

ESMS Questionnaire & Screening Report & Clearance - for field projects

Project Data

The fields below are completed by the project proponent

Project Title:	Resilience enhancement of ecosystems and communities in the climate-vulnerable Highlands of Sri Lanka: the Amban ganga catchment and command area		
Project proponent:	Shamen Vidanage		
Executing agency:	Ministry of Mahaweli Development and Environment		
Funding agency:	GCF		
Country:	Sri Lanka	Contract value (add currency):	USD 47,700,000.00
Start date and duration:	01,01, 2019, 06Years	Amount in CHF:	CHF 48,181,818.00
Has a safeguard screening or ESIA been done before?	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	Provide details, if yes:	

Step 1: ESMS Questionnaire

The fields below are completed by the project proponent; the questionnaire is presented in Annex A

	Name and function of individual representing project proponent	Date
ESMS Questionnaire completed by:	Padmi Meegoda / Shamen Vidanage	12.06.2018
ESMS Screening is <i>(tick one of the three options)</i>	<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> required because the project budget is \geq CHF 500,000</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> required – despite being a small project (< CHF 500,000) the project proponent has identified risk issues when completing the ESMS Questionnaire</p> <p>3. <input type="checkbox"/> not required because project budget is < CHF 500,000 and no environmental or social risks have been identified when completing the ESMS Questionnaire (or only low risks that are fully addressed by the project activities); this is confirmed below by naming the staff member who carried out the self-screening.</p>	

The fields below are only applicable when option 3 is ticked above

	Name and function of individual representing project proponent	Risk category
Self-screening of ESMS risks completed by:		<input type="checkbox"/> low risk

Step 2: ESMS Screening

To be completed by IUCN ESMS reviewer(s); only needed when the options 1 or 2 above (marked in red) are ticked

	Name	IUCN unit and function	Date
IUCN ESMS Reviewer:	Linda Klare	ESMS Coordinator, HQ	18.3.2019
	James Dalton	Director, a.i. Global Water Programme	22.6.2018
	Title		Date
Documents submitted at Screening stage:	Project Proposal		08.01.2019
	Feasibility Draft GCF SL IUCN		9.1.2019

ESMS Screening Report¹

Risk category:

 low risk

 moderate risk

 high risk

Rationale: Summarize findings from the questionnaire and explain the rationale of risk categorization

See the following sections of the questionnaire for details:

Section A for findings about the stakeholder engagement process,

Section B on the 4 Standards,

Section C on other E&S impacts and

Section D on risk issues related to Climate change

The aim of the project is to generate resilient livelihoods by increasing capacity to adapt to climate induced change in critical upstream and downstream rural communities in Sri Lanka including protection of the ecosystem service flows that connect them. The project includes activities around water management and land restoration targeting agricultural areas, plantations and forest reserves (component 1), promotion of sustainable/green value chains and payment for ecosystem services (component 2) and strengthening institutional capacity for land management (component 3).

Under component 1 the project will implement vegetation management to control run-off and enhance infiltration along roads, rehabilitate village ponds and tanks for water harvesting and irrigation networks. It will further promote the restoration of degraded forests within protected areas and forest fragments and the planting of trees outside forests for improved sustainability and livelihoods. It will promote cropping intensity of rice production by increasing efficiency of irrigation and fertilizer management and through the use of integrated pest control. To improve food security, it will promote sustainable intensification of smallholder production; and promote the restoration and sustainable intensification of plantations by promoting low-impact techniques such as mulching and organic fertilizer, agroforestry practices and improving crop diversity.

Under component 2 the project will strengthen the capacity of farmers and collective groups as enterprises through advice and training in areas such as agro-processing, product development, branding, certification. Component 3 is ESMS relevant in the sense that it aims to promote inclusive and evidence-based land –use planning processes.

The project is expected to have highly positive environmental impacts as restoration, reforestation and sustainable land management practices are expected to improve the biodiversity status of the respective land use systems and improve water infiltration and other ecosystem services. Also social impacts are expected to be highly positive as it will improve ecosystem services relevant for local communities including water, enhance food security and provide other tangible economic benefits for different land owners and users.

However, some risk issues have been identified when completing the ESMS questionnaire. A complete list of identified impacts is presented in Annex A, main issues include:

- Potential need for short-term restrictions on the use of natural resources which might trigger livelihood impacts of resource users;
- Risks that impacts from conservation actions fall disproportionately on disadvantaged or vulnerable individuals or groups and / or that such groups might be disadvantaged or discriminated with regards to access to project benefits;
- Introduction of climate proofed tree and crop species might require the use of non-native species and associated risks of species developing invasive characteristics;
- Potential minor local environmental impacts related to agro-processing;
- Potential minor risks of damaging hidden/buried cultural heritage resources during excavations.

It is not expected that any of the identified risks would likely cause significant adverse environmental and/or social impacts that severely affects sensitive receptors (biodiversity, humans etc.), that were diverse, unprecedented, irreversible or permanent. Most of the risk issues are preliminarily judged as low


¹ For projects below CHF 500,000 where no risks have been identified the screening report is completed by the project proponent - only the section on the rationale but the sections below that as low risk projects don't require assessments. The columns in the ESMS Questionnaire reserved for the IUCN ESMS reviewer will remain blank.

	<p>risks, very few moderate and it is expected that they can be readily addressed through good management practices and mitigation measures.</p> <p>Because priority areas for interventions and further details of project activities will be defined only during the implementation phase of the project, e.g. on the basis of sub-basin planning process, an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) is required. The ESMF delineates the process of assessing risks and identifying suitable mitigation measures, spells out requirements for consultation and disclosure, establishes implementation arrangements and identifies financial resources needed for ESMF implementation. The ESMF should further provide detailed guidance for ensuring compliance with the ESMS Standards. As such it will include elements of an Access Restrictions Mitigation Process Framework and guidance on assessment needs for risk related to the introduction of species.</p>	
Required assessments or tools	<input type="checkbox"/> Full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (Full ESIA) <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (Partial ESIA) <input type="checkbox"/> Social Impact Assessment (SIA) <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
Required actions for gender mainstreaming	<p>The existing Gender Analysis should be strengthened through consultation at the site level programmed as integral part of the social baseline analysis (see ESMF for further guidance). A Gender Action Plan has been developed. The results of the site-level consultations will further inform and expand the Action Plan.</p>	
ESMS Standards	Trigger	Required tools or plans
Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions <i>(see section B1 for details)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TBD	<input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement Action Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Resettlement Policy Framework <input type="checkbox"/> Action Plan to Mitigate Impacts from Access Restriction <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Access Restrictions Mitigation Process Framework
Indigenous Peoples <i>(see section B2 for details)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> TBD	<input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous People Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Indigenous People Process Framework
Cultural Heritage <i>(see section B3 for details)</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> TBD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chance Find Procedures
Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Natural Resources <i>(see section B4 for details)</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TBD	<input type="checkbox"/> Pest Management Plan

