject to further EA prior to project approval (according to the importance or severity of potential environmental impacts) or whether additional inquiry is needed to make this decision. It aims to ensure that adverse [environmental impacts](#) are avoided or properly managed and that projects comply with international, national and local environmental policies and requirements. The screening thus constitutes an “environmental safeguard” which is just one element of a broader quality programming approach that also needs to identify environmental and development opportunities from the earliest stages of project development.<sup>2</sup>

This guidance note supplements the POPP by providing guidance on the implementation of the environmental screening procedure. The following outlines the contents of the note:

- **Section 2** outlines key elements related to the implementation of the environmental screening procedure.
- **Annex A** provides an environmental screening template. This template aims to guide the Project Developer and/or Environmental Focal Point through the screening process and provides the means to document the screening process for submittal to the PAC.
- **Annex B** is a glossary that clarifies key technical terms used in the note.

In addition to this note, a Guidance Note on the implementation of environmental assessment for UNDP projects (to be [hyperlinked](#)) has been developed. The latter should be referred to for projects in which the screening procedure identified the need to carry out an EA.

Moreover, this guidance note will be adapted and revised based on experience and lessons learned from its implementation. Therefore, please share your experiences, recommendations and questions [[through Teamworks](#)].

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<sup>1</sup> This policy is consistent with the [2009 Common Country Assessment and UN Development Assistance Framework Guidelines](#) which include environmental sustainability as one of the five principles to be applied in the country level programming and interventions of UN Country Teams (UNCTs).

<sup>2</sup> The environmental screening procedure is thus complemented by UNDP’s [Quality Programming Checklist](#) which is to be revised and updated. Environment and climate change elements of the checklist will be further strengthened at that time.

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## 2 IMPLEMENTING THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING PROCEDURE: KEY ELEMENTS

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As outlined in Section 1, all UNDP projects are subject to UNDP's [environmental screening](#) procedure; with the exception of "Fast Track" projects. The screening process aims to determine if there are potentially adverse environmental impacts and risks both to and from the project and thus the need for further environmental assessment prior to project approval. Annex A provides an [Environmental Screening Template](#) to guide Project Developers through the screening process and provides a mechanism for documentation.

This section outlines elements that are important to take into account when implementing the screening procedure, i.e. roles and accountability, the role of the screening in the UNDP project management cycle, and the results that are expected to emerge from the procedure.

### 2.1 ROLES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Because environmental screening is included in UNDP's policies and procedures for project management it falls within UNDP's accountability framework (refer to the [Accountability Platform](#) and the POPP for additional information). Implementation of the screening will require participation of various actors within UNDP. Expected roles and responsibilities of the key actors to be involved are as follows:

- **Resident Representative<sup>3</sup>**: accountable to the Administrator through the relevant Regional Bureau Director for ensuring the UNDP environmental screening procedure has been fully complied with. Any divergence between the recommendations of the PAC and the decision of the Resident Representative should be recorded on file. There are some exceptions to this which include support to an infrastructure project where the final authorization responsibility lies with the Regional Bureau Director.
- **Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) members**: participate in PAC meetings and ensure that an environmental screening has been conducted for a proposed project prior to approval and that an EA has been conducted (when required).
- **Project Developer**: responsible for ensuring completion of the environmental screening and for determining whether an EA must be carried out for a proposed project.
- **CO Environmental Focal Point**: support the Project Developer in different tasks related to the screening and to the EA as needed. For example, he/she may be involved in conducting, supporting or reviewing the environmental screening in cases where the Project Developer is uncertain of potential environmental impacts.
- **EEG**: Regional Environmental Focal Points and EEG Headquarters will provide technical back-stopping support when appropriate. EEG will also provide advisory and overall knowledge sharing support and lead the development of training and orientation sessions.

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<sup>3</sup> Or in the case of UNDP projects in countries with no country office (e.g. Cyprus), the Programme Manager(s)

## 2.2 ROLE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING IN THE PROJECT MANAGEMENT CYCLE

The primary concern of UNDP's Project Cycle is to ensure the delivery of outputs that contribute to programme-level (UNDAF and Country Programme) outcomes through UNDP interventions (refer to [UNDP's programming cycles](#)). Therefore, the environmental screening procedure must also be considered within this broader strategic context of results based management. In this regard, UNDP Project Developers/Managers should note that "environmental sustainability" is one of five programming principles to be integrated into UN programming. To support the operationalisation of this mandate, the UNDG has developed guidance notes on mainstreaming [environmental sustainability](#) and climate change into the UNDAF and Country Analysis. These guidance notes, while specific to UN programming, provide useful resources and tools that may be relevant for UNDP's Programme and Project Management Cycles.

