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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
INITIAL SCREENING TOOL

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT INITIAL SCREENING TOOL

This screening tool is designed to assist users in identifying moderate, high, and unknown risks from potential environmental impacts associated with project activities. This series of strategic questions is aimed at guiding the users through a preliminary screening of proposed activities. Upon completion, users will have identified potential impacts and sorted them into the three risk categories. These categories include:

1. **Unlikely Risk**
    - Users document the decision in the appropriate Reg 216 document(s).
2. **Moderate/High Risk**
    - Users include impact and applicable mitigation measures into the appropriate Reg 216 document(s).
3. **Unknown Risk**
    - Users reach out to appropriate point of contact (e.g., MEO, AOR/COR) for additional guidance and reviews relevant resources to determine if there are potential impacts.

This screening tool is based on the environmental risk categories in the USAID Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Tool checklist. Those categories include:

- Air;
- Surface water quality and quantity;
- Groundwater quality and quantity;
- Waste management, including hazardous waste;
- Soils;
- Land use, including natural parks and protected areas;
- Ecology and biodiversity; and
- Weather and climate.

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Read the environmental risk prompting question. Review each example action, using the checkboxes to indicate if the project activity will include any of the actions listed. Please note that these lists are not exhaustive. If an action is not listed, please list under the "other" line item.
2. Total the number of actions for each option (yes, no, and I don't know).
3. Complete steps 1 and 2 for all the environmental risk categories.
4. Upon completion of the screening, complete the following actions based on which option (yes, no, I don't know) was selected:
    a. If no, there is unlikely to be a risk, so the basis for the decision should be documented in the Reg 216 document (e.g., IEE, EA, RCE).
    b. If yes, there is a potential moderate or high risk and an additional environmental analysis should be completed to determine impacts and applicable mitigations. The results of the analysis should be included in the Reg 216 document (e.g., IEE, EMMP, EA).
    c. If I don't know, there is an unknown risk, so seek guidance from the appropriate point of contact (e.g., MEO, A/COR) and review relevant resources for each environmental risk category (see Annex B) to determine if there are potential impacts.

AIR QUALITY

Will the activity increase emission of air pollutants, e.g., soot, sulfur dioxide, oxides of nitrogen, volatile organic compounds, methane? For example, does the activity include any of the following actions?

Actions	Yes	No	I don't know
Burning of wood and/or biomass; clearing, overuse, or degradation of forests and/or vegetation (deforestation)			
Burning and/or disposal of waste (including chemicals, pharmaceuticals, plastics, or heavy metals), use of incinerators (e.g., double-chamber, single-chamber)			
Increased fossil fuel-based energy usage (e.g., use of generator)			
Use of a diesel engine, and/or use of liquid petroleum gas; emissions or toxic fumes from fuels in vehicles, machinery, or equipment; production of biogas			
Production of livestock			
Coal and lignite combustion			
Use of ozone depleting substances, (e.g., freon or other refrigerants)			
Generation of dust and particulates (agro-processing, construction, earthmoving, manufacturing)			
Other (please indicate)			

SURFACE WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY

Will the activity decrease the quantity (available volume) and/or quality of surface water, including stream, river, lake, wetlands, and oceans? Does the activity include any of the following actions?

Actions	Yes	No	I don't know
Creation of a new source of drinking water; extraction of surface water from drinking water supplies for humans, animals, or plants			
Extraction of water from irrigation water supply sources			
Use of pesticides, fertilizers, or toxic chemicals; discharge of pesticides, fertilizers, or toxic chemicals			
Discharge of domestic and/or industrial sewage			
Discharge of livestock wastes such as manure or blood			
Change in stormwater run-off patterns or conditions; discharge of contaminants into stormwater			
Change to current drainage systems or conditions; change to current flooding conditions; change to current drought conditions			
Decrease of water availability for downstream users			
Implementation of fishery and/or aquaculture activities; implementation of agriculture/crop production activities			
Introduction or spread of invasive species			
Excavation of, placing of fill into, or substrate removal (e.g., of gravel, sand) from a river, stream, or lake; increase of riverbeds sedimentation and/or riverbanks erosion			
Change to wetlands			
Construction of dam and/or canals for irrigation, energy production and/or domestic usages; construction of reservoir or drinking water stations/substations			
Channelization of waterways by people			
Stabilization of riverbanks			
Other (please indicate)			

GROUNDWATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY

Will the activity decrease the quantity and/or quality (contamination e.g., pollutants and nutrients discharge) of groundwater, including unconfined aquifers (water tables) and/or confined aquifers (pressured groundwater)? For example, will the activity include any of the following actions?

Actions	Yes	No	I don't know
Creation of a new source of drinking water; extraction of water from drinking water supplies for humans, animals, or plants; extraction of groundwater extraction (e.g., by pump or well)			
Extraction of groundwater from irrigation water supply sources			
Use of water (other than for irrigation) during the hottest times of the day			
Use of pesticides, fertilizers, or toxic chemicals; discharge of pesticides, fertilizers, or toxic chemicals			
Discharge of domestic and/or industrial sewage			
Discharge of livestock wastes such as manure or blood			
Change stormwater run-off patterns or conditions; discharge of contaminants into stormwater			
Change to current drainage systems or conditions; change to current flooding conditions; change to current drought conditions			
Decrease of water availability for downstream users			
Implementation of fishery and/or aquaculture activities; implementation of agriculture/crop production activities			
Excavation of, placing of fill into, or substrate removal (e.g., of gravel, sand) from a river, stream, or lake; increase of riverbeds sedimentation and/or riverbanks erosion			
Construction of dam and/or canals for irrigation, energy production and/or domestic usages; construction of reservoir or drinking water stations/substations			
Stabilization of riverbanks			
Other (please indicate)			

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Will the activity generate any solid waste, liquid waste, and/or waste byproducts? For example, will the activity include any of the following actions?

Actions	Yes	No	I don't know
Generation of any solid and/or liquid waste; generation of non-toxic, non-hazardous solid wastes (with either on-site management and/or subsequently requiring off-site transport for treatment at an incinerator or other facility and/or land resources for disposal)			
Involve the collection, sorting, storage, processing, and/or relocation of debris (e.g., human and animal remains, spoiled food, construction and/or demolition debris)			
Generation of toxic materials, hazardous waste, and/or healthcare waste; management of healthcare or otherwise hazardous waste (e.g., infectious, pharmaceutical, pesticides, paint, thinners, solvents, wood preservatives, oil, acids, amalgams) with either on-site management and/or subsequently requiring off-site transportation for treatment at an incinerator or other facility and/or land resources for disposal)			
Generation of pesticide, chemicals, or industrial wastes and/or waste byproducts; storage of liquid fuels, hazardous materials, and/or chemicals			
Removal of asbestos-containing material or use of building materials that may contain asbestos, formaldehyde, or other toxic materials			
Residents and/or workers will be exposed to pesticides, fertilizer, or other toxic substances (e.g., because of farming, manufacturing)			

SOILS

Will the activity induce and /or increase soil degradation? For example, will the activity include any of the following actions?

Actions	Yes	No	I don't know
Located near or in an area with agricultural production activities such as food crops, aquaculture, or livestock			
Integration of new animal and/or vegetal species; increase of the number of livestock in the area; transfer of invasive vegetal and/or animal species			
Removal of vegetation, shrubs, or trees			
Use of pesticides, fertilizers, or toxic chemicals			
Induction and/or increase of soil erosion, soil compaction, surface sealing, and/or soil acidity or alkalinity; disturbance of soil contaminated with toxic or hazardous materials			
Induction of water source contamination			
Located on a steeply sloped, for which soil stability and structural integrity factors such as thickness, texture, drainage capacity and overall topographical features are known			
Located near or in areas vulnerable to wind and/or water erosion; located in flood prone area; located near or in area vulnerable to climate variability ranges			
Reclamation of land and/or wetland			
Induction of soil removal and/or displacement due to construction or rehabilitation of buildings, infrastructure, or roads; removal of topsoil for land preparation or conversion for agriculture			
Site preparation and construction such as demolition, excavation, leveling, clearing, filling, and backfilling; construction of dam and /or canals for irrigation and drainage, hydropower production and/or domestic usages; construction of reservoir or drinking water storage stations/ substations			
Stabilization of riverbanks			
Other (please indicate)			

LAND USE

Will the activity require any kind of land use change? For example, will the activity include any of the following actions?

