# Environmental and Social Impact Assessment

Instructions ACR requires all Project Proponents to prepare and disclose an environmental and social impact assessment per the ACR Standard, Chapter 8. To facilitate this requirement, use of this Environmental and Social Impact Assessment template is required. Follow all instructions found within each section and respond as completely and accurately as possible based on project details. If a field is not applicable, respond with “N/A.” The Environmental and Social Impact Assessment may be presented within, or as an appendix to, the GHG Project Plan. If providing as a standalone appendix, the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment must be saved as a PDF prior to uploading to the ACR Registry. Terminology as defined in the ACR Standard applies to this document.

THIS VERSION 1.1 OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE IS REQUIRED IF VALIDATION ACTIVITIES COMMENCED AFTER OCTOBER 31, 2024.

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| Section I: GHG Project INFORMATION | | | |
| 1 | Document date | Click or tap to enter a date. |
| 2 | Project title |  |
| 3 | ACR project ID |  |
| 4 | Provide an overview of the project activity. | |
| 5 | Project location(s)  City or county, state, country, and any other relevant identifiers |  |
| 6 | Provide an overview of the GHG Project’s relevant stakeholders (i.e., individuals or groups that can potentially affect or be affected by the project activities and who may live within or outside the Project area). | |
| Section II: Environmental & Social Risks and Impacts | | | |
| Taking into account the scope and scale of the project activity, provide an assessment of the GHG Project’s environmental and social risks and impacts for the project duration for each of the areas below. Categorize each risk/impact as positive, negative, or neutral and substantiate the selected category, noting all defined and defensible assumptions. Responses to 3A-3C and 6C below may be based on company-wide policies, however all other answers must be direct impacts of project activities.  When the GHG Project has a positive impact, describe reasoning in 1.  When the GHG Project poses risks of negative impacts, describe reasoning in 1, how impacts will be avoided, reduced, mitigated or compensated, commensurate with the risk in 2, and detail how risks and negative impacts will be monitored, how often, and by whom in 3.  When the GHG Project has a neutral impact, describe reasoning in 1 or, at minimum, enter “N/A.” | | | |
| 1 | Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources | |
| 1A | **Terrestrial and Marine Biodiversity and Ecosystems**  Positive  Negative  Neutral   1. Describe the reasoning for selection: 2. If negative, describe how adverse impacts will be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or compensated commensurate with the risk: 3. If negative, detail how risks and impacts will be monitored, how often, and by whom: | |
| 1B | **Habitat of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species, Including Areas Needed for Habitat Connectivity**  Positive  Negative  Neutral   1. Describe the reasoning for selection: 2. If negative, describe how adverse impacts will be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or compensated commensurate with the risk: 3. If negative, detail how risks and impacts will be monitored, how often, and by whom: | |
| 1C | **Natural Forests, Grasslands, Wetlands, or High Conservation Value Habitats**  Positive  Negative  Neutral   1. Describe the reasoning for selection: 2. If negative, describe how adverse impacts will be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or compensated commensurate with the risk: 3. If negative, detail how risks and impacts will be monitored, how often, and by whom: | |
| 1D | **Soil Degradation and Soil Erosion**  Positive  Negative  Neutral   1. Describe the reasoning for selection: 2. If negative, describe how adverse impacts will be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or compensated commensurate with the risk: 3. If negative, detail how risks and impacts will be monitored, how often, and by whom: | |
| 1E | **Water Consumption and Stress**  Positive  Negative  Neutral   1. Describe the reasoning for selection: 2. If negative, describe how adverse impacts will be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or compensated commensurate with the risk: 3. If negative, detail how risks and impacts will be monitored, how often, and by whom: | |
| 2 | Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention | |
| 2A | **Pollutant Emissions to Air**  Positive  Negative  Neutral   1. Describe the reasoning for selection: 2. If negative, describe how adverse impacts will be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or compensated commensurate with the risk: 3. If negative, detail how risks and impacts will be monitored, how often, and by whom: | |
| 2B | **Pollutant Discharges to Water, Noise, and Vibration**  Positive  Negative  Neutral   1. Describe the reasoning for selection: 2. If negative, describe how adverse impacts will be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or compensated commensurate with the risk: 3. If negative, detail how risks and impacts will be monitored, how often, and by whom: | |
| 2C | **Generation of Waste and Release of Hazardous Materials, Chemical Pesticides, and Fertilizers**  Positive  Negative  Neutral   1. Describe the reasoning for selection: 2. If negative, describe how adverse impacts will be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or compensated commensurate with the risk: 3. If negative, detail how risks and impacts will be monitored, how often, and by whom: | |
| 3 | Labor Rights and Working Conditions | |
| 3A | **Safe And Healthy Working Conditions for Employees**  Positive  Negative  Neutral   1. Describe the reasoning for selection: 2. If negative, describe how adverse impacts will be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or compensated commensurate with the risk: 3. If negative, detail how risks and impacts will be monitored, how often, and by whom: | |
| 3B | **Fair Treatment of All Employees, Avoiding Discrimination, and Ensuring Equal Opportunities**  Positive  Negative  Neutral   1. Describe the reasoning for selection: 2. If negative, describe how adverse impacts will be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or compensated commensurate with the risk: 3. If negative, detail how risks and impacts will be monitored, how often, and by whom: | |
| 3C | **Forced Labor, Child Labor, or Trafficked Persons, and Protections for Contracted Workers Employed by Third Parties**  Positive  Negative  Neutral   1. Describe the reasoning for selection: 2. If negative, describe how adverse impacts will be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or compensated commensurate with the risk: 3. If negative, detail how risks and impacts will be monitored, how often, and by whom: | |
| 4 | Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement | |
| 4A | **Forced Physical and/or Economic Displacement**  Positive  Negative  Neutral   1. Describe the reasoning for selection: 2. If negative, describe how adverse impacts will be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or compensated commensurate with the risk: 3. If negative, detail how risks and impacts will be monitored, how often, and by whom: | |
| 5 | Respect for Human Rights, Stakeholder Engagement | |
| 5A | **Human Rights and Discrimination**  Positive  Negative  Neutral   1. Describe the reasoning for selection: 2. If negative, describe how adverse impacts will be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or compensated commensurate with the risk: 3. If negative, detail how risks and impacts will be monitored, how often, and by whom: | |
| 5B | **Abidance by the International Bill of Human Rights**[[1]](#footnote-2) **and Universal Instruments Ratified by the Host Country**  Positive  Negative  Neutral   1. Describe the reasoning for selection: 2. If negative, describe how adverse impacts will be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or compensated commensurate with the risk: 3. If negative, detail how risks and impacts will be monitored, how often, and by whom: | |
| 5C | **Consideration and Response to Local Stakeholders’ Views**  Positive  Negative  Neutral   1. Describe the reasoning for selection: 2. If negative, describe how adverse impacts will be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or compensated commensurate with the risk: 3. If negative, detail how risks and impacts will be monitored, how often, and by whom: | |
| 6 | Gender Equality | |
| 6A | **Equal Opportunities in the Context of Gender**  Positive  Negative  Neutral   1. Describe the reasoning for selection: 2. If negative, describe how adverse impacts will be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or compensated commensurate with the risk: 3. If negative, detail how risks and impacts will be monitored, how often, and by whom: | |
| 6B | **Violence Against Women and Girls**  Positive  Negative  Neutral   1. Describe the reasoning for selection: 2. If negative, describe how adverse impacts will be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or compensated commensurate with the risk: 3. If negative, detail how risks and impacts will be monitored, how often, and by whom: | |
| 6C | **Equal Pay for Equal Work**  Positive  Negative  Neutral   1. Describe the reasoning for selection: 2. If negative, describe how adverse impacts will be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or compensated commensurate with the risk: 3. If negative, detail how risks and impacts will be monitored, how often, and by whom: | |

