

Inputs Related to Avoidance of negative environmental and Social Impacts

G. Avoidance of other negative environmental, social impacts Discuss considerations to be given to core elements for avoidance of other negative environmental, social impacts; where possible, identifying the applicable scope, i.e., relevance to all 6.4 mechanism activities, to removals activities, or to specific removal activity categories or types.

In order to ensure that all 6.4 mechanism activities are sustainable and have a positive impact on both the environment and society, it is crucial to develop and implement environmental and social safeguard approaches. By doing so, potential risks and negative effects stemming from these activities can be minimized. Additionally, a majority of carbon removal projects require consultation with local stakeholders prior to approval and the establishment of grievance mechanisms to address any issues that may arise following the project's implementation.

In order to avoid the negative environmental and social impacts of 6.4 mechanism activities stepwise approach need to be followed.

Environmental and Social risk screening of 6.4 Mechanism activities

The initial stage involves assessing the activities to evaluate the environmental and social risks associated with a proposed activity; determining the probable environmental and social risk category of the activities; recognizing opportunities for enhancement in terms of environmental and social requirements of the activities' outcomes; and establishing the necessary level of environmental and social due diligence to be conducted, as well as the relevant environmental and social safeguards instruments and requirements that must be prepared, disclosed, and submitted to the host country, and reported to the 6.4 mechanism international registry.

The screening process entails expert evaluation on an individual basis for each situation. Although screening aims to be a swift and comprehensive assessment, accredited entities must carefully evaluate the potential environmental and social consequences associated with the proposed 6.4 mechanism actions. The institutional arrangements and the capacities needed for implementing the environmental and social management plans and programmes are also considered during screening. Decisions are made based on the accredited entities' policy

expectations and guidance, awareness of on-the-ground implications, and existing expertise and best practices.

During evaluation processes, certified organizations will take into account possible risks and consequences, including direct, indirect, long-lasting, and accumulative effects. This will involve considering the activities' areas of impact, such as associated facilities and the effects of third parties.

Environmental and Social Risk categorization of the 6.4 mechanism activities

During the screening process, accredited entities will determine the risk level of proposed 6.4 mechanism activities. This risk level will be based on factors such as the nature, size, and location of the activity, the potential environmental and social risks and impacts, and the vulnerability of the affected ecosystems and communities. The risks and impacts are assessed at the pre-mitigation stage, taking into account the most severe potential outcomes of all activities, including related facilities. If the proposed activity consists of multiple sub-projects, the accredited entities will assign the highest risk level of any sub-project as the overall risk level of the entire activity. For proposed activities that have moderate to significant environmental and social risks and impacts, further environmental and social assessments are required. Further assessments may be in the form of impacts assessments, audits, management frameworks or systems, due diligence reports, and other appropriate assessment tools.

On the other hand, proposed 6.4 mechanism activities that are established to have likely minimal to no environmental and social risks and impacts, no further assessments may be required.

Who need to conduct Environmental and Social Risk Assessment for 6.4 mechanism activities?

The environmental and social screening serves as a preliminary measure in the environmental and social due diligence process carried out by accredited organizations.

When to conduct Environmental and Social Risk Assessment for 6.4 mechanism activities?

This screening takes place at the very beginning of proposal development, specifically during the Concept Note creation. As a result of the screening, it may be necessary to explore alternative options, such as varying methodologies, schedules, scopes, or locations.

Which type of 6.4 mechanism activities require Environmental and Social Risk Assessment?

An environmental screening must be completed for all activities proposed for all 6.4 mechanism activities.