Step 3: ESMS Clearance of Project Proposal

The fields below are completed by the IUCN ESMS reviewer at Clearance stage

	Name	Organization and function	Date
IUCN ESMS Reviewer Clearance Stage:	Linda Klare	IUCN, ESMS Coordinator	
	Title		Date
Documents submitted at Clearance Stage:	FP-IUCN-GCF-Sri Lanka -Funding Proposal		21.05.2019
	FP-IUCN-GCF-Sri Lanka -Annexure 5-ESM Framework		21.05.2019
	FP-GCF-IUCN-MMD&E-ICRAF-Knuckles -Annexure 2-Feasibility Study		26.04.2019
	FP-GCF-IUCN-MMD&E-ICRAF-Knuckles -Annexure 9-Stakeholder consultations-Final Version		26.04.2019
	FP-GCF-IUCN-MMD&E-ICRAF-Knuckles -Annexure 6-Gender Assessment and Action Plan-Final Version		26.04.2019

Have findings from ESIA triggered any changes (e.g. risk level or Standards triggered)	n/a		
CLEARANCE DECISION			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cleared	<i>The conclusions are positive and the project proposal meets all requirements with regards to avoiding or reducing environmental and social risks: the proposal is accepted.</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conditionally cleared	<i>The conclusions call for improving one or more ESMS activities and/or for important re-formulation of some mitigation measures. This will lead to the proposal being conditionally cleared; the reviewer will provide guidance on the way forward.</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Clearance rejected	<i>Essential ESMS provisions have not been complied with, critical mitigation measures have not been incorporated or don't seem feasible or sufficient for avoiding or minimizing impacts; or significant data gaps still prevail and additional field assessments are required.</i>		
Rationale – Explain clearance decision (why cleared, conditionally cleared or rejected)	The project has been screened on environmental and social risks which resulted in the classification of the project as a moderate risk project due to the identification of a small number of risks and the fact that the final selection of sites and respective activities will only be decided during project implementation, e.g. on the basis of the sub-basin planning process. This has triggered the need to develop an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF). The ESMF has been reviewed and considered appropriate for addressing the identified risks.		
Clearance conditions (when conditionally cleared, e.g. tasks to be completed during inception phase):	n/a		
Approval ESMS Clearance			
Name	Function	Date	Signature
Sheila Aggarwal-Khan	Director IUCN GEF/GCF	3.9.2019	

Annex A: ESMS Questionnaire

Project summary

To be completed by project proponent - Please summarise the project briefly using no more than one page. The summary can be in form of bullet points. Include goal/objectives, expected results/outcomes, outputs (project deliverables) and main activities.

The project “Resilience enhancement of ecosystems and communities in the climate-vulnerable Highlands of Sri Lanka: the Amban ganga catchment and command area” expected to promote a transformational change in meeting the climatic challenges at microscale in a way that is replicated and up scalable. As such the project aims to enhance resilience and adaptive capacity of climate vulnerable ecosystems and populations and the public investment in the Amban Ganga (river) catchment and its commands area, through forest landscape restoration, improved and consistent water flow regime, reduce flood peaks and minimize dry spells and promote climate smart agriculture, value addition, access to premium markets, credit and insurance etc.

The project interventions proposed consisted of:

1. Sub-basin level governance, PES, information and adaptive planning capacity of the stakeholders;
2. Increased productivity (cropping intensity and food security) and resilience of upstream farmers, plantations and rural communities with concomitant environmental protection;
3. Greater value generated and captured by rural people and businesses through green growth and value chain upgrading; and
4. Increased cropping intensity, food security and resilience of downstream farmers

The theory of change (Fig. 1.) in the project is associated with the project is aiming at three GCF impact areas, namely, a) Increased resilience of the most vulnerable communities; b) Increased resilience of ecosystems and ecosystem services; and c) Increased resilience of health, well-being and water and food security.

The project will work both upstream and downstream vulnerable groups to meet the challenges of climate change using one overarching outcome, namely, the “Resilient livelihoods through capacity to adapt to climate induced change in critical upstream and downstream rural communities, including the protection of the ecosystem service flows that connect them.” The upstream and downstream activities are linked by two intermediate results. In the upstream the project will focus on “Sustainable land and water use in watersheds generating livelihood benefits locally and protection of water resources to downstream users with adaptive capacity at sub-basin and local scales to continue innovating to climate change.” On the other hand the downstream focus would be towards “Stable and productive water and land use relying on the irrigation and best practices to generate resilient livelihood benefits together with adaptive capacity to innovate and respond to climate change.”

