"Scaling up Green Finance Practices in Armenia"

Training on ESG Standards and Policies Module 5. – SANBI Risk Management Dashboard

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Environmental & Social Principles

All projects implemented by the EE shall be designed and implemented to meet the following environmental and social principles, although it is recognized that depending on the nature and scale of a project/programme all of the principles may not be relevant to every project/programme.

1. *Compliance with the Law*

▶ Projects implemented by the EE shall be in compliance with all applicable domestic and international law.

Environmental & Social Principles

2. Access and Equity

- Projects implemented by the EE shall provide fair and equitable access to benefits in a manner that is inclusive and does not impede access to basic health services, clean water and sanitation, energy, education, housing, safe and decent working conditions, and land rights;

- Projects/programmes should not exacerbate existing inequities, particularly with respect to marginalized or vulnerable groups.

Environmental & Social Principles

3. *Marginalized and Vulnerable Groups*

- Projects implemented by the EE shall avoid imposing any disproportionate adverse impacts on marginalized and vulnerable groups including children, women and girls, the elderly, indigenous people, tribal groups, displaced people, refugees, people living with disabilities, and people living with HIV/AIDS;

- In screening any proposed project/programme, the implementing entities shall assess and consider particular impacts on marginalized and vulnerable groups;

Environmental & Social Principles

4. Human Rights

- ▶ Projects implemented by the EE shall respect and where applicable promote international human rights;

Environmental & Social Principles

5. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

- Projects implemented by the EE shall be designed and implemented in such a way that both women and men:
  - have equal opportunities to participate as per the Fund gender policy;
  - receive comparable social and economic benefits; and
  - do not suffer disproportionate adverse effects during the development process;

Environmental & Social Principles

6. Core Labor Rights

▶ Projects implemented by the EE shall meet the core labor standards as identified by the International Labor Organization and regulated by Armenian legislation;

7. Indigenous Peoples

▶ The EE shall not be engaged into the implementation of the projects that are inconsistent with the rights and responsibilities set forth in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other applicable international instruments relating to indigenous peoples;

Environmental & Social Principles

8. *Involuntary Resettlement*

- Projects implemented by the EE shall be designed and implemented in a way that avoids or minimizes the need for involuntary resettlement;

- When limited involuntary resettlement is unavoidable, due process should be observed so that displaced persons shall be informed of their rights, consulted on their options, and offered technically, economically, and socially feasible resettlement alternatives or fair and adequate compensation;

Environmental & Social Principles

9. *Protection of Natural Habitats*

▶ The EE shall not engaged into the implementation of the projects that would involve unjustified conversion or degradation of critical natural habitats, including those that are:

    ▶ legally protected;

    ▶ officially proposed for protection;

    ▶ recognized by authoritative sources for their high conservation value, including as critical habitat; or

    ▶ recognized as protected by traditional or indigenous local communities;

Environmental & Social Principles

10. Conservation of Biological Diversity

▶ Projects implemented by the EE shall be designed and implemented in a way that avoids any significant or unjustified reduction or loss of biological diversity or the introduction of known invasive species.

11. Climate Change

▶ Projects implemented by the EE shall not result in any significant or unjustified increase in greenhouse gas emissions or other drivers of climate change;

Environmental & Social Principles

12. *Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency*

▶ Projects implemented by the EE shall be designed and implemented in a way that meets applicable international standards for maximizing energy efficiency and minimizing material resource use, the production of wastes, and the release of pollutants;

13. *Public Health*

▶ Projects implemented by the EE shall be designed and implemented in a way that avoids potentially significant negative impacts on public health;

Environmental & Social Principles

14. Physical and Cultural Heritage

▶ Projects implemented by the EE shall be designed and implemented in a way that avoids the alteration, damage, or removal of any physical cultural resources, cultural sites, and sites with unique natural values recognized as such at the community, national or international level;

▶ Projects should also not permanently interfere with existing access and use of such physical and cultural resources;

RISK DASHBOARD

FOR DETECTION AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS
IN PROJECTS/PROGRAMMES FUNDED BY THE ADAPTATION FUND

1. COMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW

2. ACCESS AND EQUITY

3. VULNERABLE AND MARGINALIZED GROUPS

4. HUMAN RIGHTS

5. GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

6. CORE LABOUR RIGHTS

7. INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

8. INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT

9. PROTECTION OF NATURAL HABITATS

10. CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

11. CLIMATE CHANGE

12. POLLUTION PREVENTION AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

13. PUBLIC HEALTH

14. PHYSICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

15. LAND AND SOIL CONSERVATION

SANBI
Biodiversity for Life
South African National Biodiversity Institute

Gender Policy

The Gender Policy refers to the following key gender concepts.