Actions	Yes	No	I don't know
Require any kind of land use change (e.g., clearing of land for construction)			
Conversion of native landcover to developed use (e.g., residential or commercial buildings, agriculture, forestry)			
Impact or impacted by the presence of prime or unique farmland			
Extraction of natural resources (e.g., granite, limestone, coal, lignite, oil, or gas); land clearing (e.g., removal of large trees, other vegetation, destruction of habitat, harm to fauna); construction or use of a facility on or near saturated soils, wetland vegetation, or other evidence of a wetland			
Site requiring grading, trenching, or excavation; generation of borrow pits; construction of new structures			
Potential disturbance of soil contaminated with toxic or hazardous materials			
Usage or promotion of genetically modified organisms (GMOs)			
Presence of known geological and/or geomorphological and/or climatic hazards (e.g., faults, landslides, or unstable soil structure)			
Alteration of the view for area residents or others; disturbance of a well-established rural community, or rural land use			

ECOLOGY AND BIODIVERSITY

Will the activity reduce biodiversity and/or impact ecology? For example, will the activity include any of the following actions?

Actions	Yes	No	I don't know
Removes and/or degrades habitat (terrestrial and aquatic)			
Located in or near an aquatic, riparian, coastal, and mangrove habitats			
Located in or near threatened or endangered (T&E) species habitat			
Introduction or spread of invasive species			
Causes light pollution			
Causes noise pollution			
Increases runoff- decrease water quality			
Affects the flow, abundance, distribution, or availability of life resources (food, water, shelter)			
Affects species' movement			
Affects species abilities to respond to severe stochastic events (wildfires, severe droughts)			
Exposes species to increased risk of exploitation (logging roads increase bushmeat hunting)			
Exposes species to increased risk of human-wildlife conflict (vehicle strikes, wind turbine strikes)			
Decreases species resources which causes them to become a nuisance to human communities nearby in search of food			
Decreases distance or increases frequency of interaction between species and human communities which habituates species to humans increasing risk of human-wildlife conflict			
Located in or near a conservation/protected area and/or national park			
Located in or near an animal migratory pathway			
Involves harvesting of non-timber forest products (e.g., mushrooms, medicinal and aromatic plants, herbs, bush meat, or woody debris)			
Involves construction, refurbishment, demolition, and/or blasting that may result in increased noise or light pollution			

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Will the activity site be vulnerable to extreme weather events or the effects of climate change? For example, will the activity include any of the following actions?

Actions	Yes	No	I don't know
Located at a site vulnerable to extreme weather events (e.g., floods - inland/coastal, droughts, heat waves, landslides, earthquakes, or high winds)			
Located at a site or involves actions vulnerable to effects of climate change (e.g., in floodplains, drought-prone areas, areas prone to wildfires, low-lying coastal areas)			
Climate models predict temperature changes, such as warming, in the region; temperature has increased recently			
Rainfall is predicted to increase or decrease; increased frequency of storms predicted; delay in onset of the rainy season; increased variability; inter-seasonal variations			
Is there a likelihood of changing water availability that would affect agricultural production; water for sanitation, industry, energy, and the environment; or otherwise undermine economic growth and human security?			
What are the other likely vulnerabilities related to climate?			
Will the action exacerbate adverse climate effects?			
Will actions have a disproportionate impact on one gender versus another?			

ANNEX A: CONSOLIDATED LIST OF REFERENCES (NOT EXHAUSTIVE)

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