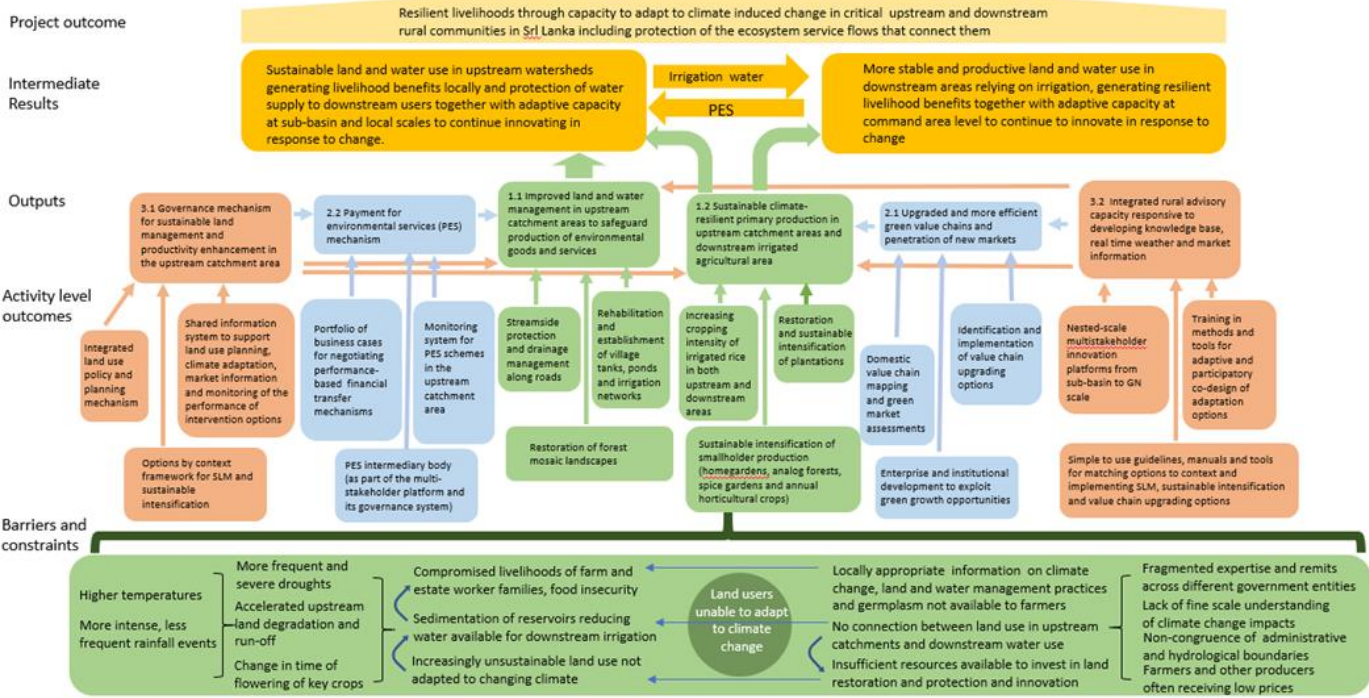


Figure 1: Theory of change

A. Process of stakeholder engagement during project conceptualization

1. **Stakeholder Analysis:** Has a project stakeholder analysis been carried out and documented – identifying not only stakeholders' interests in the project and their influence but also whether they might be affected by the project? Does the stakeholder analysis differentiate between women and men, where relevant and feasible? It is recommended to add the stakeholder analysis to the documents submitted at screening stage.

To be completed by project proponent

Yes, all key stakeholders have been consulted in the project designing phase. GCF team and the local counterparts visited the field and engage communities. Govt. agencies were consulted in Kandy and in Colombo several times to obtain inputs to the project as well as to validate the design elements.

IUCN ESMS Reviewer

An explicit analysis of stakeholders and their interest in the project, how they might influence the project and in which way they might be impacted by the project (positively or negatively) is still needed; some elements are provided in the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.

2. **Stakeholder Consultation:** Has information about the project – objectives, activities, sites and potential risks – been shared with stakeholders? Have consultations been held with relevant groups to discuss the project concept and risks? Provide details about the groups involved. Were women involved or consulted separately? Did the consultations involve stakeholders that might be negatively affected by the project? Were consultations conducted in a culturally appropriate way? Have results of the consultations been documented? Were results used to inform project design?

To be completed by project proponent

Yes, during the field visit to the area, a community consultation was done with community teams as well as individually. The changing climate and the water supply and difficulties in farming around the year had been discussed. Also, the forest governance issues and practical issues related to project implementation were investigated with community groups. Discussions have been cordial providing adequate space for everyone to contribute. No significant cultural barriers for consultations in Sri Lanka, so not relevant.

IUCN ESMS Reviewer

The stakeholder engagement plan provides a brief description of the stakeholder consultation process carried out during the project design phase. The documentation could be strengthened by providing quantitative data such as: number of meetings held, number of peoples consulted, disaggregated by gender and other social groups where relevant etc., main issues discussed and how this has been taken into account in project design. It is also not clear whether the discussion included risks of project activities. This should be explicit made up for during community consultations undertaken in the inception phase.

B. Potential impacts related to ESMS standards			
B1: Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions			
	Project proponent		IUCN ESMS Reviewer
	<small>Yes, no, n/a, TBD</small>	<i>Answer question, provide further detail where relevant</i>	<i>Comments, additional considerations</i>
1. Will the project involve resettling peoples or communities? if yes, answer a-b below	No	<i>Shaded cells do not need to be filled out</i>	
a. Describe the project activities that require resettlement?			
b. Have alternative project design options for avoiding resettlement been rigorously considered?			
2. Does the project include activities that might restrict peoples' access to land or natural resources? Please consider the following activities: establishing new protected areas (PA) or extending the area of an existing PA, improving enforcement of PA regulations (e.g. training guards, providing monitoring and/or enforcement equipment, providing training/tools for improving management effectiveness), constructing physical barriers that prevent people accessing certain places; changing how specific natural resources are managed to a management system that is more restrictive ² ; if yes, answer a-h below	Yes		
Answer only if you answered yes to item 2			
a. Describe project activities that involve restrictions and the respective resources to be restricted.		Reforestation of degraded lands in catchment areas will need restricting the access to those areas which are used by local communities for cattle grazing, firewood and other needs but driving deforestation, until the vegetation is stable. The objective is to adopt the restrictions through community-based approaches where, community will be engaged to understand the value of restoration and how enhanced ecosystem services benefit them and increase resilience; communities will be involved in planting/reforestation and maintenance. Communities will also be part of the monitoring and advocacy, thereby observing the changes to the ecosystem and its benefits. This should not trigger any new plans and will be addressed in the ESMP.	The standard is triggered as there is a risk that the project might trigger involuntary restrictions on land use and access to natural resources that cause a community or groups within a community to lose access to resource usage where they have traditional or customary tenure, or recognizable usage rights. While the long-term impacts of sustainable managed areas might be positive, the short-term impact might be significant and need to be mitigated or compensated by the project.
b. Has the legal framework regulating land tenure and access to natural resource been analysed, broken down by different groups including women and ethnic/indigenous groups? Are customary rights for land and natural resources recognized? Are there any groups at the project site whose rights are not legally recognized?		Most of the degraded lands belong to the Government or plantations, therefore, controlled by the legal environment regulating the ownership. Hence, the rights to the land uses also belong to the owners. However, traditionally the communities adjacent to those lands (that are partly degraded) have been using them for their benefits, mostly by harvesting	The baseline study should assess the current use and dependency of communities on natural resources as well as the tenure system including traditional or customary tenure or recognizable usage rights.