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| Section III: Community-Based Projects | |
| 1 | Community-based projects are those in which project activities engage or otherwise impact one or more communities. A community includes groups of people who live within or adjacent to the project area, including Indigenous peoples and other local communities, as well as any groups that derive income, livelihood, or cultural values from the area.  **Is the Project a community-based Project?**  Yes  No |
| 2 | If the project **IS** a community-based project, include a description of the community(ies), stakeholder engagement, and benefit sharing arrangements below. |
| 2A | **Community and Stakeholder Identification and Consultation**   1. Describe the process to identify community(ies) affected by the GHG Project: 2. Provide detailed information regarding the community stakeholder consultation process undertaken as part of the project design and implementation, including demonstration that the consultations with Indigenous Peoples and local communities were conducted in a manner that is inclusive, culturally appropriate, and respectful of local knowledge: 3. Provide documentation of meetings held, attendees, and meeting minutes, as well as stakeholder comments and concerns and how those were addressed. These documents can be provided as attachments with file references stated below: |
| 2B | **Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, Cultural Heritage, and Free Prior and Informed Consent**  Where the project directly or indirectly impacts Indigenous Peoples and local communities, including livelihoods, ancestral knowledge, and cultural heritage, describe the steps taken to:   1. Recognize, respect, and promote the protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in line with applicable human rights law, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples[[2]](#footnote-3): 2. Identify the rights-holders possibly affected (including customary rights of local rights holders): 3. Avoid eviction or any physical or economic displacement, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, or resources: 4. Preserve and protect cultural heritage consistent with Indigenous Peoples and local community(ies) protocols/rules/plans on the management of cultural heritage and/or UNESCO Cultural Heritage Conventions: 5. As applicable, provide evidence of Free, Prior and Informed Consent by describing the process that was conducted to ensure that: consent was sought sufficiently in advance of any project, plan, or action taking place; consent was independently decided upon collectively by the rights-holders without coercion, intimidation, or manipulation; and consent was based on accessible, accurate, timely, and sufficient information provided in a culturally appropriate way: |
| 2C | **Relocation or Resettlement**   1. Was there/will there be any relocation or resettlement resulting from project design or implementation?     1. If yes, describe the circumstances:    2. If yes, was the relocation or resettlement a result of voluntary land transaction(s) between the buyer and seller?    3. If yes, did the relocation or resettlement change the land use of the affected groups or communities?    4. If yes, was relocation or resettlement involuntary (e.g., through eminent domain)? |
| 2D | **Robust Benefit Sharing**   1. Describe how a benefit sharing plan (that includes arrangements that are appropriate to the context and consistent with applicable national rules and regulations) was or will be designed and implemented: 2. Has a draft or final benefit sharing plan been shared with affected communities in a form, manner, and language understandable to them? 3. Has/will the benefit-sharing outcomes be made public (subject to legal restrictions)? |
| 2E | **Negative Impacts and Mitigation Measures**  Identify any risks or claims of negative environmental and/or social impacts other than those listed in Part II:   1. Describe the negative impact, risk, or claim: 2. Describe how any negative impacts will be avoided, reduced, mitigated, or compensated commensurate with the risk: 3. Detail how negative risks and impacts will be monitored, how often, and by whom: |

1. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/what-are-human-rights/international-bill-human-rights> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)