▶ **Gender:** refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, as well as the relations between women and those between men;

▶ These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialization processes. They are context/ time-specific and changeable;

▶ Gender is part of the broader socio-cultural context and intersects with other important criteria for socio-

Gender Policy

- **Gender Balance:** refers to the goal of having the same number of women and men in decision-making bodies and among staff in the different levels of organizational structures;

- **Gender Equality:** refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities and access of women and men and boys and girls and the equal consideration of their respective interests, needs and priorities;

- Gender equality is not a women's issue but should concern and fully engage men as well as women;

Gender Policy

- **Gender Equity:** refers to the process of being fair to men and women, boys and girls. It recognizes the need for potential differential treatment that is fair and positively addresses a bias or historical or social disadvantage that is due to gender roles or norms;

- The process of gender equity leads to gender equality as a legal right and obligation.

Gender Policy

- **Gender Mainstreaming:** refers to a globally accepted strategy for promoting gender equality;

- Mainstreaming involves the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programs, in any area and at all levels;

- It is a strategy for making the experiences and concerns of women as well as men an integral part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs, so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated, if necessary through targeted actions to ensure that women's voices as important actors

Gender Policy

▶ **Gender responsive:** refers to the consideration of gender norms, roles and relations and to addressing inequality generated by unequal norms, roles and relations through changes within a given social setting through remedial action;

▶ **Gender sensitive:** refers to the consideration of gender norms, roles and relations but does not necessarily address inequality generated by unequal norms, roles or relations through remedial action beyond creating gender awareness;

Gender Policy - Objectives

The EE gender policy has the following objectives:

► To ensure equal approaches to women and men in the EE programming;

► To provide women and men with an equal opportunity to build resilience, address their differentiated vulnerability, and increase their capability;

► To address and mitigate against assessed potential project/program risks for women and men in relation to concrete actions;

► To contribute to addressing the knowledge and data gaps on gender-related vulnerabilities and to accelerate learning about effective gender-equal measures and strategies;

► To consult with affected women and men actively, considering their experiences capabilities and knowledge of

Gender Policy - Principles

All projects implemented by the EE shall be designed and implemented to meet the following principles

1. *Commitment*

- ▶ EE commits to upholding the women's human rights and to contributing to gender equality in line with international human rights instruments, ensuing applicable international and domestic law;

- ▶ to use methods and tools to promote gender equality and reduce gender discriminations and disparities in its operations; and

- ▶ to measure the outcomes and impacts of its activities on women and men's resilience to climate change impacts and their ability and agency to address gender differentiated vulnerability to climate change

Gender Policy - Principles

2. *Comprehensiveness in scope and coverage*

▶ EE shall apply its gender policy to all its activities irrespective of project/program size, whether implemented in cooperation with international, regional or national entities.

▶ The policy should be implemented throughout the EE operational processes with guidelines;

▶ EE projects and programs shall be implemented with an initial assessment, screened for gender responsiveness with gender-responsive indicators at various stages of the project preparation, appraisal, approval and monitoring process by the relevant responsible and bodies;

Gender Policy - Principles

3. Accountability

▶ EE is accountable for its gender mainstreaming efforts and its gender-responsive results and outcomes, including through regular annual reports in a transparent and comprehensive manner;

▶ EE shall demonstrate through its management framework:

  ▶ Gender monitoring for project/program impacts is to be integrated into the EE's management frameworks.

  ▶ An institutional framework for gender mainstreaming, such as designated expert staff and/or a commitment at

Gender Policy - Principles

- Policy and action plans that address gender equality and gender-responsive activities, Ability to undertake socioeconomic and gender assessments, to assess the potential roles, benefits, impacts and risk for women and men;

- An ability to identify measures to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate adverse gender impacts; and/or

- A monitoring and evaluation process that accounts for gender mainstreaming efforts, including the use of gender-disaggregated indicators, and can provide social and gender expert support during project implementation;

Gender Policy - Principles

- An ability to identify a grievance mechanism, which can be pre-existing, national, local, or institution- or project-specific, able and competent to provide men and women affected by EE projects and programs with an accessible, transparent, fair and effective process for reviewing and addressing gender-related complaints and grievances;

Gender Policy - Principles

4. *Competencies*

▶ EE shall consider relevant gender expertise and gender balance in the appointments of its staff members and their designation to serve on the Project/ program decision makers.