² Note that the Standard is not triggered if changes of natural resources management systems and respective restrictions are based on communities' or users' own and voluntary decisions – e.g. in order to ensure long-term use of these resources.

		timber, forest products etc. Baseline data will be developed during the project implementation. Yes, the laws recognize the traditional rights. However, it is not applicable in this project	
c. Have the implications of access restrictions on people's livelihoods been analysed? Explain who might be affected and describe impacts. Distinguish social groups (incl. vulnerable groups, indigenous peoples) and men and women.		Access restriction will also bring in two topics, the carrying capacity of the lands and the extent the communities get restricted harvest and enjoy the benefits, beyond the anticipated benefits due to restriction. The restriction also provide a platform to talk about issues and benefits. In that regard, restriction is an essential part of the project success and will not fall into right violation domain.	A Process Framework or a document of similar nature needs to be established prior to finalizing project design that describes the requirements for assessing the social impacts of such restrictions (disaggregated by gender, ethnic, age and users).
d. Have strategies been considered to avoid restrictions by making changes to project design?			If livelihood impacts from restrictions are identified when implementing the Process Framework, alternative project design and strategies for minimising risks should be considered.
e. If it is not possible to avoid restrictions, will the project include measures to minimize or compensate for impacts from loss/ restrictions of access? Please describe the measures.		Yes, the project will educate the users the need for restriction, allow sustainable uses, in agreement with owners and also look for alternative ways to provide for the land uses prior to the project.	The project will promote sustainable intensification of smallholder production as well as the development of green enterprises and associated value chains which is expected to increase income opportunities and employment. These measures can act as mitigation measures provided they are targeted and suitable for the groups affected by the restrictions. The Process Framework should describe the process of assessing the effectiveness of such measures and the development of other suitable mitigation measures, when relevant, in consultation with the affected groups.
f. Are eligibility criteria established that define who is entitled to benefits or compensation? Are they transparent and fair (e.g. in proportion to their losses and to their needs if they are poor and vulnerable)?			To be defined in the Process Framework
g. Are measures culturally appropriate and gender inclusive? Does the geographical scale of the measures match the scale of the restrictions (e.g. will measures be accessible to all groups affected by the restrictions)?			Developing mitigation measures together with affected groups will ensure their suitability. The requirements for this process (who will be included etc.) should be defined in the Process Framework.
h. Has a process been implemented or started to obtain free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) from groups that are likely to be negatively affected by restrictions? Please describe the process (who has been consulted and how).		Not yet, however the FPIC will be automatically used as part of the project before restrictions and during the project while highlighting the benefits of restrictions.	The Process Framework will establish the requirements for FPIC
3. Will/might the project require the acquisition of land for project purposes (e.g. infrastructure development)? If yes, describe the current legal status of the land (private/ public, occupied/unoccupied).			The project includes rehabilitation / development of infrastructure elements (e.g. village level ponds and irrigation channels, etc.). When planning these activities and selecting the respective sites, it will need to be ensured that appropriate agreements with the respective land owners and any management entities will be obtained.

Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on the Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions

<p>Standard triggered? Yes / No / TBD</p> <p>What are the main risk issues? If possible indicate their probability (unlikely, likely, almost certain) and impact (minor, moderate, major).</p>	Yes	<p>The standard is triggered as there is a risk that the project might require restrictions on land use and access to natural resources that cause a community or groups within a community to lose access to resource usage where they have traditional or customary tenure, or recognizable usage rights. The need for restrictions is not confirmed yet, but the probability is judged as likely. Because of this and in view of the project's intention to promote forms of co-management (shared management between communities and the respective government agency) of the targeted restoration areas, it is considered not appropriate to establish a full Process Framework; instead elements of Process Framework should be developed to be incorporated into the overarching ESMF (in the following referred to as abbreviated Process Framework).</p>	
<p>Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed?</p>	<p>Yes, an assessment of social impacts is required. The study should include an analysis of current use of resources and the impact of such restrictions and should be incorporated into the abbreviated Process Framework</p>		
<p>Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient?</p>	<p>See above</p>		
<p>B2: Standard on Indigenous Peoples³</p>			
	<p>Project proponent</p>		<p>IUCN ESMS Reviewer</p>
	<p><i>Yes, no, n/a, TBD</i></p>	<p><i>Answer question, provide further detail where relevant</i></p>	<p><i>Comments, additional considerations</i></p>
<p>1. Is the project site in an area inhabited by or important to indigenous peoples, tribal peoples or other traditional peoples? If yes, answer questions a-j</p>	No		
<p>2. Even if indigenous groups are not found at the project sites, is there still a risk that the project could affect the rights and livelihood of indigenous peoples? If yes, answer questions a-j</p>	No		<p>As confirmed by Shamen Vidanage and respective map showing the location of settlements of Vedda people there is no presence of Vedda people in the project's area of influence.</p>
<p>Answer only if you answered yes to 1 or 2 above.</p>			
<p>a. Name the groups; distinguish, if applicable, the geographical areas of their presence (including the areas of resource use) and how these relate to the project's area of influence.</p>			
<p>b. What are the key characteristics that qualify the identified groups as indigenous groups? Do these groups identify themselves as indigenous?</p>			
<p>c. How does the host country's Government refer to these groups (e.g., indigenous peoples, minorities, tribes etc.)?</p>			
<p>d. Is there a risk that the project affects their livelihood through access restrictions? While this is covered under the Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions, if yes, please specify the indigenous groups affected.</p>			
<p>e. Is there a risk that the project affects their livelihood in some other means? E.g. by affecting their self-determination, cultural identity, values and practices, social cohesion, or by providing inequitable benefits?</p>			

³The coverage of indigenous peoples includes: (i) peoples who identify themselves as "indigenous" in strict sense; (ii) tribal peoples whose social, cultural, and economic conditions distinguish them from other sections of the national community, and whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws or regulations; and (iii) traditional peoples not necessarily called indigenous or tribal but who share the same characteristics of social, cultural, and economic conditions that distinguish them from other sections of the national community, whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions, and whose livelihoods are closely connected to ecosystems and their goods and services

f. Does the project intend to promote the use of indigenous peoples' traditional knowledge?			
g. Are any indigenous groups living in voluntary isolation? If yes, how does the project respect their rights and avoid any negative impacts?			
h. Explain whether and how legitimate representatives of indigenous groups have been consulted to discuss the project and better understand potential impacts upon them?			
i. Has a process been started or implemented to achieve their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) to activities that might affect them (positively or negatively)?			
j. Explain whether opportunities are considered to provide benefits for indigenous peoples? If yes, is it ensured that this is done in a way agreed with them and culturally appropriate and gender inclusive?			

Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on the Standard on Indigenous Peoples

Standard triggered? Yes / No / TBD What are the main risk issues? If possible indicate their probability (unlikely, likely, almost certain) and impact (minor, moderate, major).	No	Not triggered as the field consultations carried out during the design phase did not confirm the presence of indigenous peoples in the project site. However, an additional examination is planned during the social baseline study and associated community consultations to analyse whether there aren't any ethnic groups present in the sites that meet the broader IUCN definition of indigenous peoples.
Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed?		See above; to be included in the ESMF
Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient?		n/a

B3: Standard on Cultural Heritage⁴

	Project proponent	IUCN ESMS Reviewer
	Yes, no, n/a, TBD	Answer question, provide further detail where relevant
		Comments, additional considerations
1. Is the project located in or near a site officially designated or proposed as a cultural heritage site (e.g., UNESCO World Cultural or Mixed Heritage Sites, or Cultural Landscapes) or a nationally designated site for cultural heritage protection? if yes, answer a-c below	Yes	The project is downstream of the Knuckles conservation world heritage area as a part of the Peak Wilderness Protected Area that comprised of Horton Plains National Park and Knuckles Conservation Forest. More than half of Sri Lanka's endemic vertebrates, half of the country's endemic flowering plants and more than 34% of its endemic trees, shrubs, and herbs are restricted to these diverse montane rain forests and adjoining grassland areas. The contribution or impact by the project is

⁴ Cultural heritage is defined as tangible or intangible, movable or immovable cultural resource or site with paleontological, archaeological, historical, cultural, artistic, religious, spiritual or symbolic value for a nation, people or community, or natural feature or resource with cultural, religious, spiritual or symbolic significance for a nation, people or community associated with that feature.

		positive in this scenario as the project by improving the value of the conservation forests.	
2. Does the project site include important cultural resources such as burial sites, buildings or monuments of archaeological, historical, artistic, religious, spiritual or symbolic value? if yes, answer a-c below	No		
3. Does the project area site include any natural features or resources that are of cultural, spiritual, or symbolic significance (such as sacred natural sites, ceremonial areas, or sacred species)? if yes, answer a-c below	No	There are temples and other cultural sites used by people for their day to day life.	
a. Will the project involve development of infrastructure (e.g. roads, dams, slope restoration, landslides stabilisation) or construction of buildings (e.g. visitor centre, watch tower)?	Yes	Small scale soil and water conservation measures will be promoted with close supervision of relevant agencies to avoid any un intended on-site and off-site consequences	As the sites will only be known during project implementation, appropriate guidance on siting and impact assessment will need to be provided.
b. Will the project involve excavation or movement of earth, flooding or physical environmental changes (e.g., as part of ecosystem restoration)?	Yes	As part of the ecosystem restoration and to improve rainwater harvesting (ponds and dykes) some excavations and movement of earth will be done. However, in each situation, there will be guidelines to follow and adequate supervision assured through the project	Same as above
c. Is there a risk that physical interventions described in items a. and b. might affect known or unknown (buried) cultural resources?	No		Despite being small-scale interventions, Chance Find procedures (template available in the Standard) should be at hand and communicated to the entities executing the work to prevent damage on resources that are not known. In addition, the ESMF should will establish guidance for infrastructure development guidance to experience will be needed during the inception phase to identify and mitigate potential risks for issues
4. Will the project restrict local users' access to cultural resources or natural features/sites with cultural, spiritual or symbolic significance?	No		
5. Is there a risk that project activities might affect cultural values, norms or practices of local communities?	N/A		As some activities and practices have not been defined yet in detail, it is not possible to assess whether there are risks of them not being entirely compatible with cultural norms and values. In any case, it is understood that options will not be prescriptive, but rather offer land users a menu of species and practices appropriate for their conditions. The ESMF should provide guidance on community consultation to assess such risks and how to mitigate such risks.
6. Will the project promote the use of (or development of economic benefits) from cultural resources or natural features/sites with cultural significance?	Yes	During the eco-tourism activities and promotion of garden products such as spice, tea etc. the venues with natural features will be used as part of the tourism itinerary with adequate caution	This question inquires about using cultural resources to which communities have legal (including customary) rights, e.g. arts, folklore, traditional knowledge etc. But this does not seem to be the case for the proposed project activities.

Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on the Standard on Cultural Heritage

<p>Standard triggered? Yes / No / TBD</p> <p>What are the main risk issues? If possible indicate their probability (unlikely, likely, almost certain) and impact (minor, moderate, major).</p>	Yes	<p>The standard is triggered as the project includes selected infrastructure work. As the sites will only be known during project implementation, appropriate guidance on siting and impact assessment will need to be provided as part of the ESMF. Given the small-scale nature of these works, it is considered not very likely that hidden resources are found. Nevertheless, the chance find procedures should be made available to all entities executing the works as a safeguard.</p> <p>While it is not considered very likely either that project activities might affect cultural values, norms or practices of local communities, the ESMF should provide guidance how to assess and avoid such risks when designing agricultural practices and value chain activities.</p>
<p>Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed?</p>	n/a	
<p>Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient?</p>	n/a	
B4: Standard on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources		
	Project proponent	IUCN ESMS Reviewer
	<small>Yes, no, n/a, TBD</small> <i>Answer question, provide further detail where relevant</i>	<i>Comments, additional considerations</i>
<p>1. Is the project located in or near areas legally protected or officially proposed for protection including reserves according to IUCN Protected Area Management Categories I - VI, UNESCO Natural World Heritage Sites, UNESCO Biosphere Reserves, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands? If yes, provide details on the protection status and answer questions a-c</p>	Yes	Knuckles conservation forest, which is part of the Central Highlands World Heritage Serial property.
<p>2. Is the project located in or near to areas recognised for their high biodiversity value and protected as such by indigenous peoples or other local users? If yes, provide details and answer questions a-c</p>	Yes	The project is downstream of the Peak Wilderness Protected Area that comprised of Horton Plains National Park and Knuckles Conservation Forest. More than half of Sri Lanka's endemic vertebrates, half of the country's endemic flowering plants and more than 34% of its endemic trees, shrubs, and herbs are restricted to these diverse montane rain forests and adjoining grassland areas.
<p>3. Is the project located in/near to areas which are not covered in existing protection systems but identified by authoritative sources for their high biodiversity value⁵? If yes, provide details and answer questions a-c</p>	Yes	Project covers environmental protection area (EPA) of knuckles range as declared by the National Environment act.
Answer only if you answered yes to items 1, 2, or 3 above.		
<p>a. If the project aims to establish or expand a protected area (PA) or to change its management regime, is</p>	No	