Within this broader programming context, UNDP's environmental screening procedure is applied at the project level and is part of the project appraisal process (i.e. **must be completed prior to the PAC**). However, in order to systematically mainstream environmental sustainability into UNDP's Project Management cycle, environmental considerations need to be taken into account at the earliest stages of project planning. Therefore, the screening template is a useful tool to refer to when conceptualizing the project (i.e. during the "**Justifying a Project**" stage of the Project Management Cycle) in conjunction with the UNDP [Quality Programming Checklist](#). At this stage, the template can help the Project Developer think about how to strengthen the environmental sustainability and climate resiliency of the proposed project. This should influence the design of the project at the earliest stages - not only ensure that it is environmentally "safe" and complies with environmental sustainability standards and regulations, but also to ensure that opportunities to further strengthen the environmental sustainability and climate resiliency of the project are identified. Such an approach strengthens the achievement of development results and the overall quality of UNDP programming.

The final environmental screening will be conducted and documented after the project is fully defined (i.e. during "**Defining a Project**") and prior to the PAC.<sup>4</sup> The findings and conclusions of the screening process will be documented in the completed screening template which will be submitted, along with the Project Document to the PAC. Results of the screening will be reviewed and approved as part of the PAC. In cases where the screening identifies potential adverse environmental impacts to the project or from the project, a pre-PAC may be convened to discuss how the project may be designed to avoid such impacts and/or discuss how the EA would be implemented and funded.

## 2.3 USE OF PARTNER ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING PROCESSES AND TOOLS

EA is well-established practice at the international level. In fact, EA is legally mandated by many, if not most, jurisdictions and required by nearly all Multilateral Financial Institutions and bilateral donors. Its role has been recognized by the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, where both donors and partners made a commitment to promote a harmonized approach to environmental assessments. As a result, UNDP's environmental screening procedure is flexible in that it allows for the application of environmental screening tools and templates utilized by partners in place of UNDP's template when

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<sup>4</sup> The project elements need to be sufficiently defined in order to be able to accurately screen a project.

deemed appropriate. In such cases, the environmental screening will still be documented and presented to the PAC to ensure compliance with UNDP's environmental sustainability policy.

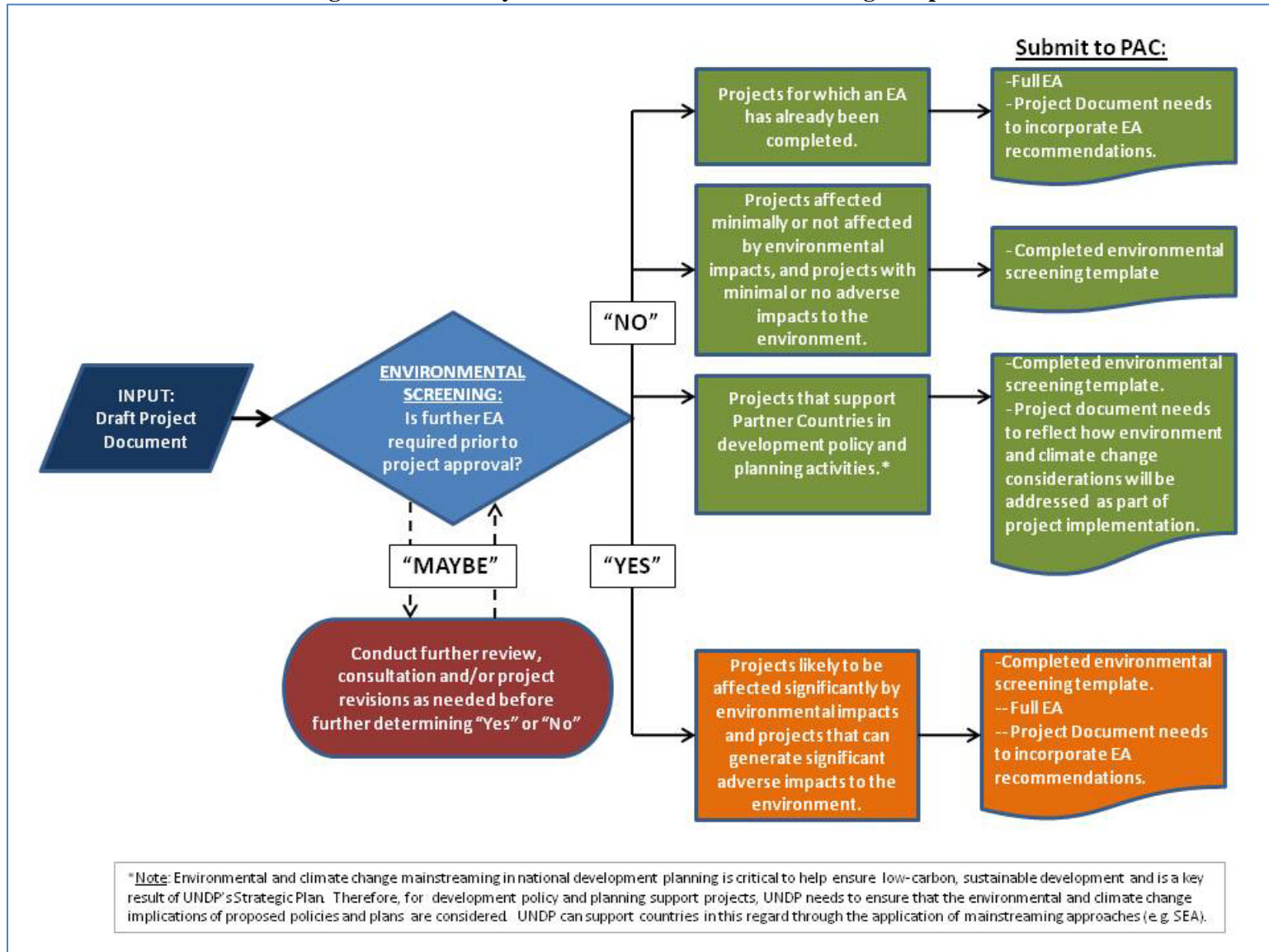
## 2.4 USE OF UNDP'S ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING TEMPLATE