5. *Knowledge generation and communication*

▶ EE shall accelerate learning on the implementation of gender-responsive actions and to contribute to addressing existing knowledge and data gaps, EE will document the experiences and knowledge gained from the implementation of its gender policy;

Gender Policy - Principles

▶ EE will communicate its commitment to gender equality, its gender policy and related implementation guidance to other stakeholders and the wider public and seek periodic feedback from stakeholders and partners on the implementation of the its gender policy, including possible future improvements;

6. *Review and Revisions*

▶ The gender mainstreaming approach set forth in the EE gender policy requires sustained commitment and a regular tracking of its progress.

▶ EE shall adjust its approach in accordance with the experience gained in the implementation of the gender policy.

Gender Policy - Reporting

▶ The reporting through gender lenses is an essential step to ensure that the project management team has the adequate gender expertise, is cooperating with key stakeholders and implementing the project is a way to provide both women and men with equal rights, opportunities and benefits form the project implementation;

▶ For the reporting purposes the following information should be collected, analyzed and reported:

Gender Policy - Reporting

1. Information on Project implementation team:

- Sex disaggregated data on project implementation team; comparative analyses of composition – challenges and opportunities; further steps;

- Capacity and gender expertise to implement the project effectively, including:

  - Existence of the gender specialist, mains responsibilities, LOE

  - Training for women and men at all levels of the project team to ensure gender sensitivity

Gender Policy - Reporting

▶ Inclusion of responsibilities for integrating gender aspects at project implementation in job descriptions, terms of references of management, technical staff, and consultants;

2. *Information on the work with stakeholders:*

▶ It is important that project stakeholders are informed about existing gender inequality and EE's commitment to address them;

▶ This means assessing and creating gender awareness among potential partners, such as civil society groups, and government and private sector institutions.

▶ Thus, the following information should be reported:

Gender Policy - Reporting

- Existence of targeted partnerships with civil society / women's advocacy groups;

- Initiatives on targeted capacity development/ gender sensitization for main partners and stakeholders, including government. Local self-governance and private sector;

- Initiatives to support and encourage women and men to bring their voice, needs, potential, perspectives, and priorities to project implementation team and decision makers;

- Initiatives to engage and target men as agents of change and champions for gender equality;

- Initiatives to embed project processes within a national

Gender Policy - Reporting

3. *Gender mainstreaming efforts:*

- Even if specific gender-focused activities may not have been elaborated on at the project design phase, developing a gender action plan or framework for gender mainstreaming during and for the implementation is important;

- Further analysis on gender-related issues is often required during the implementation phase, including sector-specific analysis/case studies or further assessment of gender opportunities, for the benefit of certain stakeholder groups and/or local communities.

- Thus, there is a need to:

Gender Policy - Reporting

▶ Report on newly planned activities and processes to mainstream gender;

▶ Provide information on the assumptions and information regarding the characteristics, needs, and interests of men and women, taken into consideration at the project design stage;

▶ Provide sex-disaggregated data on project participants and beneficiaries;

▶ Provide information on activities implemented/ undertaken during the reporting period, including gender indicators;

Gender Policy - Reporting

▶ Provide information on processes, and the distribution of resources and benefits;

▶ Provide information about the results - impact /changes the project is achieving in relation to women and men;

▶ Provide information on any challenges or barriers arisen during project implementation hindered the equal participation of men and women in activities, decision-making; existence of any legal, cultural, or religious constraints on women's participation in the project;

Gender Policy - Reporting

- Recommendations on:

  - How can the project's results framework be more gender responsive?

  - Adaptive management measures are needed to improve gender mainstreaming and the project's work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment (e.g. mid-term gender analysis; additional gender expertise, etc.);

Gender Policy - Reporting

4. Gender responsive communication shall be also reported.

Thus, there is a need to:

- Report on implementation planned communication activities and processes
- Provide information on:
  - other publications, presentations, or reporting paid attention to gender aspects of the project;

Gender Policy - Reporting

- women's organizations, gender equality advocates, and experts included as sources of information in publications, presentations and reporting;

- publication, presentation, or other form of reporting contain gender insensitive language or perpetuate gender stereotypes;

- Provide information about the results - impact /changes the project is achieving in relation to women and men;

- Plan next period activities

- Recommend on further improvement of the gender responsive communication.