

1. The purpose of the ESIA is to assess and predict potential adverse social and environmental impacts and to develop suitable mitigation measures which are documented in an Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP).

The scope and depth of the ESIA depends on the nature, complexity and significance of the identified issues, as established by the ESMS screening. For a full ESIA the scope is defined by a scoping study which involves relevant stakeholders to confirm the risks identified by the ESMS screening to set priorities for the ESIA and to determine the types of assessments required for the ESIA. The key elements, methodology and outputs of a scoping study are described in the ESMS Guidance Note on Scoping²

II. Key elements of an ESIA and an ESIA report

The key elements of an ESIA and its report are described in this section. These elements must be thoroughly covered by a full ESIA for a high-risk project. A partial ESIA does not require as much background and baseline data as a full ESIA; the elements usually not covered in a partial ESIA are marked with an asterisk. The order and manner in which the information is presented in an ESIA report should be based on this outline.

1. Non-technical summary

S
ne project
location, preferably illustrated with appropriate maps

- Summary of

¹ A partial ESIA typically focusses on the

project. This includes regulations about environmental and/or social impact assessments to which the project must adhere as well as laws implementing host country obligations under international law. Explain the requirements of any co-financing partners, if applicable. Where pertinent, take into account legal frameworks for promoting gender equality. Flag any areas where the project might fall short on compliance.

4. Stakeholder identification and analysis

The purpose of the stakeholder identification and analysis is to understand potential impacts on stakeholders and to clarify who should be involved in the ESIA process and how. This is done by listing all relevant stakeholders – based on any existing stakeholder analysis developed during the project design process and on general knowledge about the project context and its main stakeholders – and elaborating the following:

- stakeholders' interests in and expectations from the project;
- how they might influence the project (positively or negatively);
- a first appraisal or estimation of how their livelihoods could be impacted by the project (positively or negatively); and
- how they should be involved in the ESIA based on the information in the three items above.

Stakeholders should be disaggregated between men and women where relevant and feasible. It is useful to present the key findings of the stakeholder analysis in a matrix. The stakeholder analysis is considered a work in progress that should be adjusted as more information becomes available during the ESIA process and beyond.

5. Environmental and social baseline*

Describe and analyse the environmental and social context in which the project operates. While some broad contextual information is necessary, the analysis should focus on the immediate context of the project site and aspects that relate to the identified impacts in order to be relevant to decisions about project design, operation, or mitigation measures. For general context data, consult – to the extent possible - secondary data and existing analyses, including the situation analysis carried out as a previous project design step. To understand the context at the project site, it is usually necessary to collect primary data at the site.

The main purpose of this section of the ESIA report is to provide an understanding of current environmental and social conditions that form the baseline against which project impacts can be predicted and measured during project implementation. For moderate-risk projects that require only a partial ESIA and no scoping study, this section also provides an opportunity to substantiate the results of the ESMS screening by confirming potential impacts and/or identifying other potential impacts.

The scope of the baseline analysis depends on the nature of the project and the issues identified by the screening. The analysis might cover a range of physical, biological, socio-economic and cultural features potentially affected by the project. The ESMS Guidance Note on Social Impact Assessment (SIA)⁴ provides complimentary guidance including a non-exhaustive list of topics relevant for understanding social impacts.

6. Assessment of environmental and social impacts

This step is the heart of the ESIA; it itemizes and describes the identified impacts, makes predictions in terms of

- their effectiveness of achieving the project objectives as well as potential trade-offs;
- their potential environmental and social impacts;
- the feasibility of mitigating these impacts;
- operational requirements and their suitability under local conditions;
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important to be mindful of the resources and time required of stakeholders. The consultation process is best scheduled in iterative steps, first seeking initial inputs, then feed-back on first assessment results and suggestions for mitigation actions, and concluding with a final stakeholder meeting to gather feed-back on the draft of the ESIA report, the ESMP and other action plans, as relevant.

If the Standard on Involuntary Resettlement and Access Restrictions or the Standard on Indigenous Peoples are triggered, consultations should fully adhere to the Free, Prior and Informed Consent Principle. Guidance is provided in the ESMS Manual and in a separate guidance note.¹⁰

The final ESIA report should document the results of the consultations carried out with stakeholders and project-affected groups and provide a summary of the concerns raised and an explanation of how these results have been addressed in the ESIA and the ESMP. The description should specify how women were included in the consultation, taking into consideration their gender-specific knowledge, roles, responsibilities and potential impacts.

III. Other items to be specified in the terms of reference for an ESIA

The actual terms of reference for an ESIA must be tailored to each project as the scope and depth of the assessment depend on the nature, complexity and importance of the issues emerging from the ESMS screening. For high-risk projects, the scope of the ESIA will be determined in detail by the scoping study preceding the ESIA.

The terms of reference for an ESIA usually include the items listed below. The terms of reference for moderate-risk projects are less comprehensive than those for high-risk projects; hence elements marked with an asterisk are usually not required for a partial ESIA.

- A summary of the main project features
- A list of applicable national and local ESIA requirements, where available and relevant*
- A list of the key issues that emerged from the ESMS screening and scoping to be analysed in the ESIA
- A description of the required elements of the ESIA (see section II, 3-9) and specification of the content of any additional specialist studies (if applicable) to be undertaken as part of the ESIA
- Provision of methodological guidance (if applicable) for the overall ESIA and specialist studies (e.g., gender responsive analysis)
- Specification of the type of environmental and social expertise required b()11.3(s)-2-l2h63 Tc 0.4(.9(om)5