Implementation of the screening procedure will determine whether or not further EA is required. This determination will vary according to the specificities and context of the proposed project, and the significance of anticipated impacts. In this regard, UNDP's environmental screening template (Annex A) has been developed to guide Project Developers through the screening process. Ultimately the screening template results in one of the following two determinations: 1) **"no"** further EA required prior to project approval, or 2) **"yes"** EA required prior to project approval. However, in cases where there is uncertainty regarding potential adverse [environmental impacts](#), some initial assessment and/or project revisions may be required prior to making a final determination (**"maybe"** EA required). In all cases, various environmental management elements will still be applicable.

It is important to note that environmental and climate change mainstreaming in national development planning is critical to help ensure low-carbon, sustainable development and is a key result of UNDP's Strategic Plan. Therefore, for development policy and planning support projects, UNDP needs to ensure that the environmental and climate change implications of proposed policies and plans are considered. UNDP can support countries in this regard through the application of mainstreaming approaches (e.g. SEA). However, in these cases, an EA is not required prior to UNDP support to the country. The environmental screening template helps to identify such projects and provides various environmental and climate change mainstreaming guidance and approaches that UNDP teams can incorporate into their advisory services.

UNDP's environmental screening template and final determinations are summarized in Figure 1 and the following sub-sections.

Figure 1. Summary UNDP’s Environmental Screening Template



### 2.4.1 “NO” Further EA Required Prior to Project Approval

The following categories of projects will not require further EA prior to project approval. However, various environmental management and mainstreaming elements may still be applicable and are described below:

1. ***Projects aiming at supporting Partner Countries in their strategic planning activities (e.g. elaboration or revision of national or sub-national development strategies, development policies and plans; sectoral policies and plans, etc.). These projects will not be subject to an EA by UNDP prior to approval. However, to ensure environmental quality:***
  - UNDP needs to ensure that the environmental and climate change implications of proposed policies and plans are considered in advisory support to the country. UNDP can support countries in this regard through the application of mainstreaming approaches (e.g. SEA) as part of project implementation. However, EA is not required prior to UNDP engagement. Refer to UNDP’s environmental mainstreaming framework and various environment and climate change mainstreaming guidance and tools in [UNDP’s Environmental Mainstreaming Teamworks page](#)).
  - The completed environmental screening template will be attached to the Project Document before it goes to the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC). If relevant, the Project Document will reflect UNDP services for environment and climate change mainstreaming.
  - The project will comply with applicable international environmental conventions ratified by the host country, as well as with the national and local environmental laws and regulations of the host country.
  - The UNDP [Quality Programming Checklist](#) will be used throughout the Project Management cycle to identify opportunities to strengthen the environmental sustainability and climate resiliency of the project.
  
2. ***Projects for which an environmental assessment (e.g. [EIA](#) or [SEA](#)) has already been completed or will be completed by national, donor(s) or other partners.*** These include projects that may be one component of a broader programme that has already undergone EA. These projects will not be subject to a separate UNDP-led EA process. However, to ensure environmental quality, the following elements will be required:
  - The final EA will be appraised to ensure it:
    - Meets its terms of reference, both procedurally and substantively;
    - Provides a satisfactory assessment of the proposed project;
    - Contains the information required for decision-making;
    - Describes specific mitigation, monitoring and capacity development measures;
    - Assesses the capacity of the institutions responsible for implementing environmental management;
    - Assesses the adequacy of the cost of and financing arrangements for environmental management implementation.