⁵ Areas important to threatened species according to IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, important to endemic or restricted-range species or to migratory and congregatory species; areas representing key evolutionary processes, providing connectivity with other critical habitats or key ecosystem services; highly threatened and/or unique ecosystems (e.g. to be determined in future by the evolving IUCN Red List of Ecosystems); areas identified as Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) and subsets such as important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs), important Plant Areas (IPAs), important Sites for Freshwater Biodiversity or Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites.

there a risk of negative impacts on natural resources in areas outside the PA?			
b. If the project plans any infrastructure in a PA or an area of high biodiversity value (e.g., watch tower, tourisms facilities, access roads, small scale water infrastructure), is there a risk of negative impacts on biodiversity (e.g. on threatened species) during its construction and use?	No		
c. If the project promotes ecotourism, is there a risk of negative impacts on biodiversity (e.g., due to waste disposal, disturbance, slope erosion etc.)?	Yes	Risk on waste management and the pressure on over use of sites do exist. The project ESMP will address those issues and implement mitigation measures on waste management, education and improved governance to minimize the pressure on natural resource base.	Because some of the activities are not yet defined in detail, the ESMF should provide generic guidance how to minimize risks from ecotourism.
4. If the project includes plantation development, is there a risk of affecting natural forest areas or other areas of high biodiversity value?	No	These activities will improve the productivity of the degraded areas of tea and other plantations in the project area.	The ESMF needs to provide specific guidance on plantation development, including the provision that by no means natural forest and other areas of high biodiversity value are converted to plantations.
5. Will the project include introduction or translocation of species (e.g. for erosion control, dune stabilisation or reforestation) or include production of living natural resources? If yes, provide details and answer questions a-b	Yes	The project will involve in reforestation and green cover enhancements. However, the project will promote species diversity and not impact the existing biodiversity. The educational and awareness components of the project will highlight how climate induce temperature and rainfall intensities will change the species diversity etc., thereby, helping the beneficiaries from the action to better manage their own biodiversity and benefits during changing climates.	
a. Does this project involve non-native species or risk introducing non-native species by accident?	No		Not agreed. Under activity 1.2.2 (Sustainable intensification of smallholder production) the project will strengthen farmers' access to best-available quality germplasm of priority climate-resilient species, varieties and cultivars that match local biophysical and soil conditions; this seems to include options of non-native species.
b. If a.is yes, is there a risk that these species might develop invasive behaviour?	n/a		Not agreed. Depending on the species to be introduced there might be a risk of developing invasive characteristics. To manage such risks the IUCN Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations ⁶ needs to be adhered to.
6. Is there a risk that the project might create other pathways for spreading invasive species (e.g. through	No	The invasive species in the area are known and the project will help mitigate IAS related challenge. However, the anticipated	

⁶ IUCN/Species Survival Commission, 2013, *Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations*. Version 1.0, available at <https://portals.iucn.org/library/efiles/edocs/2013-009.pdf>

creation of corridors, import of commodities, tourism or movement of boats)?		temperature changes may change IAS behaviour too and the project will alert the beneficiaries on the same fact.	
7. Is there a risk that the project negatively affects water flows through extraction, diversion or containment of surface or ground water (e.g., through dams, reservoirs, canals, levees, river basin developments, groundwater extraction) or through other activities?	No	The aim of the project is to manage the water cycle in a way that the water shortages in the upstream catchment and downstream command areas will be met (expected CC changes) as adaptive measures. Soil and water conservation measures in the project will reduce flood peaks and awareness and education measures will help beneficiaries to better understand the relationship between surface modifications related actions (cover, surface roughness and impact of paving and degradation, setting fire etc.) and water flow and hydrologic patterns.	It is understood that the project will use due diligence when planning water management interventions. For example for planning rainwater harvesting the project will use a GIS-based planning tool to ensure to guide localization of appropriate sites by taking into account relevant biophysical and socio-economic parameters.
8. Is there a risk that the project negatively affects water dynamics, river connectivity or the hydrological cycle in ways other than direct changes of water flows (e.g., by affecting water infiltration, aquifer recharge or sedimentation)? Also consider reforestation projects as originators of such impacts.	No	Again, the project will have positive benefits as the project enhances rainwater harvesting, ground water recharge, minimize erosion and surface runoff etc.	While increasing water harvesting overall is expected to be environmental beneficial, there is a certain risk that this is associated with lower water flows into rivers or water infiltration / aquifer recharge. It is recognized that the project includes ground water re-charge monitoring; nevertheless, this aspect will require review during the detailed planning of the interventions.
9. Is there a risk that the project affects water quality of surface or groundwater (e.g., contamination, increase of salinity) through irrigation/ agricultural run-off, water extraction practices, influence of livestock or other activities?	No	The project will monitor the water quality and quantity to estimate ecosystem benefits by the project. Hence the risk reduction will be reported, and project will not enhance risks	
10. If the project promotes the use of resources from natural habitats (such as timber or non-timber forest products), is there a risk that this might lead to unsustainable use?	No		Promoting the use of resources from natural habitat often entails risks of overuse. While it is acknowledged that it is the project's intention to promote sustainable use, it will be critical that the project provides a mechanism for monitoring the use, in particular in the buffer zones designated for ensuring provision of adjacent communities with forest products.
11. Does the project intend to use pesticides, fungicides or herbicides (biocides)? If yes, provide details and answer questions a-b	No	Project will not contribute to increase such uses already there in the project areas. On the contrary, climate smart agriculture systems proposed and promoted in the project is expected to reduce the agrichemical use.	As part of Activity 1.2.1 (Increasing cropping intensity of irrigated rice in both upstream and downstream areas) integrated pest control will be promoted. It is understood that the project will not fund the actual application of pesticides or chemicals, but will influence existing pesticide application by promoting the use of real time weather and pest incidence data in order to lead to a reduction of quantities of biocide applied by farmers and plantations.
a. Have alternatives to the use of biocides been rigorously considered or tested?			
b. Has a pest management plan been established?			