- Project documentation will be submitted for the PAC: the completed environmental screening template and the full EA will be attached to the Project Document, and EA recommendations will be reflected in the Project Document<sup>5</sup>.
  - The project will comply with applicable international environmental conventions ratified by the host country, as well as with the national and local environmental laws and regulations of the host country.
  - The UNDP [Quality Programming Checklist](#) will be used throughout the Project Management cycle to improve environmental sustainability of the project.
3. ***Projects with minimal or no anticipated adverse [environmental impacts](#) either to (e.g. [climate change](#), etc.) or from (e.g. [habitat destruction](#), [pollution](#), etc.) the proposed project.*** These projects will not be subject to further EA. However:
- The completed environmental screening template will be attached to the Project Document before it goes to the PAC. The template will outline findings and conclusions of the screening process (reasons for the “minimal or no negative environmental impacts”). *Typical UNDP projects, many relating to capacity development, have minimal or no negative environmental impacts and thus do not require EA (refer to [Environmental Screening Template](#) – Annex A).*
  - In cases where there is a minimal potential for environmental impacts to result from the project, a statement should be included in the Project Document saying that “*while the project is expected to have minimal environmental impacts or to be minimally impacted by environmental or climate conditions, if it is determined during “Running a Project” that activities or components could present or be vulnerable to adverse environmental impacts, these activities/components will be subject to an EA prior to implementation*”.
  - The project will comply with applicable international environmental conventions ratified by the host country, as well as with the national and local environmental laws and regulations of the host country.
  - The UNDP [Quality Programming Checklist](#) will be used throughout the Project Management cycle to improve environmental sustainability of the project.

#### 2.4.2 “YES” Further EA is Required Prior to Project Approval

Projects with anticipated adverse environmental impacts (both to and from the project) will be subject to further EA prior to finalization and implementation. For these projects, the “Guidance Note on the Implementation of Environmental Assessment for UNDP Projects” ([to be hyperlinked](#)) should be referred to for additional details. However, a brief summary of the environmental assessment and management elements that will be required is provided below:

1. ***Projects likely to be affected significantly by environmental conditions (e.g. [climate change impacts](#), etc.) and projects that can generate significant adverse environmental impacts (e.g. [habitat destruction](#), [pollution prevention](#), etc.):*** For these projects:
  - Public disclosure will be done and stakeholder consultation will be organized.
  - A scoping process will be conducted to determine the appropriate scope and type of EA to be conducted.
  - An EA will be carried out, including an examination of technically and financially feasible alternatives to the source of impacts, and the identification of needed environmental mitigation and monitoring measures.

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<sup>5</sup> In the case where an EA has been or will be initiated according to national or other donor(s) requirements, the Project Document should be finalized after the EA is completed as the results may affect project design and implementation.

- Environmental management elements will be identified (typically articulated in an Environmental Management Plan - EMP) and built into the project. Mitigation and monitoring measures will be planned and organizational capacity development and training will be provided.
- Project documentation will be submitted for the PAC: the completed environmental screening template and the full EA (including the EMP) will be attached to the Project Document, and EA/EMP recommendations will be reflected in the Project Document.
- The project will comply with applicable international environmental conventions ratified by the host country, as well as with the national and local environmental laws and regulations of the host country.
- The UNDP [Quality Programming Checklist](#) will be used throughout the Project Management cycle to improve environmental sustainability of the project.

### **2.4.3 “MAYBE” an EA is Required Prior to Project Approval**

Ultimately, the environmental screening process will determine whether or not further EA is required prior to project approval. However, in some projects, there may be some uncertainty regarding potential adverse [environmental impacts](#). If this is the case, additional review and/or data collection is necessary before a determination can be made. For example, for some proposed projects there may be a lack of sufficient information to conduct an adequate project environmental screening. Therefore, additional review will be performed (e.g. a site visit, consultation with Environmental Focal Point, Host Country Counterparts, other project Implementing Partners, and project stakeholders). The additional information, consultation and review will be used to determine whether an EA will need to be prepared to inform the project design process prior to project approval.

In other cases, the screening process may have helped to identify potentially adverse impacts that can easily be avoided. In these cases, the project will be modified and revised prior to a final screening determination.

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## ANNEX A: ENVIRONMENTAL SCREENING TEMPLATE

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This template is intended to guide the Project Developer through the [screening](#) process to determine whether further EA must be completed for a proposed project prior to finalization of the Project Document and approval. To complete the template, the draft Project Document will be utilized as the primary input. **The completed template will become part of the project record and will be submitted to the PAC.**

In all cases, even when further EA is not required prior to project approval, the Project Developer/Manager should:

1. Ensure that the project complies with applicable international environmental conventions ratified by the host country, as well as with the national and local environmental laws and regulations of the host country;
2. Utilize the questions in the [UNDP Quality Programming Checklist](#) to improve environmental sustainability and climate resiliency of the project throughout the Project Management cycle.

This template will be adapted and revised through an iterative review process based on experience and lessons learned from its implementation. Therefore, please share your experiences, recommendations and questions through [\[Teamworks\]](#).



<p><b>Name of Proposed Project:</b> _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>Date of Screening:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Name of Screener(s):</b> _____</p> <p><b>List any environmental information you know has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related and applicable to the proposed project (i.e. related <a href="#">EIA</a>s, SEAs):</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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## QUESTION 1:

**Is the project’s main objective to support Partner Countries in their strategic planning activities, such as the ones listed in Table A?**

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

To answer this question:

- 1) Utilize Table 1 to determine if one of the strategic planning activities listed is supported by the Project (check the appropriate box)
- 2) According to your answer in Table 1, check “Yes” or “No” in Question 1

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**If “NO”:**

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- Continue to Question 2.

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**If “YES”:**

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- 1) Environmental and climate change mainstreaming in national development planning is critical to help ensure low-carbon, sustainable development and is a key result of UNDP’s Strategic Plan. Therefore, for development policy and planning support projects such as those listed below, UNDP needs to ensure that the environmental and climate change implications of proposed policies and plans are considered and inform UNDP’s advisory support. UNDP can support countries in this regard through the application of mainstreaming approaches (e.g. SEA). *[Refer to UNDP’s Environmental Mainstreaming Framework (draft) and environmental mainstreaming guidance in the **Teamworks Environmental Mainstreaming space** for more details on mainstreaming approaches].* However, **EA is not necessary prior to project approval and UNDP engagement. Screening is complete.**
- 2) Provide to the PAC:
  - the completed environmental screening template;
  - the Project Document that reflects, if relevant, UNDP support for environment and climate change mainstreaming approaches (e.g. SEA).

<b>TABLE 1. COUNTRY PARTNERS STRATEGIC PLANNING ACTIVITIES IN WHICH UNDP CAN BE ENGAGED</b>	<b>Check appropriate box(es) below</b>
1. Elaboration or revision of national-level overarching strategies, policies and plans <i>For example, Poverty Reduction Strategies, National Development Strategies, MDG-based National Development Strategies, National Sustainable Development Strategies, 5 and 10 year plans.</i>	
2. Elaboration or revision of National Policy Reforms and Budget Support	

<b>TABLE 1. COUNTRY PARTNERS STRATEGIC PLANNING ACTIVITIES IN WHICH UNDP CAN BE ENGAGED</b>	<b>Check appropriate box(es) below</b>
Programmes <i>For example, Development Policy Lending, Budgetary Planning, Aid-Funded Debt Relief.</i>	
3. Elaboration or revision of sectoral strategies, policies, plans <i>For example, strategies, policies and plans related to trade, water, biodiversity, energy, land management, climate change, chemicals; health sector reform, etc.</i>	
4. Elaboration or revision of National and sub-national spatial development plans, and other types sub-national plans <i>For example, Urban plans, Land Use Plans, Provincial Development Plans</i>	
5. Elaboration or revision of Trans-National and Regional policies and plans <i>For example, Multi-Country Plans, Trans-National Water Policies.</i>	

## QUESTION 2:

**Has environmental assessment that covers the project already been completed or will be completed by implementing partners, donor(s) or other partners?**

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

*This question aims to avoid that a project supported by UNDP is subject to parallel/separate EAs based on requirements from other partners involved in the project. Therefore:*

- *If an EA has already been completed or is planned to be completed by national, donor(s) or other partners, answer “YES” to this question.*
- *If this is not the case, answer “NO” to this question.*

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### **If “NO”:**

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- Continue to the Question 3.

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### **If “YES”:**

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- 1) **Further EA is not required prior to project approval if the existing EA meets UNDP’s quality assurance standards.** Therefore, the Project Developer must ensure that the final EA completed by the partner(s) is appraised for quality assurance by completing the checklist below (ensure that all questions the checklist are answered). If answered “no” to any of the questions below, provide explanation and description of how the issue has been addressed (e.g. EA addendum completed). **Screening is complete.**

<b>TABLE 2: CHECKLIST FOR APPRAISING QUALITY ASSURANCE OF EA</b>	<b>Yes/No</b>
1. Does the EA meet its terms of reference, both procedurally and substantively?	
2. Does the EA provide a satisfactory assessment of the proposed project?	
3. Does the EA contain the information required for decision-making?	
4. Does the EA describe specific mitigation, monitoring and capacity development measures?	
5. Does the EA assess the capacity of the institutions responsible for implementing environmental management?	
6. Does the EA assess the adequacy of the cost of and financing arrangements for environmental management?	

**If answered “no” to any of the above; describe how the issue has been resolved.**

2) Submit to the PAC:

- the completed environmental screening template;
- the full EA;
- the Project Document reflecting EA recommendations

### QUESTION 3:

Does the proposed project include elements that typically pose adverse environmental impacts or are vulnerable to environmental change?

Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

In order to answer this question, complete Table 3.

1. If answered “No” or Not Applicable” to all of the questions then the answer to Question 3 is “NO”.
2. If answered “Yes” to any questions then the answer to Question 3 is “YES”.
3. If answered “MAYBE” to any of the questions then proceed to Box 3 to determine answer.

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#### If “NO”:

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- **An EA is not required prior to project approval. Screening is complete.**
- In cases where there is a minimal potential for environmental impacts to result from the project, a statement should be included in the Project Document saying that *“while the project is expected to have minimal environmental impacts or to be minimally impacted by environmental or climate conditions, if it is determined during “Running a Project” that activities or components could present or be vulnerable to adverse environmental impacts, these activities/components will be subject to an EA prior to implementation”*. Submit to the PAC:
  - the completed environmental screening template attached to the Project Document.

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#### If “YES”:

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- **EA is required prior to project approval. Screening is complete.** Refer to the Guidance note on the implementation of environmental assessment for UNDP projects ([to be hyperlinked](#)).
- Submit to the PAC:
  - the completed environmental screening template;
  - the full EA;
  - the Project Document reflecting EA recommendations.