12. Is there a risk that the project unintendedly causes adverse knock-on effects on biodiversity in a wider area of influence (landscape/ watershed, regional or global levels) including transboundary impacts?	No	On the contrary, the project will do a positive contribution to the landscape, catchments, watersheds included in the project area.	
13. Is there a risk that consequential developments triggered by the project will have adverse impacts on biodiversity? Is there a risk of adverse cumulative impacts generated together with other known or planned projects in the sites?	No		

Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on the Standard on Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

Standard triggered? Yes / No / TBD What are the main risk issues? If possible indicate their probability (unlikely, likely, almost certain) and impact (minor, moderate, major).	Yes	The Standard is triggered given the risks identified above (implications on the water cycle, overuse of natural resources, potential introduction of non-native species) – overall being considered as relatively low, though. The risks will need to be assessed once detailed project activities and sites are known. Relevant provisions will be delineated in the ESMF.
Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed?	See above	
Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient?	n/a at this stage	

C. Other social or environmental impacts

C1: Other social impacts

		Project proponent	IUCN ESMS Reviewer
	Yes, no, n/a, TBD	Answer question, provide further detail where relevant	Comments, additional considerations
1. Is there a risk that the project negatively affects human rights (e.g., right to self-determination, to education, to health, or cultural rights) – other than issues related to indigenous peoples which are dealt with in the respective standard? Differentiate between women and men, where applicable.	No		This should be confirmed during inception phase; social baseline should describe stratification according to caste and class, as well as gender and ethnicity and whether this causes any potential for discrimination.
2. Will the project influence land tenure arrangements or community-based property rights to land or resources and is there a risk that this might adversely affect peoples' rights and livelihoods? Consider in particular impacts on transhumant pastoralist, vulnerable groups, different gender etc.?	No	The project will not change land tenure although there will be partnerships between state agencies (land owner) and communities on land uses and benefit sharing. Nevertheless the potential impacts for vulnerability changes of a particular population group or gender related to project area is insignificant.	When developing forest or land co-management arrangements, it will need to be ensured that vulnerable groups resources will not be disadvantaged or discriminated.
3. Is there a risk that the project creates or aggravates inequalities between women and men or adversely impacts the situation or livelihood conditions of women or girls?	No	Project will contribute to enhance the equality amongst men and women. Also, the project will have gender specific	The social baseline analysis undertaken during the project's inception phase should provide for enhancing the existing gender analysis by local gender data. Associated

		activities and climate change and water availability has gender elements	consultations with women and women groups should seek opportunities for complementing the gender action plan (GAP).
4. Explain whether the project use opportunities to secure and, when appropriate, enhance the economic, social and environmental benefits to women?		Interventions on home gardens, market linkages and value-added products, improved access to water sources and affordable renewable energy will benefit women more and improve their resilience and sustainability.	As expressed in the GAP.
5. Explain whether the project provide, when appropriate and consistent with national policy, for measures that strengthen women's rights and access to land and resources?		Yes, the project will adhere to women's rights and access to basic services related aspects. For example, women's right to access safe water in adequate quantities, basic nutrition, disaster preparedness, and ability to participate in decision making related to their and family issues (health, shelter, income, welfare etc.) are some of the areas the project will strengthen and in line with relevant national policies.	These intentions could be further substantiated through concrete activities and indicators to be able to measure achievements.
6. Is there a risk that the project might negatively affect vulnerable groups ⁷ in terms of material or non-material livelihood conditions or contribute to their discrimination or marginalisation (only issues not captured in any of the sections above)?	No		Some project activities seem to benefit particularly actors who are economically better off such as irrigation rice farmers or owners of plantation; however it is understood that those activities are primarily aiming at environmental benefits. It is also well received that homegardens are promoted to serve as effective livelihood alternatives for vulnerable groups who don't have land rights; it will be important that the project ensures that vulnerable groups are not discriminated in accessing related project benefits (e.g. training, advisory services etc.), that these services are adequate for their conditions and that their participation is not hindered by logistical or financial barriers (e.g. inadequate information channels, lack of transport, requirement for tenure security or seed capital) or by any form of social stigmatisation or exclusion. The inception phase should provide for a more in-depth analysis of the social context at the scale of the intervention sites including a description of the stratification according to caste and class, as well as gender and ethnicity, in order to allow the identification of vulnerable groups.
7. Is there a risk that the project would stir or exacerbate conflicts among communities, groups or individuals (e.g. by increasing resource competition when promoting economic opportunities, strengthening rights of or providing projects benefits to selected individuals/groups? Also consider dynamics of recent or expected migration and issues / needs of displaced people.	Yes	The project benefits (arising from ecosystem improvements), if not reach the vulnerable groups in a equitable manner this issue may arise. Project monitoring and feedback systems should address this, adequately.	Risks of activities inadvertently leading to tensions between ethnic or social groups, in particular between the Tamils ethnic minorities and the Sinhalese majority, should be comprehensively assessed during inception phase when defining sites and details of implementation. Selection of beneficiaries for support activities (e.g. training on agricultural practices, provision of crop types, product development, business services such as certification, quality assurance, processing and collective marketing) should be

⁷ Depending on the context vulnerable groups could be landless, elderly, disabled or displaced people, children, ethnic minorities, people living in poverty, marginalised or discriminated individuals or groups.

			done in a transparent way with clear eligibility criteria to avoid unintended discrimination. Land use planning mechanism promoted under component 3 should ensure that ethnic minorities are appropriately represented in the multi-stakeholder platforms created by the project.
8. Is the project likely to induce immigration or significant increases in population density which might trigger environmental or social problems (with special consideration to women)?	No		
9. Is there a risk that the project affects community health and safety (incl. risks of spreading diseases, human-wildlife conflicts, unlawful or abusive acts of security personal/PA guards)?	No		
10. Is there a risk that changes in water infrastructure or water resource management may attract disease vectors (e.g. standing water) or inadvertently affect quality of drinking water?	No	The project activities will work otherwise and improved sanitation and other educational elements will reduce the risks	Standing water can increase water-based diseases such as malaria or dengue. However, heavy rainfall is assumed to create standing water in many other forms as does paddy rice fields. Hence the contribution of the ponds seems insignificant.
11. Is there a risk that the project negatively affects the operation of dams or other built water infrastructure (reservoirs, irrigation systems, canals), e.g., by changing flows into those structures, and as such impairing local communities' livelihood or income?	No	The project intervention in upstream of Ambanganga will contribute positively to enhance water security within the basin due to enhanced storage of water within the catchment, increase cloud capturing due to increased green cover, reduced runoff etc. Also the water infrastructure fed by the catchment to downstream locations such as systems H and H1 areas will help improve the water availability in the down streams, primarily as a result of enhanced water supply from upper catchment as well as water savings by smart agriculture.	Rehabilitating water harvesting ponds and canals has positive effects as it increases influx of water into the existing water infrastructure, hence more water to be distributed. The potential risk of structural damages of water infrastructure from high-intensity rainfall should be assessed during the inception phase and it needs to be ensured that dam operations are updated to accommodate punctual higher influx.
12. Might the project be directly or indirectly involved in forced labour and/or child labour?	No		
13. Is there a risk that the project negatively affects the livelihoods of local communities in indirect ways or through cumulative (due to interaction with other projects or activities, current or planned) or transboundary impacts?	No		
14. Are there any statutory requirements for social impact assessments in the host country (including provisions for disclosure and consultation) the project needs to adhere to?	No	The project does not involve a resettlement or a significant involvement of the society in a way it is triggering a social impact or disaster impact assessment. However the social impact by the project will be evaluated as part of M&E.	
15. Is there a risk that the project might conflict with existing legal social frameworks including traditional frameworks and norms?	No		
C2: Other environmental impacts			
	Project proponent		IUCN ESMS Reviewer
	<i>Yes, no, n/a, TBD</i>	<i>Answer question, provide further detail where relevant</i>	<i>Comments, additional considerations</i>
1. Will the project lead to increased waste production, in particular hazardous waste?	No		Enterprise development (in particular when related to processing and small industry) might cause unintended