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**If ‘MAYBE’:**

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- Conduct additional consultation, review and/or project revision as necessary (including consulting with the Environmental Focal Point, reviewing available data and information, conducting a site visit, etc.). **Elaborate in Box 3.**

**TABLE 3: ADDITIONAL SCREENING QUESTIONS TO DETERMINE IF EA IS REQUIRED**

<b>1. Biodiversity and Natural Resources</b>	<b>Answer</b> (Yes/No/ Maybe/ Not Applicable)
<b>1.1</b> Would the proposed project result in the conversion or degradation of <a href="#">modified habitat</a> , <a href="#">natural habitat</a> or <a href="#">critical habitat</a> ?	
<b>1.2</b> Are any development activities proposed within a legally protected area (e.g. natural reserve, national park) for the protection or conservation of biodiversity?	
<b>1.3</b> Are any development activities proposed in areas of <a href="#">critical habitat</a> ?	
<b>1.4</b> Would the proposed project pose a risk of introducing invasive alien species?	
<b>1.5</b> Is the proposed project likely to have environmental impacts that could affect indigenous people’s ability to use, develop and protect natural resources and other natural capital assets? <i>For example, activities that could lead to natural resources degradation or depletion (e.g. forests, fish, water) in communities who depend on these resources for their development, well-being, etc.</i>	
<b>1.6</b> Does the project involve natural forest harvesting or plantation development without an independent forest certification system for sustainable forest management (e.g. <a href="#">PEFC</a> , the <a href="#">Forest Stewardship Council certification systems</a> , etc.)?	
<b>1.7</b> Does the project involve the production and harvesting of fish populations or other aquatic species without an internationally accepted system of independent certification to ensure sustainability (e.g. the <a href="#">Marine Stewardship Council certification system</a> )?	
<b>1.8</b> Does the project involve the extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water? <i>For example, construction of dams, reservoirs, river basin developments, groundwater extraction.</i>	
<b>2. <a href="#">Climate Change</a><sup>6</sup></b>	<b>Answer (Yes/No/ Maybe/Not applicable)</b>
<b>2.1</b> Will the proposed project result in significant <sup>7</sup> greenhouse gas emissions? <i>Indicative types of activities that MAY result in significant GHG emissions include: <a href="#">Electricity generation/consumption</a> (&gt;10MW of black/brown coal generation using average technology, &gt; 20MW of Combined Cycle Gas Turbines installed for both these assumed ~ 90% availability); <a href="#">Animal Waste Management</a> (concentrated/ housed pig farm with &gt;50,000 animals &amp; anaerobic conditions, concentrated/ housed poultry farm with &gt;200,000 broilers &amp; anaerobic conditions); <a href="#">landfills</a> (in temperate or tropical climates, residential waste in an anaerobic landfill (covered and compacted, or at least deep, and without spontaneous fires) from a city of 1M population or more)</i>	

<sup>6</sup> UNDP is currently developing guidance on integrating climate change into development programming which will provide additional information on how to respond to these questions.

<sup>7</sup> Significant corresponds to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions greater than 100,000 tons per year (from both direct and indirect sources) (source to be confirmed).

**TABLE 3: ADDITIONAL SCREENING QUESTIONS TO DETERMINE IF EA IS REQUIRED**

<p><b>2.2</b> Are climate change-related events, such as floods, drought, landslides, windstorms, sea level rise or forest fires, likely to affect the desired project outcomes?</p> <p><i>For example, a water irrigation project for communities located on steep slopes vulnerable to landslides.</i></p>	
<p><b>2.3</b> Will the achievement of any of the project outputs be influenced by climate-related impacts?</p> <p><i>For example, a project that has the objective to improve the socioeconomic conditions of a population may be affected by floods in the project location, which will impact water quality and increase the risk of infectious diseases of the populations that would benefit from the project, therefore contributing to a decrease in the health conditions.</i></p>	
<p><b>2.4</b> Is the proposed project likely to directly or indirectly increase environmental and social <a href="#">vulnerability to climate change</a> now or in the future (also known as <i>maladaptive practices</i>)?</p> <p><i>For example, a project that would involve indirectly removing mangroves from coastal zones or encouraging land use plans that would suggest building houses on floodplains would enhance the surrounding population's vulnerability to climate change, specifically flooding.</i></p>	
<b>3. Pollution</b>	<b>Answer</b> (Yes/No/ Maybe/Not applicable)
<p><b>3.1</b> Would the proposed project result in the release of pollutants due to routine, non-routine, or accidental circumstances with the potential for adverse local, regional, and <a href="#">transboundary impacts</a>?</p>	
<p><b>3.2</b> Would the proposed project result in the generation of solid waste that cannot be recovered, reused, or disposed of in an <a href="#">environmentally sound manner</a>?</p>	
<p><b>3.3</b> Will the proposed project involve the manufacture, trade, and/or use of chemicals and <a href="#">hazardous materials</a> subject to international bans or phase-outs? <i>For example, DDT, PCBs and other chemicals listed in international conventions such as the <a href="#">Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants</a>.</i></p>	
<p><b>3.4</b> Is there a potential for the release, in the environment, of <a href="#">hazardous materials</a> resulting from their production, transportation, handling, storage and use for project activities?</p>	
<p><b>3.5</b> Will the proposed project involve pest management activities, including the application of pesticides?</p>	
<p><b>3.6</b> Would there be any risk of accidents (e.g. leak, spill) during construction or operation of the project which could affect human health or the environment?</p>	
<b>4. Other Potential Adverse Impacts</b>	<b>Answer</b> (Yes/No/ Maybe/Not applicable)
<p><b>4.1</b> Would construction, operation or decommissioning of the proposed project involve actions that would cause physical changes in the locality such as topography, land use, water bodies, and physical cultural resources?</p>	
<p><b>4.2</b> Would the proposed project have environmental impacts that could affect local communities or other stakeholders, including on areas of indigenous people or other vulnerable groups such as women<sup>8</sup> and children.</p>	

<sup>8</sup> Women are often more vulnerable than men to environmental degradation and resource scarcity. They typically have weaker and insecure rights to the resources they manage (especially land), and spend longer hours on collection of water, firewood, etc. ([OECD, 2006](#)).

**TABLE 3: ADDITIONAL SCREENING QUESTIONS TO DETERMINE IF EA IS REQUIRED**

<i>For example, projects that could lead to pollution of a water source used for laundry or other domestic tasks, forcing users to either find other water sources or use the polluted source.</i>	
<b>4.3</b> Would the proposed project utilize a previously undeveloped area where there will be loss of <a href="#">greenfield land</a> ?	
<b>4.4</b> Would the proposed project adversely alter existing land uses, (e.g. homes, gardens, other private property, industry, commerce, recreation, public open space, community facilities, agriculture, forestry, tourism)?	
<b>4.5</b> Would the proposed project location be subject to future land use plans (e.g. roads, settlements) which could affect the environmental sustainability of the project? <i>For example, future plans for urban growth, industrial development, transportation infrastructure, etc.</i>	
<b>4.6</b> Would the proposed project lead to significant population density increase which could affect the environmental sustainability of the project? <i>For example, a project aiming at financing tourism infrastructures in a specific area (e.g. coastal zone, mountain) could lead to significant population density increase which could have serious environmental impacts (e.g. destruction of the area's ecology, noise pollution, waste management problems).</i>	
<b>4.7</b> Would the proposed project be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding or extreme climatic conditions? <i>For examples, development projects located within a floodplain or landslide prone area.</i>	
<b>4.8</b> Would the proposed project pose indirect, secondary or consequential development which could lead to environmental effects or to the potential for <a href="#">cumulative impacts</a> with other existing or planned activities in the area? <i>For example, a capacity development project for agricultural practices could lead to consequential environmental impacts if the capacity development programme does not include best practices for natural resources management.</i>	
<b>4.9</b> Would the proposed project result in involuntary resettlement of populations? <i>For example, projects with environmental benefits (e.g. protected areas, climate change adaptation) that impact human settlements.</i>	

**Box 3: In “MAYBE” cases, after additional review, determine if the proposed project has potential adverse environmental impacts: \_\_Yes (EA required) \_\_ No (EA not required)**  
Please elaborate further and attach additional documentation as relevant.

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## ANNEX B: GLOSSARY

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**Climate Change.** Any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or because of human activity (IPCC 2001 in APF 2005).

**Climate Change Adaptation.** Changing existing policies and practices and adopting new policies and practices so as to secure Millennium Development Goals in the face of climate change and its associated impacts.

**Climate Change Mitigation** is an intervention to reduce or limit anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases by sources, the removal of greenhouse gases by enhancing sinks or protection of reservoirs, to reduce the rate and magnitude of climate change.

**Climate Risk** is a risk resulting from climate change and affecting natural and human systems and regions. The probability of harmful consequences, or expected losses (deaths, injuries, property, livelihoods, economic activity disrupted or environment damaged) resulting from interactions between natural or human-induced hazards and vulnerable conditions. Climate risk is a function of the type, magnitude and rate of climatic variation or extreme event. When faced with human societies, hazards create risks.

**Critical Habitat** is an area essential to the conservation of endangered, threatened or endemic species. (SOURCE: Adapted from the UNEP [Draft grid for the objective evaluation of proposals for inclusion in the SPAW protected areas list](#), 2004)

**Cumulative Impacts** are impacts resulting from an accumulation of effects from numerous activities or from a combination of effects from one activity. Cumulative impacts are defined by the [United Nations University, EIA course module](#) as impacts on the environment which result from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present or reasonably foreseeable actions regardless of what agency or person undertakes such actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

**Environmental Assessment** is a planning process to evaluate the environmental and related social impacts of a proposed policy, plan, programme or project to ensure these considerations are factored into decision-making, design and execution. An EA identifies ways for preventing, minimizing, mitigating, or compensating for adverse consequences and for enhancing positive ones. EA varies in breadth, depth and type of analysis depending on the specificities of the proposal. Typically, EA takes the form of an EIA at the project-level and strategic environmental analyses (e.g. SEA, country environmental analysis, sectoral assessment) at the policy, plan and programme levels.