			negative impacts in case waste streams or waste water discharge are not properly managed.
2. Is the project likely to cause pollution or degradation of soil, soil erosion or siltation?	No		
3. Might the project cause pollution to air or create other nuisances such as dust, traffic, noise or odour?	Yes	Project activities may cause dust blowing, noise and temporary issues. The ESMP will address those identified issues	Guidance to be included in the ESMF.
4. Will the project lead to significant increases of greenhouse gas emissions or to the reduction of carbon pools (e.g. through changes in vegetation cover and loss of below and above ground carbon stocks).	No		
5. Is there a risk that the project triggers consequential development activities which could lead to adverse environmental impacts, cumulative impacts due to interaction with other projects (current or planned) or to transboundary impacts (consider only issues not captured under the Biodiversity Standard)?	No		
6. Are there any statutory requirements for environmental impact assessments in the host country (including provisions for disclosure and consultation) the project needs to adhere to?	No	The project does not involve establishment of major infrastructure nor investments on large industry that employ large number of people, triggering the needs for a EIAs. Also the project activities are not considered to involve waste water discharges to environment.	
7. Is there a risk that the project might conflict with existing environmental regulations?	No		

Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on other Social or Environmental Impacts

Have negative environmental or social impacts been identified? If possible indicate probability (unlikely, likely, almost certain) and impact (minor, moderate, major) of risks.	Yes	The desk review identified only minor social and environmental risks which are expected to be readily addressed in the inception phase guided by the ESMF.
Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed?		The inception phase should provide for a more in-depth analysis of the social context in the intervention sites including a description of the stratification according to caste and class, as well as gender and ethnicity; and whether social stratification could trigger any social risks, e.g. the project unintendedly aggravating inequalities or leading to discrimination. This is guided by the ESMF.
Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient?		The ESMF will also guide the identification of mitigation measures, where needed.

D. Climate change risks (Risks caused by a failure to adequately take the effects of climate change on people and ecosystem into consideration)

	Project proponent	IUCN ESMS Reviewer
	Yes, no, n/a, TBD Answer question, provide further detail where relevant	Comments, additional considerations

<p>1. Is the project area prone to specific climate hazards (e.g., floods, droughts, wildfires, landslides, cyclones, storm surges, etc.)?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The project area is susceptible to climatic hazards such as droughts, floods, landslides, forest fires, and climate induced elephant – human conflicts because of water deficits. As the project objective is to mitigate the risks to vulnerable populations, these risks will be in the forefront of the project considerations, design and implementation</p>	
<p>2. Are changes in biophysical conditions in the project area triggered by climate change expected to impact people's livelihoods? Are some groups more susceptible than others (e.g., women or vulnerable groups)?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The biophysical conditions in the project areas will be impacted by climate induced temperature rise, higher night time temperatures, prolong dry spells etc. Poor, children and women are more vulnerable due to their economic status, physical strengths and other factors contributing to their exposure to climate and other risks. Invasive species can pose another bio-physical threat while the climate change may also change the type and shape of the green cover and river flow patterns etc. However, the project is mindful of those due to the primary project aim is to reduce the CC related risks.</p>	
<p>3. Is there a risk that climate variability and changes might affect the effectiveness of project activities or the sustainability of intended changes?</p>	<p>No</p>		<p>It cannot be ruled out that climate hazards and climate variability may negatively affect the viability of investments made or promoted by the project (e.g. choice of crop or tree species). It is understood, though, that this is addressed by the project by using suitability modelling with downscaled climate change predictions.</p>
<p>4. Could project activities potentially increase the vulnerability of local communities to current or future climate variability and changes?</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Even in the small scale civil works, highest level of safeguards will be taken to avoid any negative consequences such as increase vulnerability to climate change</p>	<p>The project promotes changes in agricultural practices – if they fail due to impacts from climate change this might have strong repercussion on peoples' livelihood. It is understood, however, that this risk will be addressed, to the extent possible, by promoting climate-resilient solutions (climate smart agriculture, increasing efficiency of water use etc.) and by providing knowledge that enhances adaptive capacities (e.g. installing weather stations, establishing a climate adaptation information portal etc.).</p>
<p>5. Could project activities potentially increase the vulnerability of the local ecosystem to current or future climate variability and changes?</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>On the contrary the project activities may potentially decrease the vulnerability of the local ecosystem and enhance future resilience</p>	<p>Appropriate infrastructure investment, using natural and built options for water harvesting and infiltration, use of suitable tree species (confirmed through modelling) and monitoring of water flow and quality and of performance of promoted restoration options is expected to help avoiding risks and lead to increased adaptive capacity of the ecosystem. However, the effectiveness of these measure should be closely monitored and measures adapted where needed.</p>

6. Explain whether the project seek opportunities to enhance the adaptive capacity of communities and ecosystem to climate change?		The project is designed for GCF funding targeting opportunities to enhance the adaptive capacity of communities and ecosystem to climate change	
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Conclusion of ESMS Reviewer on the Climate Change Risks

<i>Have negative impacts been identified? If possible indicate probability (unlikely, likely, almost certain) and impact (minor, moderate, major) of risks.</i>	No	It is the project's explicit objective to increase resilience of ecosystems and communities to risks from climate change and as such it includes measures for addressing threats and risks, applies tools for assessing suitability of proposed measures and provides for monitoring of effectiveness and changes.
<i>Are assessments required to better understand the impacts and identify mitigation measures? What specific topics are to be assessed</i>	n/a	
<i>Have measures for avoiding impacts already been considered? Are they sufficient?</i>	n/a	