**Environmental Impacts** are any effect (negative or positive) *to* and/or *from* environmental conditions (physical, biological and social interactions) surrounding a specific activity, such as a project.

**Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** is one form of EA which focuses on the environmental impacts of proposed projects. The EIA is the process through which potential environmental impacts of a proposed project are assessed and analyzed and measures to address these impacts are incorporated into the project management cycle.

**Environmental Mainstreaming.** The integration of environmental considerations into UNDP's policies, programming and operations to ensure the coherence and sustainability of our mission and practices.

Mainstreaming systematically takes into consideration environmental issues as early as possible in the decision-making process where decisions can best benefit from environmental opportunities and avoid negative impacts on the environment. In this way, mainstreaming can help align policies, programmes and operations with the long-term requirements of sustainable development, help modernise development policy content and procedures, and promote a pro-active approach rather than responding to impacts as they unfold. (SOURCE: Adapted from the [UNDP Environmental Mainstreaming Strategy](#), 2004)

**Environmental Management.** Mechanisms to incorporate into the project recommendations to prevent, avoid, reduce, mitigate, eliminate, or compensate for any adverse impacts of the selected alternative. This includes schedule, assignment of responsibility and budgets for the environmental impact management measures. Environmental management elements are often elaborated in an **Environmental Management Plan (EMP)**. (SOURCE: Adapted from MFI *Common Framework for EA*)

**Environmental Screening.** The process to determine whether or not a proposed project requires an EA.

**Environmentally Sound Manner.** ESM means taking all practical steps to minimize the generation of hazardous wastes and strictly controlling its storage, transport, treatment, reuse, recycling, recovery and final disposal, the purpose of which is to protect human health and the environment. (SOURCE: [Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal](#)).

**Greenfield Land** is a land which has never been built on or where the remains of any structure or activity have blended into the landscape over time (e.g. unfenced open fields or urban lots, or restricted, closed property kept off limits to the general public by a private or governmental entity).

**Habitat.** Habitats include both **natural habitats** (land and water areas where the biological communities are formed largely by native plant and animal species, and where human activity has not essentially modified the area's primary ecological functions) and **modified habitats** (where there has been apparent alteration of the natural habitat, often with the introduction of alien species of plants and animals, such as agricultural areas). Both types of habitat can support important biodiversity at all levels, including endemic or threatened species.

**Hazardous Materials.** Chemicals substances subject to international bans or phase-outs due to their high toxicity to living organisms, environmental persistence, potential for bioaccumulation, or potential for depletion of the ozone layer that should be avoided and the use of less hazardous substitutes considered. (SOURCE: Adapted from IFC Performance Standard 3)

**Hazardous Waste** is usually a solid waste that poses substantial or potential threats to public health or the environment and generally exhibits one or more of these characteristics: ignitable (i.e., flammable), oxidizing, corrosive, toxic, radioactive, and that has the potential to cause, or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality (death) or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible illness; or pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of, or otherwise managed. (SOURCE: Adapted from US EPA definition in *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act*)

**Pollution** is both hazardous and nonhazardous pollutants in the solid, liquid, or gaseous forms, and is intended to include nuisance odors, noise, vibration, radiation, electromagnetic energy, and the creation of potential visual impacts including light.

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** is one form of EA which focuses on the strategic level. SEA refers to a range of analytical and participatory approaches that aim to integrate environmental considerations into *policies, plans and programmes* and evaluate the inter linkages with economic and

social considerations. SEA can be described as a family of approaches which use a variety of tools, rather than a single, fixed and prescriptive approach. This can be thought as a continuum of increasing integration: at one end of the continuum, the principle aim is to integrate environment, alongside economic and social concerns, into strategic decision making; at the other end, the emphasis is on the full integration of the environmental, social and economic factors into a holistic sustainability assessment. (SOURCE: Adapted from [OECD-DAC Guidance on SEA](#))

**Sustainable Natural Resource Management** is the management of the use, development and protection of resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables people and communities, including indigenous peoples, to provide for their present social, economic and cultural well-being while also sustaining the potential of those resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations and safeguarding the life-supporting capacity of air, water and soil ecosystems. (SOURCE: IFC Performance Standard 6)

**Transboundary impacts:** Any impact (not exclusively of a global nature) within an area under the jurisdiction of a Party caused by a proposed activity, the physical origin of which is situated wholly or in part within the area under the jurisdiction of another Party. (SOURCE: [UNECE Convention on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context](#))

**Vulnerability to climate change** is the degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. Vulnerability is a function of the character, magnitude, and rate of climate variation to which a system is exposed, its sensitivity, and its adaptive capacity. (SOURCE: UNDP *Glossary of terms and concepts related to climate change*, 2009)